

June 2025 - Events and Services at St. Matthew's Coldridge

Monday 2nd – Church Café, 2.30pm - 4pm Come for a coffee, homemade cake and some friendly chat.

Sunday 8th – Morning Prayer, 10.30am

This service will be led by a member of the lay community.

Sunday 15th – Holy Communion, 10.30am

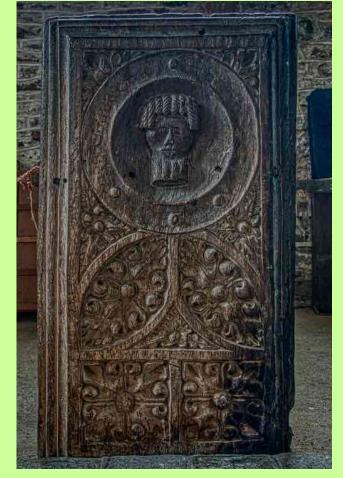
This service will be led by Rev. Preb. Peter Rapsey.

Thursday 26th – Church Tours, 11.00am and 2.00pm These include a lecture by John Dike on the mystery of the Edward V window. Free but booking required (email: coldridgeparishchurch81 @gmail.com)

This event coincides with the **Coldridge Café** in the Village Hall. In the month of June we celebrate the birth of John the Baptist. This saint has a special role in the history of Christianity, as the man who prophesied the coming of Christ. But he also has a special role in the history of Coldridge!

Our church is celebrated for its diverse collection of medieval oak and elm benches. But while these benches feature many beautiful and unusual carvings, they only contain one human representation: the head of St John the Baptist sitting on a platter.

We have no explanation for this anomaly – but we can speculate that one of Coldridge's medieval parishioners was so intrigued by the story of Herod's dancing daughter Salome and her demand for John the Baptist's head, that they specially commissioned the woodworkers to carve this biblical scene.



This is just one of many mysteries of our Grade I listed Church that we still value today.