

**St Matthew's, Bethnal Green
August 18th-24th, 2019**

Services this week:

Wednesday 19.00

No public services of morning and evening prayer

**You are very welcome to St Matthew's Church.
Please feel free to stay after the service for
refreshments.**

Notices:

Mother Erin is away this week. If you are in urgent need of a priest, please speak with Sister Judith.

Due to various **holidays**, the church will be open sporadically over this week. Naomi Agyekum will be in on some days with her holiday club. If you need access for any reason, please speak to Katharine, the Parish Administrator: stmatthewbg@outlook.com or 0207 739 7586. She is in on Monday and Friday this week.

Family Fun Day on **Wednesday 28 August** from 3-6 pm in the Churchyard. Count on treats, bouncy castle, and a good old raffle, of course! Now is the time to invite your friends and neighbours so that no one misses out on the fun!

Autumn rotas are ready - pick yours up from the back table.

Welcome Service for Bishop Joanne: would you like to come to Islington on the evening of **Friday 27 September**? Space is limited, so we need to book our seats now. Please email stmatthewsbg@outlook.com

Save the Date: 'Community Musical Feast' in the Churchyard on **St Matthew's Day, Saturday 21 September**. More details coming soon.

Welcome to St Matthew's Church

**9th Sunday after Trinity
Sunday, 18th August 2019**

Collect:

**Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.**

First Reading: Hebrews 11.29-12.2

This passage refers to Jesus as the 'pioneer and perfecter of our faith' — the struggles and sufferings of his life, and his ancestors' lives, adding to that pioneer story. A pioneer is someone who starts something; a perfecter is someone who ends something. This is the same thing that the scriptures tell us elsewhere: Jesus is the Alpha and Omega — the beginning and end. Our own stories are pages in his larger story.

Please respond to **Psalm 82** with the following:

Arise, O God, and rule the earth.

PLEASE STAND when the ALLELUIAS are sung.

ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!

**Jesus said: "You know how to interpret the weather
but can you not read the signs of the present time?"**

ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!

Gospel: Luke 12:49-56

This is one of Jesus 'hard sayings': he is not holding back his words! He's getting at the truth of what it costs to confess our faith in him and follow him — not everybody is going to love us for it. But we must pursue what makes for justice, mercy and peace — even when we are not offered these things. That's how we imitate Jesus.

NEXT WEEK: 10th SUNDAY after TRINITY
Hebrews 12.18-29; Psalm 103; Luke 13.10-17

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