

St Matthew's
MAIL

Suggested
Donation

£1.00

News from the Parish of Kingsley, Northampton

DECEMBER 2021



www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Services at the Parish Church of St Matthew

Please note: Below is shown the normal pattern of our worship at St Matthew's. However, as the present covid-19 pandemic restrictions ease, the church is now open for communal worship and offering a Sunday 10.15am Parish Mass and 5.30pm Evensong/Choral Evensong with a Said Mass on Monday at 9.30am, Wednesday at 9.30am and Friday at 12noon. Other services as advertised — please keep referring to our website for latest information. Sunday and Major Feast-Day services will also be live streamed on our website and facebook pages.

Sundays

9.00am	Mass, with homily (with traditional language)
10.15am	The Parish Mass (sung)
5.30pm	Evensong — according to The Book of Common Prayer

First Sunday in the month

10.15am	All Age Mass for the Parish Family
5.30pm	Choral Evensong

*When the choir is on holiday (coinciding with school holidays and half terms)
Choral Evensong is replaced with Congregational Evensong*

Second Sunday in the month

9.00am and	Laying on of hands and Sacrament of Anointing is
10.15am	offered in the Lady Chapel
5.30pm	Congregational Evensong

Third Sunday in the month

5.30pm	Choral Evensong and Benediction
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Fourth and Fifth Sundays in the month

5.30pm	Congregational Evensong
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Weekdays *(During the winter months of November to March, held in the Parish Centre)*

Morning and Evening Prayer are said publicly at 9.00am and 5.30pm daily

Monday	7.00pm Mass (on Bank Holidays at 9.30am) (Healing Mass and Devotions on the first Monday in the month)
Tuesday	9.30am Mass <i>(suspended for the foreseeable future)</i>
Wednesday	9.30am Mass <i>(followed by coffee)</i>
Thursday	9.30am Mass
Friday	12 noon Mass
Saturday	9.30am Mass (Walsingham Cell Mass on second Saturday in the month)

Major Feast-Days Procession and Sung Mass at 7.30pm

(Always held in church. The morning Mass may be cancelled — refer to literature in church)

Sacrament of Reconciliation, commonly known as Confession, is celebrated in the Lady Chapel by appointment with the clergy. They are also available for advice and guidance on any matter of concern. All aspects of the sacrament are in confidence.

Worship Calendar for December

<i>Date</i>	<i>Observance</i>	<i>Intention</i>
1	Feria	
2	Feria	
3	S Francis Xavier	
4	Feria	
5	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
6	S Nicolas, B	The healing ministry
7	S Ambrose, B, Dr	
8	Immaculate Conception	
9	Feria	
10	Feria	
11	Of OLW	The Shrine and Society
12	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
13	S Lucy, M	
14	S John of the Cross, Dr	
15	Feria	
16	Feria	
17	Feria (<i>O Sapientia</i>)	
18	Feria (<i>O Adonai</i>)	
19	THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
20	Monthly Requiem	(<i>O Radix</i>) (<i>O Clavis</i>) <i>The Faithful Departed</i>
21	Feria	(<i>O Oriens</i>)
22	Feria	(<i>O Rex</i>)
23	Feria	(<i>O Emmanuel</i>)
24	Feria (<i>in the morning</i>)	
NATIVITY OF THE LORD		
	CHRISTMAS EVE	
25	CHRISTMAS DAY	
26	THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	
27	S John the Evangelist	
28	Holy Innocents, Ms	
29	S Stephen, First Martyr	
30	In the Octave	
31	In the Octave	

NB **Bold** denotes weekdays on which the eucharist will be celebrated

*The Church prays for the community daily.
Please include these topics in your daily prayers.*

December Letter from the Vicar

No one is coming

The season of Advent is like the ancient God of Rome, Janus, from whom the month of January is named. Janus is depicted in art as having two faces. One face looks backward into the past, the other looks forward into the future. The season of Advent is like that. It looks backward into the past to the first coming of Christ, and it looks forward into the future for the second coming of Christ.



We stand at the midpoint between the two great moments of history, and we hear again the invitation of the scriptures: 'Stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near... be on guard... be alert, or awake, at all times.'

