

# St Matthews

The newsletter of St Matthew's Church, Oxford

October 2024



**CINEMA NIGHT**  
**SHOWING**  
**HIDDEN FIGURES**

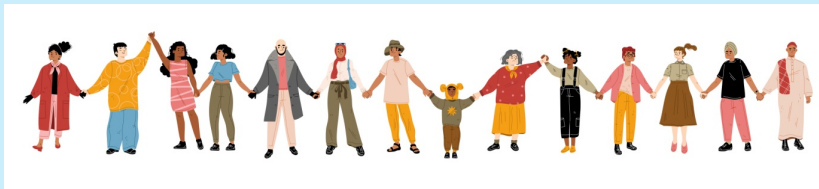
Three female African-American mathematicians play a pivotal role in astronaut John Glenn's launch into orbit. Meanwhile, they also have to deal with racial and gender discrimination at work.

Friday 18th October | 19:00  
St. Matthew's Church, 63 Marlborough Road, OX1 4LW  
**Tickets: £5.00.**

Book using the QR code below.  
Snacks and drinks will be available for purchase.



## What's on at St Matthew's



Do you get hungry on Thursdays? Well, come to our free

### **Community Lunch!**

Every Thursday.

We open at 11.30 am for hot drinks.

Food served from 12 noon to 1 pm.

(No booking required)



We run our Messy Church once a month on Sunday afternoons.

The next one is 20<sup>th</sup> October at 3 pm.

It's for all the family.

Come along and try it!

Need to learn more English?

A women's group meets in the hall at 9.00 am on Tuesdays during term time.

No charge. Little ones are welcome to come and play too.

We know it's really far, far, far too early to be thinking about Christmas, but even so you might like to save this date to avoid any possible disappointment:

Our community drama group SOMATA presents:

### **'A Christmas Cracker'**

Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 4.30 pm.

A tea-time treat for all the family!

## A letter from our Vicar, Rev. Jenni Williams



**(Was there ever a church magazine without a letter from the Vicar???)**

**Hello everyone**

**Welcome to our second edition of St Matthnews!**

**We hope you find it helpful to know what's going on. Last Sunday we had our Garden Party: thank you to everyone who came and everyone who contributed! It was lovely to see familiar faces and meet new ones too.**

**One of the major ideas behind the party was to get the neighbourhood opinion on how we can take the parish centre forward. The centre needs an eco-revamp to move it towards being carbon neutral. We also want to know how the space can better serve the neighbourhood.**

**Christians believe that we are called to be stewards of God's creation and to take care of the world as He would. Here, at St. Matthew's, we are on a journey towards making our building a part of that vision. If you didn't get to the Garden Party but would like to have a say, here's how:**

**With warm wishes,**

**Jenni**



## The Parish Centre

### Our Refresh / Carbon Reduction / Eco Project

#### We have 3 Challenges:

1. The Parish Centre was built in the mid-90s. After 30 years of hard use, the building is not energy efficient and is looking tired.
2. Crucially, the building is heated by our old, gas-fired boiler. It needs a reliable, greener heat source, moving us closer to net zero.
3. The needs of the church and the wider community have changed since the 1990s. It is time to consider what needs to be done to modernize and refresh the Parish Centre for another 30 years.



**Can you suggest a neat and natty name for this project?**



**How do you think we can make the Parish Centre carbon footprint lower?**



**How can we make the Parish Centre facilities better for you?**

## The Parish Centre (cont.)

### We are proposing 3 Steps (we are about to start stage 1 this autumn)

1. In Stage 1 an architect will investigate opportunities to refresh and reconfigure the building to make it ready for another 30 years. Engineers will investigate upgrades to insulation, heating, lighting and ventilation, and the potential for a new, greener heating system. A heat pump or 'hybrid' heat pump with a small gas boiler system will be among the options.
2. In Stage 2 we will consider the technical advice and decide what the changes should be. Then we will need to raise funds to pay for the main project design, changes to the building and installation of the new heating.
3. In Stage 3 we will go out to tender and appoint contractors to do the work.

