

REGULAR SOCIAL EVENTS FROM ST MATTHEWS':

Soup Café

Every Monday 12.30–2pm at Whitehill Village Hall
Homemade soups served with crusty bread, followed by tea or coffee. This relies entirely on donations.

Lunch at the Vicarage

Every Wednesday 12noon. If you would like to join Dom and Alice for a simple lunch every Wednesday please call Dom or Alice by Tuesday

Donkey Group

Meets every Thursday at 7.30pm at Eveley Corner

We are creating a Friends area in the church porch, but at present our table looks quite sparse. We are going to put up a board to display photos, both recent and of bygone days, if you have any photos of weddings or christenings or of a loved one who has been buried in the graveyard please get in touch, we would love to display a copy on the board.

Cottage. Mostly a social gathering, though we do help if needed. Contact Jilly for more information

Drop-in

Every Friday 9.30am at Whitehill Village Hall
Homemade cakes, toast and marmalade, tea or coffee. This relies entirely on donations.

House Group Meets once a month. Lively discussions and refreshments. Contact Gavin Thomas on 01420 487554

CONTACT US

WWW.STMATTHEWSFRIENDS.ORG

Jilly Prideaux Friends Chairman	01420 487647 Jilly.eveley@btinternet.com
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FRIENDS OF ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH

BLACKMOOR AND WHITEHILL

Newsletter

Welcome to the inaugural edition
of The Friends of St Matthew's Church
Newsletter



My name is Jilly Prideaux and I have recently been elected as chairman of the Friends of St Matthew's Church. It is the Friends aim to maintain and preserve the church building and churchyard. The church will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary in 2019, and my aim as chairman is to work towards ensuring that the Church is always here, and looking beautiful for future generations. We started fundraising in 2007 and raised enough money to enable us to apply for grants to cover the costs of a new roof. As with all old buildings, the maintenance is costly. I, as chairman must, with the help of my fellow trustees, raise money to cover the cost of repairs, and I need your help, your support.

If you would like to know more about the Friends of St Matthew's then please do contact me, my details are on the back page.

Jilly Prideaux

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 18th June Barn Dance
Starting at 7pm in Whitehill Village Hall

Saturday 2nd July Open Day at St Matthew's Church
A chance to wander at leisure, enjoy the tranquility and chat to the people who care for the church both spiritually and manually.
Refreshments served all day

Also on Saturday 2nd July
A historical evening, a talk on The Early Years of Blackmoor
by John and Joanna Selborne,
Light refreshments and wine will be served within the church.

Tickets for evening £10

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ST MATTHEW'S FRIDAY DROP-IN AND THE MONDAY SOUP CAFÉ

It is such a privilege to be asked to write about the Drop-In and the Soup Café in the first 'Friends Newsletter.' They remain a very important part of the Church's mission in the community of Blackmoor and Whitehill.

The Soup Café has gone from strength to strength, having almost doubled the number of customers in the last year. The essential equipment for the soup café came from a grant from the Diocese, and we were very honoured at the beginning of December to receive a visit from Bishop Christopher who chatted to our volunteers and customers. We cater for a wide range of members of the public who come and enjoy our of homemade soups (served with crusty bread and butter and followed by tea or coffee) They meet new people and generally enjoy the camaraderie created by being together.

The Drop-In is still a very important gathering place for many members of the community. It has a lovely atmosphere and we have all made new friends from being there. The delicious homemade cakes are very popular, as is the toast and marmalade, fresh tea and coffee and lots of chatter. There is really no need to be lonely, it is welcoming and friendly, you would be amazed at how many wonderful people are living in our community.

Both the Soup Café and the Drop In are free, we rely on donations, people give what they can afford. Our soups and cakes are donated by members of the church and the donations cover the cost of the hall and other expenses. If you would like to know more about becoming a volunteer on either of these days please contact me (my telephone number is on the back page) or phone Jilly, you will be made very welcome.

Davina Hudson

MESSAGE FROM REVEREND ALICE WOOD, *Associate Vicar*



I joined Reverend Dom Clarke, Rector for St Matthew's Church and St John the Baptist in Greatham, in January 2016. I am very fortunate to have been licensed to serve at St Matthew's as I was a member of the congregation of this beautiful church for many years before I was an ordained minister; so it feels like coming home.

St Matthew's is a very special, spiritual place. You just walk through the door and a deep sense of peace fills your spirit. The nave is bathed in reflected light from the stained glass windows and as you gaze upwards the beams of the roof look like an upturned ship.

Throughout the years so many prayers and hymns have been said and sung within these walls that they are almost tangible. Yet Reverend Dom and I do not view St Matthew's as a museum to the past, but as a special place to nurture and encourage the Christian faith today and for the generations to come. Many traditions are treasured at St Matthew's. We have a talented choir master who coaches our dedicated choir to sing a wide repertoire of anthems and hymns. The Bell Ringers meet every Friday evening to practice and the church is becoming an increasingly popular place for weddings - 20 are booked this summer.

Alongside this we are offering new, interactive approaches to worship in The Connect and Church Alive services which are attracting whole families to explore Christianity in the 21st century.

St Matthew's is such a special place that all who worship there want to see the congregations growing, deepening in faith and continuing through into the centuries to come. The work of The Friends of St Matthew's will help to make this vision a reality.