I recently had sight of a book called A Nation of Victims. It talks about the tendency of people to blame their problems on anything, or anyone, other than themselves. For example, if, a person is a thief, it is because he/she grew up in poverty or was born with a predisposition to steal. If a person commits murder, it is because he/she is suffering from a condition called 'urban survival syndrome.' All are victims of their genetic makeup and the way they were reared. An opposite view of human behaviour argues that all persons are totally responsible for their conduct. Regardless of their parents, and environment, their good or bad fortune, people can still become 'upright' citizens if they choose to do so. If they become less than that, it is their own fault. This position is usually argued by persons who were born into and grew up in fortunate circumstances.

Nature, or nurture? That is the question. Obviously, neither of these theories is correct in and of itself. The notion that we are only victims is not the whole truth, and the notion that all persons are entirely responsible for themselves is not true either.

To get closer to the truth both of these partial insights must be put together. Whatever life deals for us or to us, you and I still have a choice. We can take a fortunate circumstance and waste it, just throw it away. We can take an unfortunate circumstance and do something decent with it. After heredity and environment have done their utmost, we still get to vote on how our lives will turn out.

Having painted a grim picture, Jesus says, “Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” When life is hard, we still have a choice. We can lie down and give up, or we can take responsibility for ourselves, stand up to life and deal with it as it comes.

A psychologist working with clients had a phrase framed and hung it on his wall. It said, ‘No one is coming’. He stressed the fact that nothing is going to improve unless the clients take responsibility for their own thoughts, feelings, and actions. It means that no one will come and heal us nor do everything for us while we do nothing. He encouraged his clients to take ownership for what was happening in their own lives. One day a client challenged him about the saying, ‘No one is coming’. He pointed to it and said, “It’s not true! You came!” The psychologist said, “Well, you came is correct, but I came to say that no one is coming.”

The coming of Christ does not mean that he does everything for us and we do nothing. Christ is coming, but not to absolve us from responsibility for ourselves. Just the opposite.

In Advent, we are invited to be on guard, to actively wait, to be alert at all times. St Luke gives specific examples and adds the ‘worries of this life that can catch you unexpectedly, like a trap’ (Luke 21:34-35). What an arresting image! So often, we hear people say, ‘I feel trapped.’ If we feel trapped, we have to practice self-responsibility and release ourselves from the trap. ‘No one is coming’ to do it for us.

As adults, we cannot simply blame the economy for our lack of funds, our parents for our quirks of personality, our church for our lack of compassion or understanding. God insists that we do our part.

Advent is a time for us to say, ‘No one is coming’, but I am becoming more like Christ. Let us say during this season of conspicuous consumption: I believe in becoming more than I have been in the past, more like Christ. I believe in Advent.

Your sincere friend and parish priest,

Fr. Nicholas

The forty days of Christmas

Whenever I write a December letter, several people tell me off because I don't major on the theme of Christmas. I have my reasons, not least that I think Advent is important, neglected, and comes first. This year, though, I'll give in (partly) to the clamour.

I'm not against Christmas: I believe in and celebrate the virgin birth and incarnation of the fully human, fully divine, Jesus Christ. I understand that for all sorts of practical reasons we have to do some of the teaching and rejoicing before the day itself: for example, we celebrate with schools before they break up for their holidays, and we try to reach Christmas shoppers through carols and in other ways to help them see a bit more of the meaning of it all. I understand that we live in and reach out to the world as it is, full of commercialisation and shopping for things we don't remotely need which seems to begin earlier each year.



I do wish, though, that within our church communities we could experience the excitement and power, the peace and joy, of Christmas at the right time: from the evening of Christmas Eve, either to twelfth night and the Epiphany on 6 January; or, if we are bold enough, right through to the Presentation of Christ (Candlemas) on 2 February, forty days after we remember the birth. That would have the huge advantage of changing our perception of January to being a month of Christmas light and joy, rather than the dark and miserable time that it is for many now. And wouldn't it be good if we could help the world see the joy and celebration of Christmas flowing into and through the first month of the year?

On another note: Canon Tim Alban Jones steps down as my chaplain at the end of this month. His role has always been part Chaplain and part Cathedral Canon, but the Cathedral part has been expanding, and after six years this seems the right time for him to become full time Vice Dean. Tim has been a brilliant support to me and my office, and we will miss him very much from that role.

+ Donald

With best wishes
+Donald

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CAROL SERVICES

at St Matthew's Church



THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST MATTHEW • NORTHAMPTON



28 NOV

THE
ADVENT
CAROL SERVICE

19 DEC

A Festival of
Nine Lessons
and Carols

16 JAN

The
EPIPHANY
Carol Service

SUNDAYS at 5:30pm

www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Armistice and Remembrance

An updated presentation of work, courtesy of Martin and Lindsey Stone, was put on view in the church ready for Remembrance Sunday this year. It was in the form of a static display, the intention being to respect and further honour those affiliated to the parish of St Matthew's who fell during the two world wars in the period 1914-19 and 1939-45, and was displayed in such a way that it could be viewed socially distanced and safely.



