



South Wye Team Ministry Newsletter

21st September 2025

Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Hello Everyone, I hope that you are all keeping safe and well and haven't been blown away by the high winds that seem to be bringing the Autumn with them. Just a heads up to the altar-frontal changers in our churches – Sunday we are back in red to mark St Matthew's day. Although not quite as hard to pin down as Bartholomew a few Sundays ago, we don't have a huge amount of definitive information about Matthew. Among the things that we don't know about him is whether or not he actually wrote the Gospel given his name. There is certainly very early church tradition, from the first and second centuries, that he did, but more recent scholarship suggests that an anonymous Gospel, perhaps including some material originating with Matthew, had the words 'According to Matthew' added in the second century.

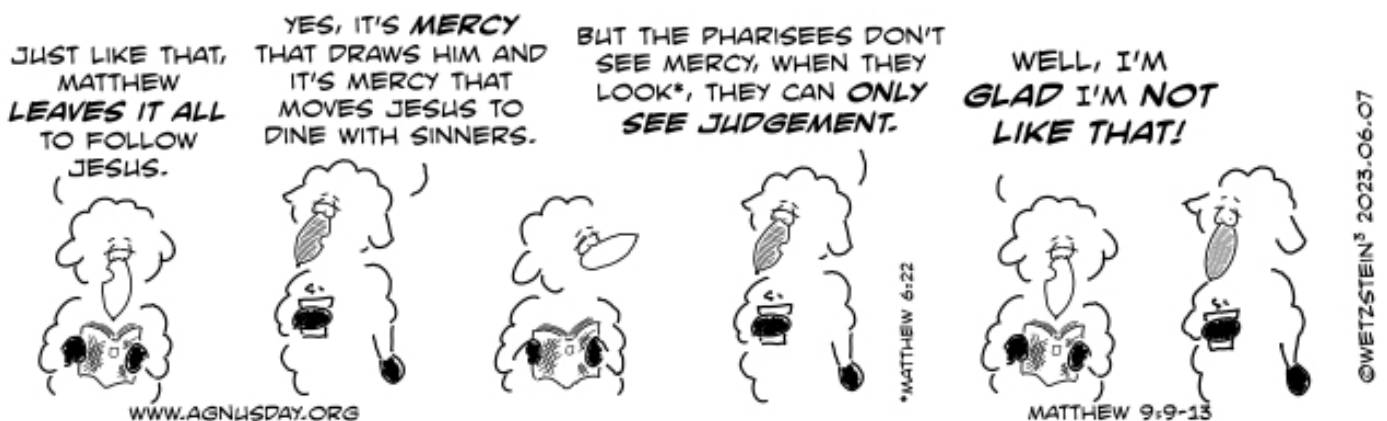
Exciting Holiness tells us: *"Matthew appears in the list of the twelve apostles of Jesus and, according to the gospel written under his name, was a tax collector. Mark and Luke called the tax collector Levi, and it has been assumed that they are one and the same. This occupation was despised by his fellow Jews as a betrayal to the occupying Roman force but Christ showed that judging by outward appearance was not what he was about. He ate with Matthew and with his friends, scandalising those around him. Matthew affirmed that his life would now change because of following Jesus, and that he would make amends for any former wrongdoing. This was enough for Jesus, for he had drawn someone back to God. He was forgiven, therefore he was acceptable, therefore he was received."*

The weasel phrases "according to" and "assumed" hedge about the description, but there is no doubt about the importance of Matthew. By his very existence in that time and place as a tax collector who was called by Jesus, he tells each of us that there is nothing that we have done or been that could keep us from following our Lord. He calls every one of us – tax collectors, sinners, everyone – knowing that in following him, we can align our lives with his, our choices with his choices for us. This week, even when we might feel that we have got things wrong, made bad choices, we can be sure that these things do not separate us from God in Jesus Christ. In acknowledging our faults, in choosing to try again, in making amends, we have the chance to follow the one who loves us, even when we get it wrong – and who will help us to change our lives, because he desires mercy and not sacrifice.

With every blessing

Anne

07864938898



Events and Services on-site, online and on TV and Radio

Rev Anne's Farewell.

There will be a service at St Martin's at 4pm on Sunday 28th September followed by a 'Farewell Tea' in St. Martin's hall. All are welcome to come along and wish her well.

Toastie and Warm at St Martin's On Tuesday afternoons the Narthex at St Martin's is a busy and welcoming space. From 1pm there is a Bible Study, and from 2pm there is a coffee afternoon, full of conversations and information, with chocolate biscuits and, usually, home-made cakes. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Catching up with friends – or making new ones!