### And so we have 3 Questions, and ways to record your ideas

1. What do you like about the Parish Centre now?
2. What do you think we could do to make the Parish Centre carbon footprint lower?
3. How can we make the Parish Centre facilities better for you?

**St Matthew's**

Please use the QR code below to sign up for updates about our plans for the Parish Centre building.

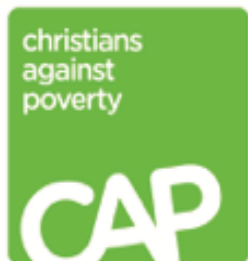
We also want to hear from YOU. Yes, YOU! You can send us your ideas and comments for the Parish Centre using the QR code below.



Of course, if you prefer, you can email your thoughts and ideas to us at:

[office@stmatthewsoxford.org.uk](mailto:office@stmatthewsoxford.org.uk)

## Where to find help, if you (or someone you know) needs it:



### **Are you struggling with your money?**

**We have a debt centre, here in Oxford, which runs in conjunction with the national charity, Christians Against Poverty.**

**If you, or anyone you know, are struggling with money problems, then Christians Against Poverty can help you.**

**Call for free help and advice.**

**0800 328 0006**

**or 07918 599255**



**Or maybe you sometimes feel lonely? Loneliness affects millions of people across the UK.**

**If it's you, or someone you know, when you need more than just a chat, you can call Archway on 01865 790552.**

**The Archway Foundation is a registered charity providing support to alleviate the hurt and distress, and the impact on mental and physical health, which can be caused by loneliness and social isolation.**

## Verse of the month

### Psalm 19

**“The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.  
Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they reveal knowledge.  
They have no speech; they use no words;  
no sound is heard from them.  
Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the world.”**

You only have to gaze into the sky, anytime, any day, any night, to be amazed at the silent wonder of creation, and therefore the majesty of its Creator.

### St Matthew's Day Garden Party

We all had a good time at the garden party on September 22<sup>nd</sup> though the rain largely kept us inside. We had:

- a book stall
- a jewellery stall
- a cake competition (that's baking, not eating)
- a raffle
- a tombola
- live music
- face painting
- drinks
- loads of fun

and we raised over £800 for our church hall "green" project.

Sorry if you missed it; maybe we could do it again next year???



## Church Information

**St Matthew's Church**  
**Marlborough Road, Oxford, OX1 4LW**  
**01865 798587**  
office@stmatthewsoxford.org.uk  
www.stmatthewsoxford.org.uk

<b>Sunday services</b>	<b>10.30 am and 6.00 pm</b>
<b>Mondays</b>	<b>8.15 pm. Meditation meeting</b>
<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>9.00 am: English language chat (for ladies)</b> <b>6.45 pm: Prayer meeting</b>
<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>11.00 am: Holy Communion</b> <b>11.30 am: Community lunch</b>

## Who's Who at St Matthew's

<b>Vicar:</b>	<b>Jenni Williams</b>
<b>Associate vicar</b>	<b>Jon Williams</b>
<b>Associate vicar</b>	<b>Mike Rayner</b>
<b>Curate:</b>	<b>Rob Rogers</b>
<b>Administrator:</b>	<b>Katharine Crouch</b>
<b>Church Warden:</b>	<b>Peter Buchan-Symons</b>
<b>Church Warden:</b>	<b>Jane Jones</b>
<b>Parish Safeguarding Officer:</b>	<b>Nicky Rayner</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>David Crouch</b>
<b>Stewardship:</b>	<b>Carolyn Lloyd-Davies</b>
<b>Pioneer Mission Worker:</b>	<b>Laura Evans</b>
<b>Families Worker</b>	<b>Jo Hutchence</b>

**St Matthnews** is the news-sheet of St Matthew's Church, Oxford.

**If you have any comments to make about this issue, we love to get feed-back.**  
**If you have items you would like to include in the next issue, please send them to me.**  
**(Our vicar, Jenni, reserves the right to decide whether or not we can accept matters for publication.)**

**My contact details are:     John Price             john@pricejd.com**

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