Making a will

The Diocese is taking part in a pilot project offering **FREE** wills to anyone who would like to take up the offer.

Leaving a gift in your will to St Matthew's is one of the most valuable and lasting ways you can continue to support our mission and ministry in our community. Making a will and keeping it updated is the only way to make sure your wishes are carried out after your death, giving you peace of mind that you can continue to support the family, friends and charities you love.

This autumn, the Church of England has partnered with **Farewill**, the *National Will Writing Firm of the Year 2020*, to offer an online will writing service, which you can do from the comfort of your home in less than 30 minutes. Farewill's specialist team are available to help you over the phone or live chat 7 days a week, 9am-7pm. There are a limited number of wills available on a first-come-first served basis. To take advantage of this offer please visit the Farewill website: <https://farewill.com/peterborough-diocese>

By participating in this will writing scheme, your details will not be shared with the Church of England.

If you use the Church of England will writing scheme, there is no obligation to leave a gift to the church in your Will, and your loved ones should always come first, but should you choose to remember St Matthew's, every gift, great or small, will make a real difference to our mission and ministry in this community. Thank you.

Polly Matthews

Reconciliation

By Patience Strong

Every month its own gift brings of beauty to remember
but the month that crowns the year is wonderful December
when God and man are reconciled
in the little Christmas child.

Contributed by Audrey Rogers of the St Matthew's Ladies Group

The Parish Church of St Matthew Northampton

Come and join us for our monthly
All Age Worship
for the Parish Family

Second Sunday of Advent
5 December at 10.15am

'The Lord is near'
is the message of John the Baptist
and of the Advent season

Well done!

At the end of the All Age Mass on Sunday 7 November Sandra Rivett (aka Hedgehog) was presented with a Long Service Award to celebrate her 20 years of service in Scouting at St Matthew's.

Well done and thanks to Sandra!



Confirmation

The Bishop of Brixworth, The Rt Revd John Holbrook, came to St Matthew's on the afternoon of Sunday 14 November for a special service to confirm our three candidates: Caleb Michat Atkinson, Nicholas George Ashley Everitt, and Somtochi Ogechi Ogugua.

After they had each taken their vows, and supported by the vows of their family and friends and a number of our congregation, they

then received their first Holy Communion, becoming full members of Christ's Church.

Let us continue to support them as they grow in faith and understanding, becoming more deeply and firmly rooted into a loving relationship with Christ.



The rose bed on the south side of the church made ready for winter by Sally Hunt. We look forward to seeing next year's display.

The Parish Church of St Matthew

Friday 24 December

**CHRISTMAS
EVE**

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Saturday 25 December

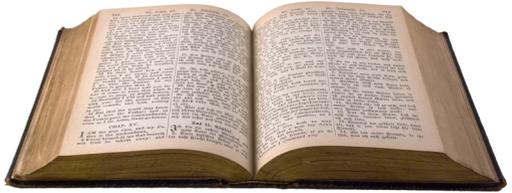
**CHRISTMAS
DAY**

10.15am The Parish Mass

5.30pm BCP Evening Prayer

Weekday Scripture Readings for December

Our weekday scripture readings, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament, taken from the 'Additional Lectionary' which was constructed by the Church of England principally for use in Cathedrals at weekday Evensong.



