



THE CHURCH OF
ST MATTHEW
COLDRIDGE

Events and Services at St. Matthew's Coldridge

DECEMBER 2025

Monday 1st – Church café,
2.30pm

Sunday 7th – Evensong using
the Book of Common
Prayer, 4.30pm. This
collection of prayer books
was first published in 1549
during the English
Reformation. Led by Rev
Peter Rapsey.

Sunday 14th – Morning
Prayer, 10.30am. Lay Led.

Sunday 21st – Family
Nativity, 5pm. Lay Led.

Christmas Eve – Midnight
Mass, 9pm.
Led by Rev Peter Rapsey.



*"Once in our world, a stable had something in it
that was bigger than our whole world" C.S. Lewis*

In Coldridge, as in parishes across the country, the Nativity Service will form a central part of our Christmas devotions. This tradition can be traced back to a thirteenth century account of the life of St Francis of Assisi, written by St Bonaventure. According to this biography, in 1223 St. Francis got permission from the Pope to build a manger with hay and two live animals – an ox and an ass – in a cave in the Italian village of Greccio. He then invited the villagers to gather round and listen to him preach about the miraculous birth: with St Francis reportedly becoming so overcome with emotion during the devotions that he was unable to say the name "Jesus." The local people believed that the hay used to make the manger had spiritual powers and could cure cattle diseases and pestilences.



JANUARY 2026

Monday 4th – Church Café,
2.30pm

Sunday 10th – Morning
Prayer, 10.30am. Lay Led.

Sunday 17th – Holy
Communion, 10.30am.

Refreshments are provided
after every service. Please
feel welcome to join us!

Our beautiful church is
open every day between
10am and 4pm. If you
would like a guided tour
please contact John Smith,
Church Warden, on 01363
83436.