Young at Heart - Second Thursday of each month – Lunch together in the church hall. Please email or phone Home Instead to book. 01432 804000 or info.hereford@homeinstead.co.uk

Third Thursday of each month at 2pm – Meeting in St. Martin's Church – talks, games, refreshments and friendship – everyone welcome!

Services at Belmont Community Centre

If you live in or near Belmont and find the journey to St Martin's difficult, or if Sunday mornings are not easy for you, you might like to join us for Friday Communion at Belmont Community Centre.

We celebrate a said service of Holy Communion at 12:30pm on the Second and Fourth Fridays of each month, following FoodShare. Everyone is very welcome to this service. The hall has level access and good ventilation – and if the weather is good we celebrate outside.

The funeral of Richard Jones, Bricknell Close, formerly of Holme Lacy and Ballingham will be held on Thursday October 9th at 2.15pm at the crematorium followed by a celebration at the Rowing Club.

South Wye Services

Through the Week:	8pm	Night Prayer from Common Worship – on St. Martin's FB page
Sunday	9:30am	Holy Communion at St. Martin's (streamed on St. Martin's FB page)
	11.15am	Holy Communion at St. Peter's, Bullinghope
Thursday	10am	Said Communion in St. Martin's Lady Chapel

Sunday Services online

Diocese of Hereford Diocese of Hereford Facebook: Sunday Service 10am.

Church of England National Weekly Service Facebook at 9am.

TV and Radio on Sunday;

Radio 4	8.10am	Sunday Worship – St. Aloysius' Church, Glasgow
BBC 1	2pm	Songs of Praise - Harvest on the Farm

For our Prayers

Those who are ill or in need of your prayers, including:

Brenda Baylis	Irene F	Margaret	Charlie	Sue	Vickie
Maureen Gerard	Peter	Mike	Karen	Nathan	Colin
Rachel	Katie	Simon	Eddie	June M	Marie
Mandy	Shelley	Susan G	Anita		

Those who have died and those who mourn their loss:

Linda L..

Gilbert and Janet H.

Susan S.

Diane C

Barbara Wilson

Anglican Communion: Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan: Most Revd Justin Badi Arama

Hereford: Pray for interfaith understanding and engagement across the Diocese

Porvoo: Church of England: Diocese of Sheffield, Bishop Pete Wilcox, Bishop Sophie Jelley; Church of Greenland: (Diocese of Greenland within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark) Bishop Paneeraq Siegstad Munk

South Wye: Ridgeway Avenue, Lassen Drive, Mayne Avenue, Franks Avenue, the Chateau, Fernlea, Holme Croft, Penrhyn, Pump Cottages, Station House

The Wider View:

Give thanks for those working to end homelessness and poverty; for projects offering housing, support and dignity

As the UN International Day of Peace is marked, pray for grassroots peacemakers and bridge-builders in our communities

Collect for Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

O Almighty God, whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist: give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain and the possessive love of riches that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings for Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist**Proverbs 3: 13-18**

3 Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart.

4 So you will find favour and good success in the sight of God and man.

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.

8 It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

9 Honour the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce;

10 then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

11 My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof,

12 for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

13 Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding,

14 for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold.

15 She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her.

16 Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honour.

17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

18 She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed.

Psalm 119: 65-72

65 You have dealt well with your servant, O Lord, according to your word.
66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments.
67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word.
68 You are good and do good; teach me your statutes.
69 The insolent smear me with lies, but with my whole heart I keep your precepts;
70 their heart is unfeeling like fat, but I delight in your law.
71 It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.
72 The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

2 Corinthians 4: 1-6

1 Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. 2 But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 9: 9-13 (18-26)

9 As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.
10 And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. 11 And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" 12 But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."
18 While he was saying these things to them, behold, a ruler came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." 19 And Jesus rose and followed him, with his disciples. 20 And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, 21 for she said to herself, "If I only touch his garment, I will be made well." 22 Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well. 23 And when Jesus came to the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, 24 he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. 25 But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. 26 And the report of this went through all that district.

Bible Study based on Matthew 9: 9-13 (18-26)

Bible notes The action in this section of Matthew is frenetic. He tells the same story that Mark does in Mark 5:21-43 but in far fewer words, and with the call of Matthew thrown in for good measure. The picture that emerges is that Jesus is busy in the mission God has given him; there is no time to waste. That is why he quotes Hosea 6:6 to the religious leaders. It is not a time to sit around debating theology; it is a time to show God's mercy to people of all kinds.