Wednesday	1st	Isaiah 65.17 - 66.2	Matthew 24.1-14
Thursday	2nd	Micah 5.2-5a	John 3.16-21
Friday	3rd	Isaiah 66.18-end	Luke 13.22-30
Saturday	4th	Micah 7.8-15	Romans 15.30 - 16.7, 25-end
Monday	6th	Jeremiah 7.1-11	Philippians 4.4-9
Tuesday	7th	Daniel 7.9-14	Matthew 24.15-28
Wednesday	8th	Amos 9.11-end	Romans 13.8-end
Thursday	9th	Jeremiah 23.5-8	Mark 11.1-11
Friday	10th	Jeremiah 33.14-22	Luke 21.25-36
Saturday	11th	Zechariah 14.4-11	Revelation 22.1-7
Monday	13th	Isaiah 40.1-11	Matthew 3.1-12
Tuesday	14th	Lamentations 3.22-33	1 Corinthians 1.1-9
Wednesday	15th	Joel 3.9-16	Matthew 24.29-35
Thursday	16th	Isaiah 62	1 Thessalonians 3.6-13
Friday	17th	Proverbs 8.22-31	1 Corinthians 2.1-13
Saturday	18th	Exodus 3.1-6	Acts 7.20-36
Monday	20th	Isaiah 22.21-23	Revelation 3.7-13
Tuesday	21st	Numbers 24.15b-19	Revelation 22.10-21
Wednesday	22nd	Jeremiah 30.7-11a	Acts 4.1-12
Thursday	23rd	Isaiah 7.10-15	Matthew 1.18-23
Friday	24th	Zechariah 2	Revelation 1.1-8
Saturday	25th	Isaiah 65.17-25	Luke 2.1-20
Monday	27th	Isaiah 6.1-8 1	John 5.1-12
Tuesday	28th	Isaiah 49.14-25	Mark 10.13-16
Wednesday	29th	Genesis 4.1-10	Matthew 23.34-end
Thursday	30th	Isaiah 9.2-7	John 8.12-20
Friday	31st	Ecclesiastes 3.1-13	Revelation 21.1-8

Onward Christian Soldiers

Sheila Rotherham



In a recent BBC1 programme *Who Do You Think You Are?* the comedian Josh Widdicombe was shown to have some roots in Lew Trenchard, the ancestral home of the Baring-Gould family. Immediately, one's thoughts raced to Sabine Baring-Gould who wrote *Onward Christian Soldiers*.

He was born in 1834. (His father's grandmother was the daughter of Joseph Sabine, the naturalist, of Tewin, Hertfordshire, and that is why his father gave him the Christian name Sabine.) The wealthy family spent much of his childhood travelling throughout Europe and exploring places of interest. Eventually, Sabine studied at Cambridge.

He was ordained to the ministry in 1864, and became curate of Horbury, near Wakefield. The people there worked long hours in the wool mills and, he discovered, had little or no education, so he started a night school. He wrote both words and music of the lovely hymn *Now the day is over* for his pupils there.



On Whit Monday, it was customary in the north of England to hold Whit Walks, which involved all the church people and children, dressed in their best, processing from village to village. He realised the children did not have a suitable hymn to march along to, and so *Onward Christian Soldiers* was born! (Of course, at that time, and in the years that followed, there has been much controversy over its suitability, verses omitted, lines and words altered; nevertheless it became very popular, especially after Sir Arthur Sullivan wrote the tune *St Gertrude* to accompany it.)



While at Horbury, he met and fell in love with, a mill girl, Grace Taylor. So that they could marry and return to Lew Trenchard, as Sabine was now the squire, his parents having died, Grace was sent away to be educated and turned into a lady, both in deportment and speech. They were very happy together, and Sabine depended on her. They had about fifteen children. He also took on the tiny parish church, as neither of his two younger brothers wished to fulfil that role.



He followed his bent to study and write, which he always did standing at his tall desk. He wrote poetry, novels, books on history, adventure, travel and many other subjects including biographies, one of which was of the Rev Robert Hawker of Morwenstow who introduced the Harvest Thanksgiving Service into the church's calendar.

At the bottom of my bookshelves, I have a row of books on hymns and hymn-writers, and dipped into each to discover any interesting snippets of Sabine's life. To my amazement, I discovered four old books at the end of the row with faded titles and covers, and one of which was actually the above biography, written by Sabine, and printed in 1913. (Apparently, it was published earlier, 1899, but Hawker's family were not happy with it. Anyway, Sabine won in the end!)

In 1916, Sabine suffered the loss of his wife whose influence on his life was total. She gave him peace and security, and was the great and only love of his life. He lived through the rest of WW1, dying in 1924, aged 90.

We are nearing the celebration of Christmas, so it seems a suitable moment to end with an anecdote from the festive season at the huge Lew Trenchard manor house. A party was in progress for all the local children, dressed in their Christmas finery. Sabine came across a little girl sitting at the bottom of the huge staircase. "Hello, my dear" he said, "And whose little child are you?" "Please, papa" she replied, "I'm *your* little child."



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**SOLUTION ON
PAGE 24**

Beavers Just Want to Have Fun!

Hedgehog, aka Sandra Rivett

Fun and friendship – that's what it's all about. The Beavers of the 36th St Matthews have had lots of fun this term and are all jolly good friends too.

