

St Matthews

The newsletter of St Matthew's Church, Oxford

January 2025



... from all of us at St Matthew's.
We pray for God's blessing, for all of our parish,
for 2025 and beyond.

At the start of this New Year, is there time to stop and think for just a moment...?

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

May that Almighty hand guide and uphold us all.

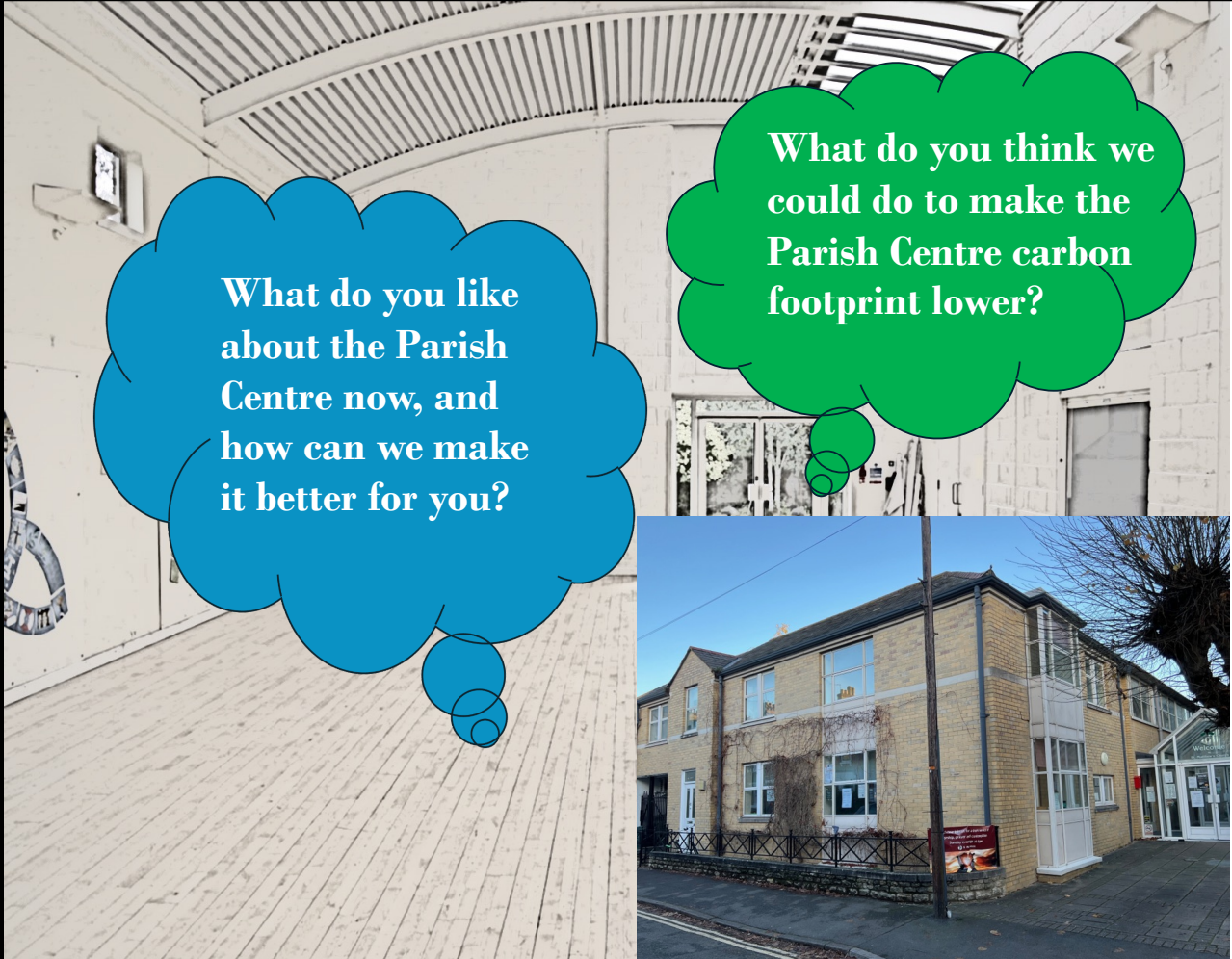
From the 1939 broadcast of King George VI, who was himself quoting from "The Gate of the Year" by Minnie Louise Haskin

Parish Centre 'Refresh'

The Parish Centre is a familiar sight on Marlborough Road. It was built in the mid-90s and, after 30 years of hard use, it is time for an update. The building is heated by a gas-fired boiler. It needs a reliable, greener heat source, moving us closer to net zero.

An architect is investigating opportunities to refresh and reconfigure the building. Engineers are investigating upgrades to insulation, heating, lighting and ventilation, and the potential for a new, greener heating system.

Later in 2025 we will consider the technical advice and decide what the changes should be.