So, Jesus has invited a tax collector into his ramshackle band of travelling companions and then gone to dinner with all of Matthew's mates, people the Pharisees would not have crossed the street to kick. He is doing this because, like a physician, he needs to be spending his time with the sick, hence the Hosea quote. Then as if to prove it, a father with a sick daughter turns up and a woman with chronic illness interrupts his journey to the man's house. In Mark, the ruler is named – Jairus – and the daughter is ill. In Matthew, the focus is on both the urgency and enormity of the man's request – and his daughter is already dead! Jesus doesn't hesitate and they set off to the man's house. On the way, an unnamed woman interrupts his journey by touching his cloak. This anonymous sick person receives healing and a word of love and encouragement from Jesus. He calls her 'daughter'. Perhaps, like the woman bent double in Luke 13, he wanted to emphasise that this woman, for all her ritual uncleanness, is a daughter of Abraham as much as anyone else in Israel. Then they are at the leader's house where the mourning rituals have begun. The mourners laugh at Jesus when he says the girl is sleeping. What Jesus is suggesting and is about to do seems so absurd that laughing is the only response. But the girl is raised, and Matthew says news of this spread around the whole district. You bet it did! Jesus had interrupted death with life, and Matthew intends us to see this as an example of what the Gospel does in people's lives: God has come to have mercy, and the story invites us to be people caught up in this, who live merciful lives in the wake of our Lord.

Reflection Spend a few moments thinking about what stands out for you from the Bible reading. This idea may help. Jesus called the woman with the haemorrhage 'daughter'. Jesus knew she had no one to be her advocate, unlike Jairus who could advocate for his daughter. The woman had been ostracised from her community for 12 years, but in an instant Jesus changed all that. How can we

advocate for others? How do we offer love and compassion to others? In the film, *The Duke*, Kempton Bunton campaigns for free TV licences for the over seventies; he advocates for those who are lonely and isolated in society. What, specifically, might Jesus be calling us to do?

Questions for reflection You may wish to use these questions and the picture to help you think about or discuss issues arising from this week's Bible passage.

- How is the joey (baby) protected by the koala mother?
- The Hebrew word for mercy – racham – implies protection, like a mother's womb. So, what does merciful living mean?
- How might you show God's love mercifully this week?



Sudoku

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		4				6	7	
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2	5	7	3	4	8	1	6	9
8	3	1	2	6	9	7	4	5
3	1	4	8	9	5	6	7	2
5	6	2	1	7	4	3	9	8
9	7	8	6	3	2	5	1	4

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1	6	9	7	5	4	8	3	2
8	4	3	2	1	9	6	5	7
3	5	6	9	2	1	7	8	4
7	9	4	3	8	6	5	2	1
2	8	1	4	7	5	9	6	3
9	3	8	5	4	2	1	7	6
4	1	7	6	3	8	2	9	5
6	2	5	1	9	7	3	4	8

Sudoku (Trickier)

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8	2	1	3	4	6	7	9	5
5	9	6	8	7	2	1	3	4
6	8	5	9	3	7	2	4	1
7	1	2	6	8	4	9	5	3
9	3	4	1	2	5	6	8	7

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9	1	5	3	7	2	4	6	8
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6	9	8	7	2	5	1	4	3
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2	6	9	5	4	7	3	8	1
8	7	1	2	3	6	5	9	4
5	3	4	9	8	1	2	7	6

Wordsearch based on Proverbs 3: 13-18

N	S	S	U	O	I	C	E	R	P	B	T	X	D	N
O	S	S	T	R	A	I	G	H	T	M	L	B	K	L
D	O	N	S	C	K	G	W	J	D	E	S	I	R	E
U	Y	E	S	I	W	G	F	O	R	S	A	K	E	R
A	O	C	G	T	T	B	F	A	F	X	M	R	G	E
G	M	K	I	L	S	B	I	R	W	B	A	F	V	M
O	N	Y	Q	W	A	U	L	N	U	X	G	O	D	U
M	J	I	M	D	F	H	R	E	D	I	L	S	E	I
S	H	N	L	T	D	S	B	T	S	C	T	C	H	J
U	N	A	U	A	A	I	E	E	L	S	A	S	E	T
C	B	M	L	Y	E	G	E	W	F	E	E	X	A	H
C	U	A	D	J	T	H	Y	A	P	U	Y	D	R	A
E	T	I	R	W	S	T	E	T	A	B	L	E	T	N
S	R	S	N	Q	E	S	S	H	T	A	P	Q	S	D
S	S	A	R	O	V	A	F	O	N	G	H	D	Y	X

LOVE
BIND
WRITE
HEART

FAVOR
SIGHT
TRUST
PATHS

EYES
FRUITS
DESIRE
WISE

FORSAKE
NECK
TABLET
STEADFAST

SUCCESS
PRECIOUS
STRAIGHT
PEACE

HEALING
MAN
HAND
BLESSED