Summer may have been a bit hit and miss this year with lots of rain, but somehow the sun has almost always managed to shine on Thursday evenings. So we have been spending as much time outside as possible.

Since 15 April the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts of St Matthews have been holding their meetings back at the Parish Centre and at Overstone woods, with a hike at the Northampton & Lamport Railway for the Cubs, a picnic/ramble at Abington Park for the Beavers, and fishing at Abington Park for the Scouts. Not to mention bell boating for Cubs and Scouts at Pitsford. We also found out that Fr Nicholas is an excellent rounders player. (He got one of our Beavers out on his first bat.)

The Beavers have been really busy working on their challenges and awards, as well as playing their favourite games – Duck, Duck, Goose, and ladders (nothing to do with Snakes and Ladders). Both games involve a lot of running around, quite a bit of falling over and much giggling.

We have been minibeast hunting, scavenger hunting, pond dipping, and doing tracking (laying and following trails). We have done fire lighting and cooked s'mores at Overstone. We climbed trees and did an obstacle course. We have been making Dens and putting up tents with the help of the Scouts. Tried to learn some knots but gave up and learnt some new songs instead. We found that the sticks, twigs, leaves and stones that we used for tracking were also very good for making nature pictures, which led on to our junk modelling, which was tremendous fun.

We have also been practising our Green Cross Code and been learning about safety and Stranger Danger. We planned a litter pick round the church for when we met again in September.

Our young leader Cricket has been invaluable and a complete treasure. He has been through all the Sections and I remember him as a little Beaver himself. The adult leaders, Deer, Squirrel, Fox, and Hedgehog have worked well together, and our young members are very well-behaved and are learning loads. We had four Beavers swim up the river to join the Cubs. One left to join Moulton because she moved house. We had four new members join us. So at the moment we are a Colony of nine. We are enjoying being a small but happy Section and spending time together.

We have two toy Beavers who the children take turns at taking one home for the week and then sharing with the Colony the adventures they have had. Photographs and writings are recorded in a scrapbook. If you wish to see more pictures of the Beavers enjoying themselves there is a board in the hall at the Parish Centre, which shows our young people enjoying their Beavering.

Well, that's all for now until next time.



The Changing of the Seasons

A birth changes everything. It makes life different by default: whether the extraordinary, fleshy reality of a baby coming into the world, or something more metaphorical taking shape in our lives. It may even be a rebirth of our very selves, a tipping point where reality shifts and, for us, will never be the same again.

The seasons of the year mark the natural cycles of birth and death: of emergence, decay, and dormancy. Each season holds its own characteristics but also surprises us: with an increasingly unpredictable climate, we are never quite sure what will happen next. I can remember a rose in my garden that bloomed through a mild winter, alongside a daffodil that was equally confused and flowered at the end of November!

What will happen next? Perhaps this is a good question to ask during the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. We think, of course, of the coming of Christ – past, present and future. But Jesus never really fitted the mould of what was expected of him. He is the marker we use for the seasons of the church year, but he was not about to conform to expectations as to what his arrival – or indeed, return – would look like.

Perhaps this can reassure us when things draw to a close. An ending of how things were can inspire us to find new ways of doing and being, to reimagine our methods of doing things, and even our lives.

Don't lose heart. In every ending there are seeds of a beginning. Life often requires a reshaping. Just as every season is different, so, too, is every human life; each personality and set of circumstances is unique. There is overlap, yes, and common threads, but no one else can be me, just as no one else can be you. A birth brings in another reality, another set of threads, woven and rewoven throughout a lifetime.

A birth changes everything. This can feel destabilising, even frightening. But a birth is reason to celebrate, too. As we approach seasons of newness in our lives, as we reflect on birth and arrival, on waiting and expectancy, let us open our hearts and minds to possibilities that we could not have otherwise conceived.

Loving God, you do not change like shifting shadows, but you enable us to live in an everchanging world. Change does not disturb you: you are a God of transformation. As we look to the future and live in the present, may we learn from the past and cherish our memories – but not get landlocked by nostalgia or false expectation. You are always doing new things! May we journey with you towards horizons still faint, but full of possibility.