What do you like about the Parish Centre now, and how can we make it better for you?

What do you think we could do to make the Parish Centre carbon footprint lower?

**What's in store for '25?
Laura's here, so in we dive...**

Dear all,

From all of us at St. Matthew's, we wish you a very HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The start of a new year normally comes with some looking forward to what the year might hold. At St Matthew's, we're excited to continue our regular activities, such as:

- **our free Community Lunch on a Thursday;**
- **support for the work of the Oxford Winter Night Shelter;**
- **our Tuesday language cafe;**
- **a variety of activities in our church hall;**
- **and of course our range of services on Sundays.**

But we're also *very* excited to be carrying on with our film evenings. This month we are hosting a free screening of

"Fanny: The Other Mendelssohn".

Locally based author Anna Beer stars in this documentary which tells Fanny's previously untold story. Fanny was composer Felix Mendelssohn's sister but she was also a composer in her own right. Her music was sidelined in an industry dominated by men; still, to this day, only 10% of classical music concerts are of works by women! Anna has kindly agreed to come and do a Q&A session after the screening. So please do come along and find out more about this amazing woman.

Read on for more information on everything we have going on.

With very best wishes,

Laura



FANNY

The Other Mendelssohn

Fanny: The Other Mendelssohn is the story of a very modern woman - who just happened to live 200 years ago. Directed by the unheralded composer's great great great granddaughter, this new revelatory feature documentary recognises and celebrates Fanny Mendelssohn's music for the first time. Starring Decca star, Isata Kanneh-Mason, and local author Anna Beer.



SCAN TO LET US
KNOW YOU'RE COMING
OR EMAIL
PIONEERWORKER@
STMATTHEWSOXFORD.ORG.UK

**JOIN US FOR A FREE
SCREENING AND Q&A
SESSION WITH AUTHOR
ANNA BEER**

SAT 25TH JAN 2025

DOORS AT 4:00PM FOR A 4:30PM START

ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH (63 MARLBOROUGH ROAD, OX1 4LW)

**FREE ENTRY & COMPLIMENTARY GLASS OF WINE*
OR SOFT DRINK**

***OVER 18S ONLY**

Are you ready to shape your faith?

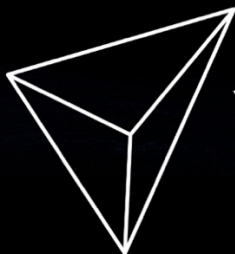
Join YouShape: a transformative, non-residential year for young adults aged 18-30, focused on formation, discipleship, and authentic Christian community.

With monthly meetups 🤝, a refreshing retreat 🙏, a pilgrimage 🏔️ and more...

Youshape invites you to deepen your faith, explore your purpose, and build lasting friendships.



SCAN TO
DISCOVER
MORE...



youshape.life
a year of discovery & deepening faith

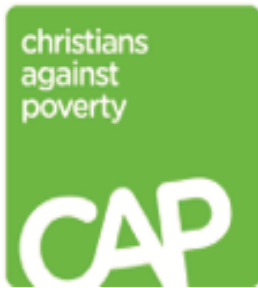
Did you miss it?

On Saturday 14th December we had such fun watching (and joining in with) ***The Christmas Cracker.***

Here are the cast members (well, some of them) who were rejoicing and recovering afterwards.



Watch this space (in future editions) for their next presentation.



**Are you drawn to support those in need?
Do you love meeting people, are a good
communicator, and have a few hours available?
If so, we want to hear from you!**

We have a debt centre, here in Oxford, which runs in conjunction with the national charity, Christians Against Poverty (CAP), and provides free debt advice to our clients.

We are looking for a part-time volunteer Community Links Coordinator who will be an enthusiastic and competent person, helping us to promote the work of CAP in our city.

This is a volunteer role and would suit someone who loves meeting people, is a good communicator and has a few hours available each week. It is an exciting, outward-facing communications position; your aim will be to establish and build relationships with new and current referral agencies.

You will share the vision of CAP, promote our services, and encourage these partners to send their clients to benefit from our free help with their debts and other financial problems.

Previous experience would be helpful but is not required. Training will be given.

**If you would like to see a Job Description or have any questions, please contact
Andrew Johnson, Centre Manager, CAP Oxford Central.
andrewjohnson@capuk.org or [07751 842529](tel:07751842529)**



Church Information

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

Sunday services	10.30 am and 6.00 pm	
Mondays	8.15 pm.	Meditation meeting
Tuesdays	9.00 am:	English language chat (for ladies)
	6.45 pm:	Prayer meeting
Thursdays	11.00 am:	Holy Communion
	11.30 am:	Community hot drinks
	12.00 noon	Community lunch

Who's Who at St Matthew's

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

St Matthnews is the newsletter 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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