

# St Matthnews

**The newsletter of St Matthew's Church, Oxford**

**February 2025**



**Saint Valentine, an early Christian martyr, is designated the patron saint of love. We commemorate his life on the 14th day of this month. Here are some thoughts from our vicar Jenni on the importance of love.**

Hello everyone,

Monday 20th January in the US was Martin Luther King Day.

One of the most inspiring quotations I ever heard came from Dr King who said:

‘I have decided to stick with love: hate is too great a burden to bear.’ Earlier in the month, I watched the funeral of Jimmy Carter, where I learned that Carter and Gerald Ford, the man he had defeated for the presidency, had managed to build such a strong lifelong friendship afterwards, that Carter gave the eulogy at Ford’s funeral and Ford in turn wrote a eulogy which his son delivered at Carter’s funeral. It was hugely hopeful to see such love in action.

In the face of all the hate that keeps swirling around, may we all know the joy of giving and receiving love.

Love, Jenni

Parliament is currently considering a Bill on Assisted Dying.

During the Sunday mornings of Lent (from 9<sup>th</sup> March onwards), at St Matthew’s we will be considering life from numerous angles and hearing from experts in a number of fields, including consultants from Sobell House. More details will be in the next edition of St Matthnews.

# Cinema nights at St Matthew's

we really hope you're enjoying them, not only the films, but also the chats and the company



In October we saw



... came in November.

In December we had a break for Christmas, but you really should not have missed our own Christmas Cracker

...and then last month we were so privileged when Anna Beer came and spoke about her film



So, with a drum roll, here (opposite page) is your treat for February...




Scan to book tickets or email:  
pioneerworker@stmatthews.oxford.org.uk

Disney  
**Tangled**  
Sing-Along

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22nd February 2025 | Doors at 5pm for 5:30pm start  
 Adult tickets £5.00 | Under-18s £2.50  
 St. Matthew's Church, 63 Marlborough Road, OX1 4LW  
 Complimentary drink on entry | Snacks and sweets to buy  
 All welcome: come and sing your heart out with us!

**Do you ever fancy a quiet day, away from it all?**

**It's been 5 years since our last Parish Away Day! It's a great opportunity to pray and worship together and seek the Lord about our parish vision. We are planning another one on Saturday March 15th at Cuddesdon. More details nearer the time, but save the date now.**



**IN YOUR 20s**



**OR 30s?**



***We want to hear from you!***

St. Matthew's and St. Luke's churches are invested in **listening** to their local **community**, particularly from within this age range.

We would love to hear about what is important to you in your community.

**Use your camera to scan the QR code below to go to a brief questionnaire. Thanks!**



# Our Parish Centre

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

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

## Refresh

Our work to reduce the carbon footprint and update the facilities at the Parish Centre has a name - we are calling it...

the Refresh Project.

As you will have read in these pages before, work is already underway to look at options, funded by the money raised in the Autumn of last year. We hope to have a report on options in the next few weeks and will be organising a public meeting to report back and to see what you think.

Once we have set a date for the meeting, we will put up posters, and also let you know through the March edition of St Mattheus, so look out for updates!

## Is History your thing?

It's good that we know something about what went on in the past.

You may remember that 10 years ago there was a popular community history project focusing on the **First World War** memorial: "The 66 Men of Grandpont 1914-1918". Look it up on:

<https://southoxfordhistory.org.uk/66-men-of-grandpont>

Well, 2025 is the 80th anniversary of the end of the **Second World War**, and a new history project is planned to research the lives of the 24 men listed on the St Matthew's WWII war memorial (see below) as part of the commemorations. This new project will be along similar lines to the "66 Men" project.

If you would like to be involved in any way (no special skills are required), please contact Liz Woolley on [liz@lizwoolley.co.uk](mailto:liz@lizwoolley.co.uk).



# Oxford City School of Dance

**Pre-Primary, Primary and Nursery Ballet classes**

Develop your child's co-ordination, postural muscles, social skills, discipline within learning and creative imagination as well as exposing them to classical music and the magic of Ballet!



**St Matthew's Church Hall**  
Tuesdays with Miss Netta  
Saturdays with Miss Hannah

**West Oxford Community Centre**  
Thursdays with Miss Elspeth

**Kennington Village Hall**  
Fridays with Miss Hannah

All classes for boys and girls  
Nursery Ballet from 2 years  
Pre-Primary from 3 years

Contact Laura Addison  
(School principal)  
for more information and to  
arrange a free trial lesson

07913148332  
laura.oxfordcityschoolofdance@gmail.com  
oxfordcityschoolofdance.co.uk



We have a long-established Royal Academy of Dance School based in St Matthews Church Hall from Tuesday-Saturday. Free trials are available. Fully qualified RAD teachers provide regular exam and show opportunities. Rambert Contemporary and BASI Pilates are also available.

Call 07913 148332 or email for more info and to sign up for a free trial.  
<https://www.oxfordcityschoolofdance.co.uk>  
[laura.oxfordcityschoolofdance@gmail.com](mailto:laura.oxfordcityschoolofdance@gmail.com)



## Oxford City School of Dance

RAD Ballet from ages 3+  
Contemporary  
Beginners and Intermediate Adult Ballet  
Pilates

For more information or to organise a free trial please contact  
Laura on [laura.oxfordcityschoolofdance@gmail.com](mailto:laura.oxfordcityschoolofdance@gmail.com)  
07913148332  
OR visit our Website, Facebook or Instagram pages



ROYAL ACADEMY OF  
**DANCE**  
REGISTERED TEACHER



## 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.</b>	<b>Meditation meeting</b>
<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>9.00 am:</b>	<b>English language chat (for ladies)</b>
	<b>6.45 pm:</b>	<b>Prayer meeting</b>
<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>11.00 am:</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>11.30 am:</b>	<b>Community hot drinks</b>
	<b>12.00 noon</b>	<b>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>

**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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