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32nd St Matthew's Multi-Aged Unit

Mandy Ludlow

The dark nights are now well and truly with us, and we are now doing activities in the Parish Centre, which lends itself well to what we have been doing. We were lucky enough to have a new leader, Courtney, join us back in the summer and in order for her to return to Girlguiding (she had previously been a leader prior to having her children) had to undertake training. Courtney ran two evenings for the Rainbows and Brownies all about Unicorns, a favourite for all of them, and at the end of it they had all earned their Unicorn Hunting Licence! They made sparkly unicorns, unicorn snacks with marshmallows and shiny sprinkles, played unicorn games – anything and everything to do with unicorns. During this evening it gave our older girls, the Guides, a chance to help, and Libby has now become a Rainbow helper.

The Guides have been completing several Skillsbuilders and Unit Meeting Activities and, along with some Rainbows and Brownies, are well on their way to Girlguiding's Bronze Award; we also have three Brownies who have very nearly finished this and will be starting to work towards their Silver.

On the Monday before half term, we held an Awards and Promise evening. We enrolled girls from across all four sections; while most were in the Parish Centre we had girls join us on zoom too. We enrolled Remy as a Brownie via zoom and some 33 years previously her Mum had been enrolled as a St Matthew's Brownie in the Parish Centre. Girls received their Unicorn Challenge Badge and also their Hedgehog Challenge Badge, which we had started when we returned to meeting face to face for the first time when we were outside. Brownies also received interest badges, jobs, and Baking, and three Brownies received their Stage 2 first aid, having completed a Red Cross Course. Guides received Mixology interest badge; they had made mocktails at home.

Rangers have been busy with Ellie our Young Leader designing a new unit hoodie.

Remembrance is always an important date in our calendar of activities, and this year we decided to look at the 'black poppy', looking at the black, African and Indian contributions. The girls made black poppies, played card games and dominoes that would have been played during both WW1 and WW2; Guides and Rangers made a jam sponge pudding. The original recipe suggested this be steamed for two hours – we updated this to be cooked in the microwave, and was very much enjoyed by those who had made it.

Two Brownies, two Guides, three Rangers and two leaders were part of the Northampton town Remembrance Day Parade. Chrissie, whom some of you will know as the Granddaughter of John Folwell, carried the colours on behalf of Northamptonshire Girlguiding, and she did us all proud. St Matthew's were well represented as we met up with the Scouts from St Matthew's, as they too were representing the Scout Association. All the youngsters acquitted themselves very well, they were smart, well behaved and did St Matthew's proud.



Café Guides were again 'on duty' after the All Age Service in November; a few more people stayed, but understandably a lot are still cautious. All our cake is now pre-packaged and our tea and coffee is served take away style, as COVID-safe as we can make it; leaders wear masks and use gloves when serving. We do understand the reticence, but if you do not wish to stay, come and get a coffee and cake to enjoy at home.

Jam-Cap Pudding

Ingredients

- 3 tablespoons jam
- 4 oz self-raising flour
- 2oz shredded suet – vegetarian can be used, if preferred
- 2oz caster sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla essence
- 1 egg, beaten
- 6 tablespoons milk – can be substituted for a dairy free alternative

Method

- 1) Grease a 1½ pint basin. Place the jam in the bottom.
- 2) Sift the flour into a bowl. Add the suet and sugar. Mix ingredients together.
- 3) Using a fork, mix in the other ingredients to a soft batter. Stir, do not beat.
- 4) Pour into a prepared basin. Cover with cling film, puncturing to prevent it from 'ballooning' up in the oven.
- 5) Microwave on HIGH for 5 minutes
- 6) Take out of the microwave, leave to stand for 5 minutes before removing the film and inverting pudding on to a plate.
- 7) Serve with custard or cream



December Wordsearch

Can you find the words listed in the grid?

They may be written in any direction. Answers next month.

St Matthew's
*Christmas
Cheer!*

Saturday 11 December 2021
4:00pm

Featuring

The
Snowman

The Choir of St Matthew's Church
Martin Heath - Narrator
Richard Tanner - Organ
Justin Miller - Piano / Conductor

£10 (Under 18s FREE)



Tickets available from the Parish Office at 27A the Drive,
Kingsley, Northampton, NN1 4RY. Telephone (01604) 791251.
or online at www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk.



St Matthew's Residential Homes Singing Group



This group was formed over eighteen years ago, with the aim of entertaining the residents of the homes within our parish.

We usually visit four establishments each year: Oakwood Nursing Home (8 The Drive), St Matthew's Nursing Home (21-23 St Matthew's Parade), The Crescent Care Home (3 The Crescent), and Margaret's Rest Home (30-32 Kingsley Road). However, due to the Covid-19 Coronavirus, we are unable to function as we cannot enter their premises.

In the meantime, please pray for the residents of these homes.

Currently there are ten singers in the group (including some of our Methodist friends from across the road), but there are occasions when not all of them may be able to attend. Therefore we would welcome new recruits to join our happy band when the current restrictions are lifted.

If you would like further details, please contact Jonathan Starmer
Telephone 01604 406009, or email jonathan.starmer@yahoo.com

Next month's magazine

Contributions to our magazine are always appreciated so let us know what you / your group are up to! If you don't have the confidence to write something yourself, just let us have the details and we'll write it for you.

Please leave paper contributions in the 'P' (for 'Parker') pigeon hole in church or email files to: magazine@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

When attaching photographs to the email address please send no more than 7mb -worth per email, otherwise it jams the system! Thank you.

Deadline for the JANUARY magazine is SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER

Editor: Dorrie Parker

Layout and production: Gary Drinkwater

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

SOLUTION TO SUDOKO
(page 13)

November's Wordsearch answers

Did you find the words listed in the grid?

They were:

SOIL
ADVENT
PATRICK
MONASTIC
HUMOUR
ENRICH
CELTIC
DIG
BUS
CROSS
HOME
SAINT
NOVEMBER

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A lovely afternoon at Abington Park

Sandra Rivett

It was Tuesday 9 November 2021. The sun was shining and it was a beautiful autumn afternoon. The sort of afternoon for adventures in the park.

The three children – Luca 10 years 6 months, Micah 7 years 11 months and Mateo 2 years 10 months, and their good friend Sandra 50+ climbed the mountain near the café, you know the one. There they had a good vantage point to spot any wild animals that might attack. They enjoyed the sausage rolls and the salami and crackers that they had brought with them, washed down with water. The children raced up and down the mountain and swung from a rope swing that someone had kindly left. Then they all decided to explore and in a bit they found some trees to climb and some chopped down trees that looked like a set of drums, so had a sing along. Then, oh what a lot of lovely leaves – let's have a leaf fight. So much fun and quite exhausting.

We were near the little church in the park now so we decided to go and see the poppy display and to spend a few moments in quiet reflection to thank all the brave people from the past who fought for our country so that we could be here today to enjoy it. The children remarked on all the ribbons tied to the trees and railings. We spotted a very useful box with a lid and inside many little bags with either a piece of red or black ribbon. The instructions were as follows: choose a colour, red or black. Luca, Micah and Sandra choose red, Mateo choose black. Take your ribbon from bag and place bag in small very useful box; yes, there were two very useful boxes. We did as instructed. Take ribbon to a tree of your choice or to the railings, tie it on and say a prayer of thanks. What a lovely idea we thought. So that's what we did. Mateo needed some help but Micah, being a Beaver, and Luca, being a seconder in the Cubs, knew very well how to tie knots. It was a beautiful moment of reflection.

Next, feeling peckish, we trotted off to find some more trees to climb and enjoy the rest of our picnic. Bananas and fruit bars, washed down with more water. Micah, who is an extremely good climber, climbed rather high and pretended to be a monkey; he was very convincing. Luca found a long stick and pretended to be in the Home Guard marching up and down. He has been studying the two World Wars and after seeing the poppies he was in the mood for some roll play. Feeling refreshed after our yummies, we crossed over the road to the play area of the park to make use of the apparatus. It certainly is a jolly good park with plenty of swings, slides and climbing opportunities. Micah particularly enjoyed the tunnel slide. However, it was

almost time to go; three hours had flown by and we needed to return home. Sandra needed a cup of tea and the boys needed a bath. So we said goodbye to the park and made our way home, pausing briefly to feed the squirrels with our picnic crumbs. Tired but happy with memories of a lovely autumn afternoon.



Olde England Public House

199 Kettering Road
Northampton NN1 4BP
01604 603799



NEW OPENING TIMES

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 5.00pm – 11.00pm
Wednesday: 5.00pm – 11.00pm
Thursday: 5.00pm – 12.00am
Friday: 4.00pm – 12.00am
Saturday: 3.00pm – 12.00am
Sunday: 3.00pm – 11.00pm

Friends of St Matthew's Music **100+ Club**

Congratulations to the lucky winner of £50 in our NOVEMBER draw —

Number **34**, held by **Jean Collins**



You too could win the **single prize of £50** in our monthly draw if you had a number! For just £3.00 a month you'd be in with a chance, whilst also helping pay for our Director of Music's salary.

For full details and a form, please email jonathan.starmer@yahoo.com

Jonathan Starmer

Scrabble update

Please note there is a change of time to our meetings.

We now meet at **12.45pm** for refreshments with a prompt start at **1.00pm**, finishing the afternoon at **3.00pm**.

Regrettably the cost has risen to £4 for the afternoon due to a rise in the room charge.

Mary Wallis



Baptisms and Weddings

Initial Enquiries Evenings for Baptisms and Weddings take place at the Parish Centre on the first Wednesday of the month from 7.30pm to 8.30pm.

Our team is there to help you and give you all the information you need.

0007796

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5/11/2021

Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (604). Also operating in Northern Ireland.

MAC18903

WBCM 2021

Annual advertising costs

for *St Matthew's Mail*



A5	Full page	£100.00 per annum
A6	Half page	£60.00 per annum
A7	Quarter page	£40.00 per annum
A8	Eighth of a page	£25.00 per annum

Spaces are available – please contact

Anita, Parish Administrator, at the Parish Office

We can recycle...

Used **postage stamps** from your envelopes

Your redundant **spectacles** (not the cases though)

*There are receptacles in the bookstall area in
which to put them*

Thank you!



Floodlighting of the Church

If you would like to celebrate an anniversary or remember a loved one, St Matthew's can offer you the option of having the church floodlit at night.

The church would be floodlit all night, timed from dusk till dawn, at a cost of £20.00 per night. Please contact the Parish Office for further details.



st Matthew's



St Matthew's Parish Centre
27 The Drive, Kingsley, Northampton NN1 4RY

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- * For Parents/Grandparents/Carers to have a chat and meet new friends



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Contact the Parish Office on 01604 791251
or email minis@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk



Parish Giving Scheme

The Parish Giving Scheme exists to allow members of the St Matthew's community to support the life and work of the Parish, and the upkeep of our church, through regular giving. It provides our principal source of income and helps us meet our main financial commitments, including our contribution towards the Diocesan Common Fund (the 'Parish Share') and the costs of our employees.



THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST MATTHEW • NORTHAMPTON

The Scheme is the most tax efficient way of contributing to the church because contributions may be eligible for Gift Aid (raising your donation by 25% at no cost to either you or St Matthew's).

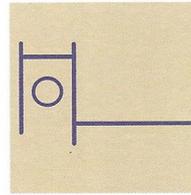
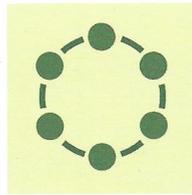
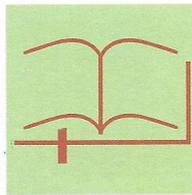
There are two methods of payment available: by a banker's direct debit or by weekly-numbered envelopes via the collection plate. The amount that you give is entirely confidential and is known only to the lay people who administer the Scheme.

If you are interested in learning more or in joining the Scheme, please speak to our Stewardship Recorder Polly Matthews. She can be contacted via the Parish Office or as below.

Polly Matthews

<office@stmathews-northampton.org.uk>

Tel. 01604 846074



PARISHGIVINGScheme

Parish Office

27A The Drive, Kingsley, Northampton NN1 4RY (*within the Parish Centre*)

Telephone: 01604 791251 Email: office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Anita Speake Office opening hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 9.30am till 12.30pm, 1.00pm till 4.00pm; Wednesdays CLOSED

Ministry Team

Parish Priest	The Revd Canon Nicholas Setterfield vicar@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
Honorary Assistant Priest	The Revd Canon Nicholas Gandy OGS OGS@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
Honorary Assistant Priest	The Revd Canon Peter Garlick

Parish Officers

Churchwarden	Gary Drinkwater churchwarden@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
PCC Secretary	Donald Cran pcc-secretary@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
PCC Treasurer	Donald Cran treasurer@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

St Matthew's Trust

David Waller
chairman@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Particular Responsibility

Safeguarding Officer	Sarah Oughton (Assistant: Ben Drouet) safeguarding@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
Verge	Gary Drinkwater
Head Server	Seymour Franklin head-server@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
Stewardship Recorder	Polly Matthews
Electoral Roll Officer	Seymour Franklin
Archives	Patrick Rawlinson
Website & Magazine Editor	Dorrie Parker magazine@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Music Department

Director of Music	Justin Miller music@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
Parish Organist	Jonathan Starmer
Friends of St Matthew's Music	Keith Hirst friends@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Parish website

www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk