

St Matthew's
MAIL

**Suggested
Donation**

£1.00

News from the Parish of Kingsley, Northampton

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

Third Sunday in the month

5.30pm	Choral Evensong with Congregational 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 October

<i>Date</i>	<i>Observance</i>	<i>Intention</i>
1	S Teresa of Lisieux, V	
2	The Holy Guardian Angels	
3	THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	Harvest Thanksgiving
4	S Francis of Assisi	The Ministry of Healing
5	Feria	
6	Feria	
7	Feria	
8	Feria	
9	Of OLW	The Shrine and Society
10	THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	The Parish
11	S Ethelburga, Ab	
12	S Wilfrid, B	
13	S Edward the Confessor	
14	Feria	
15	S Teresa of Avila, V and Dr	
16	Of the BVM	
17	THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	The Parish
18	S Luke, Evangelist	
19	Feria	
20	Monthly Requiem	The Faithful Departed
21	Feria	
22	Feria	
23	Of the BVM	
24	THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	The Parish
25	Ss Crispin and Crispinian, Ms	
26	Ss Chad and Cedd, Bs	
27	Feria	
28	Ss Simon and Jude, Apostles	
29	Feria	
30	Of the BVM	
31	THE FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT	The Parish

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.*

October Letter from the Vicar

Glass half-full?

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life (Proverbs 13.12).

Why is it that disappointment has such a powerful influence on how we feel? In films or TV programmes we hear a character say, 'I'm not angry, I'm disappointed.' The response? 'That's worse!'

Disappointment, from others or from within ourselves, can be hard to bear. Even minor disappointments, especially when they come in clusters, one after the other, can have a real impact on us.

For many, the past couple of years have contained numerous disappointments, big and small. Losses, delays, cancellations. Expectations unmet. Hopes dashed. It's tiring. I remember thinking recently, just how many 'last straws' can I take?

It can get to the point when you start bracing yourself for things to go wrong, in order to avoid being yet again subjected to the crushing sensation of disappointment.

We can try and swallow our feelings and move on, but feelings are made to be felt. I have found that I need time to let my heart hurt, even though it's uncomfortable. Only when I let myself feel it, facing disappointment, do I have a chance at seeing things differently.

A friend and I have played a kind of game, although we've never called it a game: glass half-full. We tell each other the difficult stuff of our lives at that time. Then we say: 'Glass half-full?' And, with considerable effort, we try to look for the silver lining.

It doesn't always work. Sometimes I want to pour my 'glass half-full' over his head, as I haven't processed the pain yet. But it has become a habit. Feel it, process it, acknowledge it; then try and find a 'glass half-full'.

There will be situations where this is not appropriate: I am not saying that there is a glass half-full to every pain or tragedy. Also, not everyone appreciates the Pollyanna 'there's always something to be glad about' approach, and sometimes my responses are weary: 'Well, I suppose it gives me more time to do that.'

Sometimes I can't see the glass half-full yet, so I say: 'Who knows? In the future this might help me somehow.' Or simply: 'Well, I learned something.' (Even though I would rather I hadn't!)

The fact is that disappointment is hard. Some expectation, some hope, has been dashed. And we lose that anchor we had depended on, even if only temporarily.

I think God must understand disappointment, looking at the hurting, splintered world. God also sees the biggest picture of all. St Paul said, when faced with relentless difficulties: 'Suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us' (Romans 5.3-4).

Step by step, he works from present suffering to genuine hope: the glass is half-full.

Your sincere friend and parish priest,

Fr. Nicholas

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SOLUTION ON PAGE 24

Fresh Starts, Farewells, Back to Normal?

October looks like an interesting month for our diocese. Sarah Brown to be installed as Dean of Hereford, Alison Myers as Warden of Launde Abbey, the first face-to-face meeting of rural deans and senior staff for two years, confirmation services starting up again, Gordon Steele's farewell service – and much else.



So are we back to normal? I don't think we'll ever go back to life as it was before covid, nor should we. Whatever you think of the lockdowns, the mask-wearing, the school closures, the self-isolation and the "pinging", the arguments over preparedness and then over vaccination; whether you think the whole exercise was a massive over-reaction, or that this summer was far too early to lift most restrictions; the pandemic has had a massive and permanent effect on our national life, and we cannot ignore that.

We haven't seen the last of mask-wearing. Our link diocese of Seoul in South Korea demonstrates that. The far east saw a severe outbreak of SARS twenty years ago, and mask-wearing became the rule for a couple of years. When I last visited, 15 years after masks ceased to be compulsory, significant numbers of people were still wearing them in crowded places. In some cases that was because of pollution, but the reality is that mask-wearing in public has become a fairly common occurrence in the east. On the other hand, in the west, the covid pandemic seems to have exaggerated culture gaps and reduced politeness and tolerance. People can get so very heated over the pro- and anti-vaxxing argument, even more so than over Brexit not so long ago.

We haven't seen the last of zoom and other online meetings. At the very least, I find myself doing one-to-one zoom chats rather than phone calls, and rather than driving an hour each way for a one-hour meeting. On the other hand, I now have to go to London for House of Lords debates, and can no longer participate via zoom (which I did for the emergency Afghanistan debate in mid-August).

As church, we are returning carefully, conscious of the possibility of a fourth wave this autumn and winter. We are going back, but to a new normal.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Donald". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

+Donald
Bishop of Peterborough

Produced by the Diocesan Office,
The Palace, Peterborough PE1 1YB
Tel: 01733 887000

Email: communications@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

That Christmas Card Dilemma...

Dorrie Parker

Yes, it's time to mention that 'C' word again..!

If you've ever been given a Christmas card by someone you know fairly well, but someone you'd never thought to exchange one with, then the following year you give one to them, only to not get one back, then this is for you. It happens all the time in large groups of people – at work, in social groups... it used to happen at St Matthew's, but here we have the perfect solution!

Long, long ago we had large tables at the back of church and they would be taken over with Christmas cards from people in the congregation to other people in the congregation..! (We didn't have the pigeon-holes then.) In 2000 we began what has now become a tradition – the 'St Matthew's Parish Christmas Card Scheme'.

If you sign up to our Parish Christmas Card Scheme, you're virtually giving a card to 'the congregation' and what's more, you get a personalised card from 'the congregation' to take home and display with cards from your other friends and family. It started off as fundraising for our church, but more than that it's the fellowship that's important – we're a Christian family and it's good to send Christmas greetings to each other.

So how does it work? I buy packs of cards (all the same) from WHSmith which reliably has cards with a good religious image, and I design and print an insert which is personal to each recipient and includes the names of all parishioners in the Scheme. Parishioners sign up by means of a form which this year I will be handing out again in person – having sanitised my hands, so have no fears!

The costs to me plus my 'time and talent' means that all contributions from you to the Scheme go in full to St Matthew's. The signing-up form says: "It's a fundraising opportunity, whilst bringing together the congregation's circulation of Christmas greetings among one another into a fellowship scheme. Consider how much you might have spent on individual cards for people in the congregation, then make this your donation to the Scheme (though of course you are welcome to give more!). Each person/family group who joins the Scheme then gets a personalised Christmas card to take home, containing greetings from all the other people who join."

It's such an easy and lovely (and painless) way to contribute to much-needed fundraising for our church, and you get a personalised Christmas card from St Matthew's too.

The Scheme runs this year from **Sunday 31 October** for four weeks, closing on Advent Sunday, 28 November. That is the deadline, as I start work producing the insert early the following day so that you will get your card in time. The signing-up form gives full details of the Scheme and what you need to do, and they will also be available after the launch in the office, or just ask me for one. Maybe you'll join us this year? I can show you examples of previous years' cards to explain it further.

If you would prefer to receive a form via email, then please contact me on magazine@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Is Anyone there?

Fr Peter

In recent conversations on two separate occasions with our daughters we talked about home and family life. I've always had a guilt feeling that my family life took a back seat. Life living over the shop can have its problems. Only when away from the vicarage/rectory is there time for each other free from phone and doorbell.

I was interested in their observations. "You and Mum were there, we got on with our lives." For them our presence was what mattered and gave them a sense of security. When retirement came they said with a grin "You haven't got a church to go and hide in anymore!"

Some years ago whilst looking around Prinknash Abbey I bought a plaque with these words:

Bidden or not bidden

God is present.

Carl Jung had it inscribed over his front door in Zurich and it now stands by the front door of our flat.

It is easy to forget this truth. He may touch our lives as we read a poem or a novel. In the middle of the supermarket or as we travel. We may be having a quiet moment, listening to music or washing up. Saint Paul said "In Him we live and move and have our being."

We don't have to try and find God.

"I am with you always" Jesus said.

Maybe we have to let Him find us!

The Parish Church of St Matthew Northampton

Come and join us for our monthly

All Age Worship for the Parish Family

Sundays at 10.15am

**Harvest Thanksgiving
with Baptism**

3 October

'There is no 'thanks' without 'giving'

**Third Sunday before Advent
7 November**

*Jesus calls his disciples. God calls each of us
And we all have an opportunity to answer that call*

**Third Sunday of Advent
12 December**

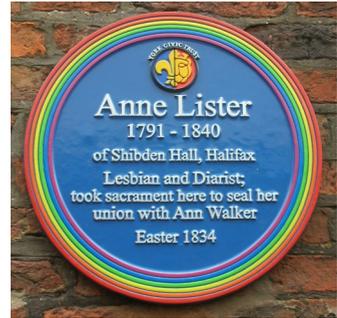
*'The Lord is near' is the message of John the Baptist
and of the Advent season*

Not so Grim up North!

Dorrie Parker

I was recently on holiday in North Yorkshire and Northumberland and the sightseeing inevitably included a number of religious sites...

One day was spent in York, so obviously the Minster, but in one of the streets nearby I also stumbled across Holy Trinity Church tucked away in a tiny churchyard. The church is now cared for by the Churches Conservation Trust, and I was surprised to see there in the churchyard on the wall a plaque to say that this is where Anne Lister and Ann Walker received communion together side by side on Easter Sunday 1834 to mark their 'marriage' commitment. You may have seen this featured recently in the excellent drama series *Gentleman Jack* on BBC1 about their relationship, starring Suranne Jones and Sophie Rundle.



Real events. Real people.

Not so Dracula, who is a character in a novel by Bram Stoker...

The day after my visit to York I was in Whitby. Just before I went away there had been News reports of St Mary's Church next to Whitby Abbey having to remind visitors that Dracula is a fictional character and to please stop asking where his grave is!



Unbelievable. The book was inspired by a holiday that Bram Stoker took in Whitby in 1890;

he'd already been planning a vampire novel and the dramatic view of Whitby Abbey and the adjacent churchyard, high on the East Cliff headland, fitted the bill. In St Mary's churchyard it happens that there are two graves with a skull and cross-bone sculpted into the sides, so fuelling the notion that this is where Dracula could be buried...



Whitby Abbey can be seen from miles away, a dramatic black gothic ruin high in the landscape, so you can understand how it's become a gothic attraction over the years, even a draw for the Goth Weekend, a bi-annual event since 1994.

You can even buy ‘scary’ souvenirs in the gift shop...! The Abbey ruins we see today date from the 13th century, though an earlier Benedictine church in the Romanesque style dated from around 1109. However, it was in 657 that a monastery was first established, becoming one of the most important religious centres in the Anglo-Saxon world, and the great synod of Whitby, which determined the future direction of the church in England, took place there in 664. The crux of the synod was to determine once and for all, between the two options in use at that time, the calculation of the date that Easter should be celebrated.

The thing that strikes you about Whitby Abbey, and Lindisfarne Priory too, where I spent my last afternoon ‘up north’ is the peacefulness... Even though both sites were busy with visitors they were quiet – that was more instantly noticeable as I passed through the gate from Lindisfarne village into the Priory grounds. This place has quite a history – the first monastery was established there in 635 by Irish missionaries led by St Aidan. It came to be known as Holy Island, being cut off as it is from the Northumbrian mainland by twice-daily high tides, and from there the missionaries set out to convert the northern Anglo-Saxons to Christianity.

The most well-known of its monk-bishops was St Cuthbert. After his death in 687 his body was buried in the church, near to that of Aidan, but 11 years later the monks decided to move his remains to a coffin-shrine at ground level, opened the coffin and found his body to be incorrupt. This discovery prompted the cult of St Cuthbert and Lindisfarne became the most important pilgrimage centre in the north. The Lindisfarne Gospels rose out of the reputation of the monastery as an important centre of Christian learning. Repeated Viking attacks from 793 forced the monastery to be abandoned and St Cuthbert’s remains were taken to the mainland and finally in 995 to Durham where they are to be found today in the cathedral.

Monks from the cathedral priory of Durham founded a second monastery at Lindisfarne in the early 12th century, and these are the ruins we see there today. As at Whitby though, it’s not what we can still see, it’s what we can feel. Sometimes the sense of centuries of prayer is palpable, a real presence.



Thank you!

Dorrie Parker



Saturday 11 September was the day of the annual sponsored Ride+Stride, which raises money for the Historic Churches Trust, all over the country. Our church received the very substantial amount of £10,000 from the Trust a few years ago for our major building works, so it's a good cause to support. Of the money we raise for the Trust, half comes back to St Matthew's.

Ride+Stride is always on the second Saturday in September, and we're always up for new people to join in. You don't have to do the whole route, you can drop out when your legs have had enough, but we always have a laugh, a good natter, and it's always good fun. Sandra has written a report for the magazine on the 'Striding' bit this year, and at St Matthew's our Recorders signing the leaflets for those who visit our church were Tony, Mary, Carol and Liz (with a bit from me at the end), so many thanks to them too.

So how much did we together raise? At the time of writing, £500, so that's £250 that will be coming back to St Matthew's. Heartfelt thanks to all of you who sponsored us, it makes it all feel worthwhile! The final amount will be announced in the pewsheet – there's still a bit of time to contribute if you still haven't...

Olde England Public House

**199 Kettering Road
Northampton NN1 4BP
01604 603799**



**NOW OPEN AGAIN
(USE IT OR LOSE IT!)**

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: 7.00pm - 10.00pm

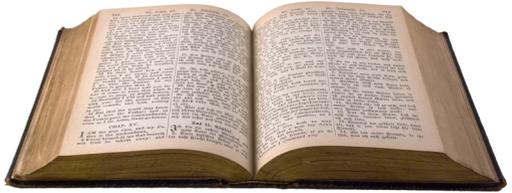
Thursday & Friday: 5.00pm - 12.00am

Saturday: 3.00pm - 12.00am

Sunday: 3.00pm - 11.00pm

Weekday Scripture Readings for October

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.



Friday	1st	Isaiah 1.10-17	Mark 12.28-34
Saturday	2nd	Daniel 6.6-23	Revelation 12.7-12
Monday	4th	2 Samuel 22.4-7, 17-20	Hebrews 7.26-8.6
Tuesday	5th	Proverbs 22.17-end	2 Corinthians 12.1-10
Wednesday	6th	Hosea 14	James 2.14-26
Thursday	7th	Isaiah 24.1-15	John 16.25-33
Friday	8th	Jeremiah 14.1-9	Luke 23.44-56
Saturday	9th	Zechariah 8.14-end	John 20.19-end
Monday	11th	1 Kings 3.3-14	1 Timothy 3.14.- 4.8
Tuesday	12th	Proverbs 27.11-end	Galatians 6.1-10
Wednesday	13th	Isaiah 51.1-6	2 Corinthians 1.1-11
Thursday	14th	Job 26	1 Corinthians 11.17-end
Friday	15th	Job 19.21-end	Mark 15.33-47
Saturday	16th	Isaiah 44.21-end	John 21.15-end
Monday	18th	Isaiah 61.1-6	Colossians 4.7-end
Tuesday	19th	Proverbs 31.10-end	Luke 10.38-42
Wednesday	20th	Jonah 1	Luke 5.1-11
Thursday	21st	Exodus 12.1-20	1 Thessalonians 4.1-12
Friday	22nd	Isaiah 64	Matthew 27.45-56
Saturday	23rd	2 Samuel 7.18-end	Acts 2.22-33
Monday	25th	Isaiah 42.14-21	Luke 1.5-25
Tuesday	26th	1 Samuel 4.12-end	Luke 1.57-80
Wednesday	27th	Haggai 1.1-11	Mark 1.1-11
Thursday	28th	Jeremiah 3.11-18	Jude 1-4, 17-end
Friday	29th	2 Samuel 11.1-17	Matthew 14.1-12
Saturday	30th	Isaiah 43.15-21	Acts 19.1-10

Two Ladies and Nine Churches

Sandra Rivett

It was 11 September 2021, Heritage weekend in Northampton. The Ride+Stride was on again. Sandra had never done it before and wanted to give it a go. She didn't want to ride, but a stride would be nice. Dorrie was looking for a partner so a plan was hatched and the day dawned, a bright and sunny perfect September day.



The two striders met with water bottles and paperwork – you always need a certain amount of paperwork no matter what activity you want to partake in.

We started at good old St Matthew's, got our papers signed and signed ourselves in. Dorrie had the map and set the pace, she was the expert after all.

Next on the list was Kingsley Park Methodist Church just across the road and we have good relationships with them. Met a friend who was striding for Kidney Research as well as for Ride+Stride.



Our third stop off was St Michael's, a very interesting church, it is used a lot by our Romanian Orthodox community so had some interesting things to look at.

Dorrie sets quite a fast pace so before long we found ourselves outside Holy Sepulchre. A fine specimen, we had a pit stop here and Sandra had a wee break. Sandra met her good friend John from the Food Bank at St David's in Eastern Avenue Kingsthorpe. He is also Church Warden at Holy Sepulchre. Busy man.



Then we trotted on to Castle Hill United Reform Church. Dorrie is used to all these churches having seen them many times before but Sandra hadn't been in all of them so it was very exciting to see the many similarities but also to see the many differences. It was a real treat to see so many lovely stained glass windows.



St Peter's Marefair was number six on our list. I mentioned the stained glass windows in my last paragraph but another thing that took my breath away was the stonework. Such beautiful stonework that must have taken many hours and great dedication from talented stonemasons all those years ago. It makes one very appreciative of the beauty of these magnificent places of worship.





All Saints' is indeed a special place to be. I have been lucky enough to attend many services here during my time as Akela with the Cubs and more recently as Hedgehog to St Matthew's Beavers. All Saints was having a coffee morning and Sandra would have rather liked to stay a while for a cup of tea and a slice of cake but Dorrie was a lady on a mission and she was also booked in for

a stint of recording at St Matthew's later on. So the Stride went on.



Our penultimate church was St Giles' which is rather a sweet little church, with a nice churchyard. The pace had really picked up now and we trotted on towards Queensgrove Methodist. To our disappointment

this church was shut but Sandra noticed a clear folder pinned to the door with some Ride+Stride stickers and a signing in form so we signed that and then decided to call it a day.



Dorrie caught the bus home for lunch before her stint on Recorder duty at St Matthew's and Sandra walked back to St Matthew's alone with her head full of stunning stained glass windows, beautiful wooden pews, delicate stonework, not to mention the amazing works of art. I had a rather lovely feeling of being at peace with the world.

A very interesting and unusual way to spend a Saturday morning. Would I do the Ride+Stride again next year? Most definitely yes, it was awesome.



32nd St Matthew's Multi-Aged Unit

Mandy Ludlow

We have now returned following the summer holidays and at the time of writing have met just one Monday. Our numbers have remained constant, although we have said goodbye to Malaika and Sena; they have moved to the other side of the County as they are now to go to Kimbolton school.

We have made paper aeroplanes, parachutes for plastic toys and seen how an egg could be dropped from a height without it breaking! All this was towards the Mary Jackson Challenge. Mary Jackson was a mathematician and the first black, female engineer at NASA in 1958! A ground breaker and change maker, Mary was determined to be successful and help those around her too. In the 1970s Mary helped a local youth club build a wind tunnel for testing aeroplanes – hence why we made a selection of paper aeroplanes, all different types including a helicopter and hang glider to see which flew the best and the furthest. Mary had a dual degree in Maths and Physics – this is why we tested parachutes and the ‘dropping an egg’ experiment. For a bit of fun and running around we had a ‘maths scavenger hunt’; girls were given a bingo card with numbers on and they had to run around the church grounds to find the card with a sum on that equalled the numbers on the bingo card. Why do this? Mary first began work at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA, the precursory to NASA) in 1951 as a computer – meaning she worked in a team of women who did calculations much like computers do today. She also worked as a maths teacher after graduating with a degree in Maths and Physics. Mary was also a Girl Scout and as an adult was a Girl Scout Leader.



You may have seen in the press recently that the Scout Association are to have a new section – Squirrels, for members aged from 4 years. The good news is Girlguiding is to do likewise, and from October we too will be taking Rainbows from aged 4. I am pleased to say that we will be one of the six units in Northampton to be doing this. We have spaces across all four sections, so for girls aged 4 upwards we do not have a waiting list at present.



On Sunday 12 September three leaders, Jenna, Claire and myself, attended the Midlands Region Golden Celebration; this was an afternoon event to celebrate the Region being 50 years old. All those attending had to be nominated by the County Commissioner – and St Matthew’s was well and truly represented. This was held at Blackwell Court in Bromsgrove. The weather was not brilliant, dull and overcast but nonetheless warm. The other counties in the Region were also represented, Birmingham, West Mercia,



Nottingham, Derbyshire and Leicestershire; it was lovely to meet up with leaders (not all ladies!) from across the Region and the Chief



Commissioner, and we celebrated in style with a picnic and prosecco followed by a cream tea, all very lovely and civilised. There was barn dancing with a live band plus exhibitions to visit. All in all, a very nice treat!

Oven baked Risotto

A quick and easy supper dish using simple ingredients.

Ingredients

- ◆ 250g pack smoked bacon, chopped into small pieces
- ◆ 1 onion, chopped
- ◆ 25g butter
- ◆ 300g risotto rice
- ◆ Half a glass of white wine (optional)
- ◆ 150g pack cherry tomatoes
- ◆ 100g chopped button mushrooms
- ◆ 700ml hot stock – chicken or vegetable (from a stock cube is fine)
- ◆ 50g grated parmesan

Method

1. Heat oven to 200°C / fan 180°C / gas Mark 6. Fry the bacon pieces in an ovenproof pan or casserole dish for 3-5 mins until golden and crisp. Stir in the onion and butter and cook for 3-4 mins until soft. Tip in the rice and mix well until coated. Pour over the wine, if using, and cook for 2 mins until absorbed.
2. Add the cherry tomatoes, mushrooms and hot stock, then give the rice a quick stir. Cover with a tightly fitting lid and bake for 18 mins until just cooked. Stir through most of the parmesan and serve sprinkled with the rest.

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.

To Scrabble or not to Scrabble... that was the question!

Mary Wallis

After 18 months of not challenging our brains it felt right to see if people wanted to restart playing the 'excellent game' once again.

A note went into the pew sheet asking who felt ready to get together to play. Eight people agreed they were ready. Not quite enough to pay for the room, as there was an increase in the hire of the room...

Arriving at the parish centre, someone was already waiting, and I felt confident others would come, although three had said they had double-booked so would be unable to come after all!

We started setting the room up with two tables per group and the game boards on each table, and Scrabblers started to arrive! In all there were nine of us, enough to pay for the room – almost! As there were no refreshments some drank water; it was very hot in the room.



At 4.00pm the games came to an end. Everyone agreed it was good to get back together and they looked forward to next month.

St Matthew's Ladies Group

Please note the meetings are now on Monday afternoons from 2.00pm till 4.00pm in the Parish Centre, on the second and fourth Mondays of the month.

Meetings in October

11 October My Trip to India – *Sandra Rivett*

25 October Social Afternoon with Bingo (+£1)

The full Autumn/Winter programme is on our website:

Click on 'Community & Events', then 'St Matthew's Ladies Group' in the right-hand column.

Worship: a meditation

This is an extract from an article written in 1949 by Michael Ramsey, who was to go on to become Archbishop of Canterbury. Our worship has its root in the truth that God is our Maker. It is there that we must begin if we are to realise the meaning of worship: 'Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker'. We belong to a created world which owes its existence to the will of God and depends upon him utterly. Without the world, God would be God: without God, the world would be nought.

An old English saint, the lady Julian of Norwich, puts this vividly in one of her 'visions'. "He showed me a little thing, the size of a hazelnut, in the palm of my hand; and it was round as a ball.

"I looked thereon with the eye of my understanding, and thought: What may this be? And it was answered thus: It is all that is made... It lasteth and ever shall, for that God loveth it. And so allthing hath the being by the love of God."

Well, we belong to a world that has its being by the love of God; but, unlike the rest of his visible creation, we are allowed to know him upon whom we depend. For we are made in his image, after his likeness. He has given us a mind to know him, a heart to love him, a will to serve him. The meaning of our existence is summed up in the words: 'I come from God; I belong to God; I am made for God.' Worship then is, in the words of the old Scots Catechism, 'our chief end'.

Of course, it is wrong to shut off a small department of life under the name of 'worship', and to practise a piety unrelated to the rest of your life. But, so long as worship includes a real offering to God of all life, we rightly put it first of all. Our daily moments of lifting up the soul to God in adoration are the day's first work – not just a preparation for the work, but the work itself, and a little foretaste of the day when we shall worship him as he loves us and shall see him as he is.

Worship is likewise the first activity of the Church. Set in the midst of a world which will not worship, the Church, as man's priest and man's representative, offers to God the worship which man as a whole declines to offer. In this the Church follows the pattern of our Lord whose mission on earth was to 'glorify the Father', and who now glorifies the Father in his ascended life.

To join in the worship of the Church in sincerity is to bear witness to the true meaning of man, and to help in the recovery of that key to man's true place in the universe which has been lost.

Worship, therefore, touches very closely the common life of man: it does so not by trying to be topical and popular, but simply by that spirit of adoration which represents the meaning of man as a creature in God's image.

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Canon Nicholas Gandy OGS is a priest of The Oratory of the Good Shepherd – a dispersed Anglican religious community. With a background in medical research and teaching, he has spent thirty years in parish ministry within the Church of England. He is an experienced spiritual director, a lover of Italy, a Freeman of the City of London and an enthusiastic cook and drinker of wine.

At Umbrian Retreats, near Umbertide in Northern Umbria, Clive and Florence Morton have been hosting holiday retreats since 2010. Accommodation is provided in Casa Roberto, Sopra and Terra (www.umbrianretreats.com). All meals at Casa Roberto are included in the cost of **£700 per person** and there are no single supplements. Transport throughout the retreat, including travel from and back to Perugia Airport, is provided by people carrier. **Additional costs include travel to and from Perugia airport. Please also allow 200 Euros for light lunches, evening meals out and incidental expenses.**

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Wednesday 18th to Wednesday 25th May 2022

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Address _____

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(mobile) _____

Email _____

Special requests _____

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at NatWest Bank – sort code 54-21-38 & account no. 29222915

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Send your form and a cheque payable to: Dr C N & Mrs F Morton,
9 Riverview House, Viersen Platz, Peterborough PE1 1FX

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

Jonathan Starmer

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 NOVEMBER magazine is SUNDAY 17 OCTOBER

Editor: Dorrie Parker

Layout and production: Gary Drinkwater

Recipe: Raspberry and white chocolate tiramisu

For our first family reunion since lockdown, I made a raspberry and white chocolate tiramisu.

Fr Nicholas

Ingredients

250g (8 oz) raspberries
1 tablespoon sugar
2 tablespoons amaretto (optional)
3 eggs
90g (3 oz) caster sugar
2 x 250g tubs mascarpone
20 sponge fingers
100g (4 oz) white chocolate

Method

1. Warm the raspberries in a pan with a small glass of water until they start to break down. Remove from the heat, stir in the sugar and the amaretto.
2. Separate the eggs. Whisk together the yolks and sugar until light and fluffy, and then beat in the mascarpone cheese until smooth.
3. With clean beaters, whisk the egg whites in a separate bowl until firm. Fold into the yolk and cheese mixture.
4. Line a large trifle dish with ten of the sponge fingers. Spoon over half the raspberry sauce, then half the mascarpone-egg snow.
5. Grate over half the chocolate, then repeat the layers: sponge fingers, raspberries, snow, white chocolate.
6. Refrigerate, ideally overnight – the longer the better. My mother suggests a scattering of flaked almonds on top, too.

This recipe was written by Terence Handley MacMath and was originally published in the Church Times.

September Wordsearch Answers

Did you find the words listed in the grid:

FARFALLE	FETTUCCHINE	FUSILLI	ORZO
PAPPARDELLE	PENNE	ROUTE	TAGLIATELLE

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

SOLUTION TO SUDOKO ON PAGE 3

Kingsley's Fallen Heroes

The following is an account by Martin and Lindsey Stone of the background and military service of Pilot-Warrant Officer (W/O) Jack Alfred Beer, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve (RAFVR), 464 Squadron RAAF. Jack died together with his navigator/wireless operator, Flight Sergeant Ronald Fountain, while flying a de Havilland Mosquito Fighter-Bomber (FB) MkVI aircraft on air operations over Holland on 18 November 1944. J A Beer is remembered as one of the 168 brave men of the parish listed within the memorial chapel at St Matthew's Church, Northampton.

JACK ALFRED BEER, Service No. 1239605, Pilot-Warrant Officer, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, Died 18 November 1944, Aged 22 years.

Following on from our identification in 2018 of the 126 men who fell during WW1 and are listed by initials and surname on the screens in the memorial chapel of St Matthew's Church, we commenced work to do the same for the 42 men listed who fell during WW2. Subsequent to this additional work, on Remembrance Sunday in 2019, Pilot-W/O Jack Beer was featured in the church presentation and display as one of the three de Havilland Mosquito aircraft pilots who lost their lives and are associated with the parish.

The three men, Flt.Lt. Noel Russell DFC RAFVR, aged 24 years, F/O Wilson Ceybird DFM RAFVR, aged 24 years, and W/O Jack Beer RAFVR, aged 22 years, had each made a remarkable contribution and given their lives to what could be termed the 'war effort'. We also remember the loss that their respective families would have suffered, and recognise the service that the fathers of these men would likely already have rendered during the First World War (WW1). Indeed, in Jack's case, as we will see later, his father Alfred's service during WW1 was both a remarkable and a close-run thing, only 26 years prior to the loss of his son.

Most recently, in February 2021, after reaching out both locally and to the online community via 'Ancestry' specifically focused on those men whose families we had not yet communicated with, we received our first contact from Jack Beer's direct family. Jack's sister, Margaret Joan Beer, married a 'Newfoundler' and had a daughter, Caryll, who was herself christened at St Matthew's Church but lives in Canada. Like other family contact, this support to our effort was much valued and provided additional detail and memories. Amongst the many co-incidences, and remarkably an immediate outcome of Caryll's kind response, was that we were now in contact with nieces of two of the three Mosquito pilots who fell and are listed on the memorial screens of St Matthew's Church.

This latest version of the story of W/O Jack Beer that follows is dated 12 July 2021.

Sadly, Jack's story is no less distressing than those of the other brave men of the parish who fell during the two world wars (unusually for a parish roll of honour, those listed at St Matthew's, Northampton, were all men). It is however relatively unusual to find the service of the father and brother so clearly delineated within a period register or other document. In this case it was included in the 1939 Register, which was administered in England and Wales on 29 September 1939. By review of this Register, we can see the annotation pertaining to Jack's father, Alfred George Beer, as a *Demobilised 2nd Lieutenant, Kings Shropshire Light Infantry*, and to his brother as an RAF Technical *Fitter* who had been discharged with an injury to his right arm.

The 1939 Register also allows us to draw on some relevant genealogical detail. For example, the family, that is Jack's father, Alfred, his mother Violet, Jack and his brother and their sister, are living together in Brookland Road, Northampton, within the parish of St Matthew's. We can see that Jack's father, Alfred George Beer, was born 24 February 1895, and that his wife, Violet A C (Annie Constance) Beer was born 20 March 1897. We can also see that Alfred was employed as an Assistant Manager & Traveller in the boot and shoe trade and that Donald J, Jack's brother, was born 22 August 1920. The register records that Margaret, the brothers' younger sister, had been born 28 July 1924; however, the line for Jack has been completely deleted by register administrators. To assess Jack's birth date, we were able to review the separate Birth Registers, and note that he was born in Q3-1922. An annotation to the 1939 Register suggests their sister Margaret married and became Margaret Sanger, a fact that was later and kindly confirmed for us by Margaret's daughter, Caryl Sanger.

While reviewing other period documents to further support and underpin our conclusions, we were able to assess that Jack's mother, Violet A C Beer nee Holdich, was born at Oundle, Northamptonshire, and that Margaret Joan Beer, her daughter, had passed away in 2017/18; her loss was registered in Ontario, Canada. Our initial searches were made a little easier by a relatively unusual combination of surname and initials for Jack. The other two J A Beers who fell during WW2 were South African and Australian respectively.

Earlier, and as background to our story, we mentioned the remarkable war service of Jack's father, Alfred George Beer. The annotation regarding his previous military service in the 1939 Register led us to Alfred's WW1 Medal Index Card. There appeared before us on the card the basics of another fascinating military story. In this case of a man who deployed to France in

April 1916, as a 21 year old Corporal in the British Army. He had deployed with the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (the 11th [Lewisham] Battalion). Subsequently, he was rapidly promoted and commissioned into the King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI). At the time of Alfred Beer's first deployment, he was listed as Corporal (Cpl) A G Beer, Service No. 11686, deploying to France on 30 April 1916 with a Division sized formation concentrated in the area of Hazebrouck to Baillleul. Alfred was then promoted and commissioned on 17 December 1917 as a 2nd Lieutenant (2/Lt) into the KSLI and went on to be awarded the Military Cross (MC) before being demobilised. As a reference point, only a handful of the 168 men who are recorded on the St Matthew's memorial screens received this or an equivalent promotion and award. At the time of these events during WW1, Alfred is indicated as living in Spencer Bridge Road, Northampton. The Medal Index Card also includes notes regarding correspondence pertinent to locating his post-WW1 address, suggesting he had not claimed or otherwise requested his medals. Alfred passed away on 13 February 1971, while still living at Brookland Road and close to St Matthew's Church, having experienced significant war service himself during the first war, then later having had one son (Donald) injured during his service as groundcrew with the RAF, as well as having lost his other son, Jack, in action, as an RAF Mosquito pilot during the second war.

Name	Rank	Service No.	Date of Birth
BEER, A.G.	Cpl	11686	11/10/1895
Medals: MC K.S.L.I. 17/12/17 Dates of Service: 30/4/16 to 21/11/17 Dates of Award: 17/12/17			
Correspondence: Letter from Dir. Office to govt change of address of A.G. Beer for award for medals 11/5/71 P.B. 28.8.27-2			
Address: 41, Spencer Bridge Rd, St James Northampton			

Alfred George Beer, copy of army Medal Index Card

Returning to the subject of our story, we have learned quite a lot about Jack Beer's military history and his early years; as both a senior non-

commissioned officer and due to his death in service while flying a Mosquito aircraft with 464 Sqdn RAAF; there are sufficient period records to establish both the manner of his loss, and then what became of him when his aircraft crashed. Like our other records and stories of the St Matthew's fallen it will make for difficult reading.

When Jack was first posted as 'Missing', he was, by one of the several coincidences that came to our attention, listed in our local press together with another local man, Flt.Sgt. Keith Morton RAF of Ashburnham Road, Northampton (probably Clifford Keith Morton, of 619 Squadron flying Lancasters, Clifford Keith Morton sadly died on operations and has no known grave).

As noted, *J A Beer*, as listed on the parish memorial screens, was a Warrant-Officer Mosquito pilot with a Royal Australian Air Force squadron, No.464. As 464 (Australian) Squadron was formed as a bomber squadron, and we are fortunate enough to possess a copy of The Bomber Command War Diaries (Middlebrook and Everitt), we were able to access the following information: *464 Squadron – Formed in 2 Group and flew (Lockheed) Venturas from Feltwell and Methwold until 2 Group left Bomber Command in May 1943. Continued to operate in the 2nd Tactical Air Force until the end of the war, converting to Mosquito fighter-bombers in August 1943. 464 Squadron flew 226 Ventura sorties and lost 6 aircraft (1.8 percent) in 28 bombing raids. (NB the note does not include the period of service post conversion to Mosquitos, most likely due to transfer from Bomber Command to 2nd Tactical).*

From the same diaries we can see that on 18 and 18/19 November 1944 (Authors Note: Jack fell on the 18th during a raid that was planned for overnight on the 18/19th), two large bombing raids were carried out to Munster and Wanne-Eickel together with 'spoof' sorties. On the former raid, 479 aircraft took part including 18 Mosquitos and on the latter raid 309 aircraft including 24 Mosquitos. The additional so called 'spoof' or distraction raids were significant, with 31 additional Mosquitos to Weisbaden, 21 to Hannover and 6 to Erfurt. In the diary none of these Mosquitos were recorded as lost. This suggests that Jack's planned operation, comprising 15 Mosquitos, or Mossies as they were sometimes known, was in addition and a separate raid to the effort described above.

Wikipedia usefully records: *No.464 Squadron RAAF was a Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) bomber squadron during World War II. Formed in 1942 in the United Kingdom with personnel from Australia, Britain, Canada, New*

Zealand, South Africa and the Netherlands, the squadron served in the light bomber role, undertaking operations over France and the Low Countries, from bases in England. It also flew night fighter missions. Later, following D-Day, the squadron moved to France where it was used to interdict German transports and infrastructure. It further engaged in several low-level precision raids against Gestapo targets in France and Denmark. The squadron was disbanded in September 1945, following the conclusion of the war.



464 Squadron Lockheed Ventura at RAF Feltwell

The squadron was officially formed on 1 September 1942 at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk in the United Kingdom, as an Article XV squadron under the Empire Air Training Scheme. Although technically a squadron of the RAAF, its personnel were drawn from many countries and upon formation only about 30 percent were Australian. This fluctuated and later in the war this grew to just over 50 per cent. Upon formation, the squadron's first commanding officer was a South African, Wing Commander Ronald Young. No.464 Squadron was initially equipped with Lockheed Ventura light bombers, and participated in its first operation on 6 December. Dubbed Operation Oyster, it was an attack on the Philips radio valve factory at Eindhoven, in the Netherlands. The squadron lost three aircraft to anti-aircraft fire during the attack, but inflicted significant damage on the target.

After moving to RAF Methwold in April 1943, the squadron conducted raids over France, focused upon drawing out German fighter aircraft which were then destroyed by the Ventura's fighter escort. On 1 June, No.464 Squadron was transferred from RAF Bomber Command to the Second Tactical Air Force. Concerns about the vulnerability of the Ventura, however, led to their withdrawal and in July, the squadron was re-equipped with the more suitable de Havilland Mosquito. Based out of RAF Sculthorpe, the squadron became

operational with these aircraft on 3 October, successfully attacking a power station in France for the loss of no aircraft.



Aerial shot of Anzac Mosquitoes over Amiens during Operation Jericho.



Bombing up a 464 Squadron Mosquito FB (Fighter Bomber) Mk VI at RAF Hunsdon

Authors note: on review the reader can note the open crew boarding door to starboard, the four nose mounted machine-guns (303 Browning) and the four under-nose 'cannon' (20mm Hispano), bombs could be carried in the fuselage bay and underslung the wings, or the aircraft equipped with alternative underwing armaments, typically rockets. At this stage the aircraft was propelled by two Rolls-Royce Merlin engines (1460 to 1635 hp each).

Following this, the squadron carried out attack operations during the day and 'intruder' operations during the night, destroying several German aircraft in the air. In December 1943, the squadron moved to RAF Hunsdon, where they formed part of No.140 Wing along with No.21 Squadron RAF and No.487 Squadron RNZAF. In early 1944, still based out of Hunsdon, No.464 Squadron concentrated on attacking V-1 flying bomb launch sites and gained a reputation for highly accurate bombing. This reputation led it to be selected for Operation Jericho, which was the first of a number of precision attacks that the squadron made on Gestapo targets in occupied Europe. In this mission, aircraft from the squadron formed part of the force which breached the walls of a Gestapo prison at Amiens, France on 18 February 1944 allowing members of the French Resistance to escape. The squadron's activities were intensified from April as part of the preparations for the Allied invasion of Europe. It struck railway infrastructure, bridges, road transport and convoys. In contrast with its previous operations, these sorties were often conducted during daylight.

The squadron continued to attack transport and communications targets from June 1944 to support the invasion; in this role it was a prominent part of the Australian contribution to the Battle of Normandy. This was one of its busiest periods during the war and in the first week after D-Day, the squadron's aircraft flew 75 sorties; over the course of the whole month it lost five aircraft. For the next two months, the squadron's operations intensified further. Throughout July it flew more than 350 sorties. Perhaps the most noteworthy of these came on 14/15 July 1944, when four aircraft from the squadron attacked the Gestapo barracks at Bonneuil-Matours in a night-time attack. In August, No.464 Squadron flew 400 sorties, concentrating mainly upon carrying out night-time attacks on German transports and infrastructure in France. Three aircraft were lost during this time.

Later, on 31 October, another precision low-level attack was made, this time on the Gestapo complex at the Aarhus University in Aarhus, Denmark. No.464 Squadron moved from England to France in February 1945 and, based out of Rosières-en-Santerre, continued day and night bombing missions. The following month, on 21 March, the six of the squadron's Mosquitos attacked Gestapo headquarters at the Shellhaus in Copenhagen, Denmark, heavily damaging the building while losing two aircraft. The squadron moved to a base at Melsbroek in Belgium on 17 April. It then continued to carry out regular operations. Its final operation of the war came on 2 May 1945.

Following the German surrender a No.464 Squadron aircraft carried German Colonel General Alfred Jodl and a number of other prominent officials to Berlin. No.464 Squadron RAAF was disbanded at Melsbroek on 25 September 1945.

The squadron is credited with having attacked 2,353 separate targets during the war. The RAAF Historical Section has written that its aircraft flew "3,067 sorties, 7,967 operational hours and 1,835,008 miles". In so doing it lost 102 personnel killed in action, 33 of whom were Australian. Its members were awarded a number of decorations. Those that were bestowed upon Australians include 14 Distinguished Flying Crosses with one bar and three Distinguished Flying Medals.

From the same webpage we could also see our first indication that when Jack's Mosquito took off on his raid to Germany at 20.15 hrs, 18 November 1944, that the squadron flew from RAF Thorney Island, West Sussex.

Although we do not currently have access to Jack's Service Record or more pertinently his Royal Air Force flying log book, we are able to glean useful information about Jack's service with the RAF from period newspapers; much of the information is eye opening in its own right and serves to remind us what these men and their families went through.

I quote from a Northampton newspaper printed in June 1943:

Thirty hours adrift in a rubber dinghy and on crumbling ice-flow in the Gulf of St Lawrence.

This is the experience that Pilot-Sergeant J A Beer, twenty-years-old son of Mr and Mrs F G Beer (sic), of 7, Brookfield Road, Northampton, will relate in detail to his parents when he next comes home. Pilot-Sergeant Beer, who gained his 'wings' in Canada before his twentieth birthday, piloted a machine on a 'routine flight' and was accompanied by first navigator Pilot-Officer G N Kilgour RCAF of Quebec, second navigator G H Mennie RCAF, Ontario, and Wireless-Operator Leading Aircraftsman E A Nash, whose home is in South Wales.

Forced down by engine trouble the plane 'pancaked' on the sea just in sight of land and sank in forty minutes.

Its occupants were reported missing. But happily, the fliers were able to load their rubber dinghy with rations and supplies and launch it before the plane disappeared.

To quote Sergeant-Pilot Beer's own modest story: "The whole crew behaved admirably during the incident and the launching of our rubber dinghy took place without a hitch!"

Jack's report goes on to note that after the engine failure, and as the pilot, he had landed the aircraft in the sea amongst ice floes, and that they were able to paddle the dinghy and climb on to one of these. Their radio signalled distress message had not been received ashore, and it was nine hours before searching aircraft found them. However, during the night their position was lost again due to the difficult weather conditions; thus, the crew had to survive thirty hours before they were recovered from amongst the ice and having wrapped themselves in their parachutes to keep warm. Jack had almost by chance, survived to fly another day and to fight for his country and our future as we shall hear.

The next time Jack Beer's name was to appear in local newspapers was late in 1944 with a simple statement amongst the lists of men and women killed and their obituaries to report, sadly, that Jack was 'Missing':

MISSING. *Flight-Sergeant Keith Morton, RAF, Ashburnham Road, Northampton. (&) Warrant-Officer J A Beer, RAF, Brookland Road, Northampton.*

Jack's niece, Caryll, the daughter of Jack's sister Margaret, tells us: *He was always spoken about in pride, by his sister, my mother. His picture remained on view in our living room unit forever, and now passed down to my brother and his wife. Thank you for all the record searching and remembering all those brave souls.*

Caryll goes on to inform us in a more recent note: *Your Northampton church is also where I was christened. Again, thanks for any information on Uncle Jack, he was indeed very revered in my family. An anecdote that I have that was handed down to my mother from Grandma (her Mum), was that the day he (Jack) died, she heard the door slam and a set of footsteps go bounding up the stairs and into his room with his door being slammed. Shortly thereafter, she received the telegram that he had been killed in action over Holland. Needless to say, his room was empty, at least from any physical body. Talk about stranger than fiction, and was something I have never forgotten in all these years, nor my Mum.*

Caryll was also able to tell us: *then saw you had replied to my (Caryll's) message that I had sent regarding my beloved Uncle Jack Beer. All I really know is that he was shot down over Holland and crash landed on someone's*

property there, but I never wrote down their family name. However, I do owe them a debt of gratitude, in spades, as they were kind as well as brave enough to find his body and quickly bury him so the Germans didn't get to him or his possessions. (Authors note: The action of this Dutch family, as well as denying the enemy information and propaganda opportunities, likely caused the enemy to expend considerable resources attempting to locate these potentially escaped airmen.

Events and documents indicate that Jack was initially laid to rest in a church cemetery by the Dutch before being re-located post-war to a Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery by the War Graves Commission. These cemeteries were Heidehof Cemetery at Uehelen, near Apeldoorn, and Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery respectively. The event of his re-interment at Arnhem Oosterbeek would have been carried out with full military honours and is recorded under the registration of the rather grisly titled Graves Concentration Report. The report is dated 4 October 1945. In 1956, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), updated records their records and a revised Graves Registration Report Form was raised, although the original documentation of which we also have copies are held on file.

Graves Registration Report Form. ORIGINAL

COUNTRY: HOLLAND
 PLACE OF BURIAL: ARNHEM OOSTERBEEK WAR CEMETERY
 REPORT No.: SCHEDULE No.: 121.
 Land belongs to:
 The following are buried here—
 Certified complete and correct.
 Signature: *H. J. B. B. B.* Date: 10 OCT 1956

P.R.G.	No. and Rank	Initials, Name & Honours	Unit	Date of Death	For works use
7.	1239605 W/O. (Pilot)	J.A. BEER	464 Sqdn. R.A.F. (V.N.)	10.11.44	C.H.
8.		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER		9-4-44	C.H.
9.	2141624 Spr.	N. HUYTERHOEF	1st Para Sqdn. R.A.	27.2.45	C.H.
10.	93375 Maj.	D.W. WALLIS	2nd Para Bn. Para Regt. A.A.C.	18.9.44	C.H.
11.	14583425 Pte.	X. DENTON	1st Bn. Parade Regt. (Airborne)	12.2.45	C.H.
12.	7590648 Cpl.	I.J. HEMPEL	1st Airborne Div. Workshops. R.R.W.S.	16.1.45	C.H.
13.	6804215 Pte.	J.H. CARTER	156 Para Bn. Para Regt. A.A.C.	31.12.44	C.H.
14.	14426153 Spr.	A.W. WAKE	1st Para Sqdn. R.A.	22.12.44	C.H.
15.	180561 Lt.	J.M. HEMLEY	Glider Pilot Regt. A.A.C.	7.12.44	C.H.
16.	2022640 Sgt.	B.C. SHALLON	21st Ind. Para Coy. Para Regt. A.A.C.	13.12.44	C.H.

CWGC Report Form (1956), listing W/O J A Beer RAFVR

Should a family member or reader wish to further research the information provided by the family and the CWGC regarding the recovery of and re-location of Jack after the crash, CWGC administration includes a map

reference as to the original grave location. On the Graves Concentration Report Form, Index DDGR/17495 (October 1945), the previous location of the grave is given as 1/25, 000 767992 Sh.379, which could potentially refer to the crash site rather than the original site of his burial, although further analysis of this aspect is currently outside the scope of this paper.

Once Jack's loss had been confirmed and the family informed, most likely through a combination of 464 Squadron witness reports and information from the Dutch 'underground', the following was sadly printed in local newspapers:

Warrant-Officer J A Beer (RAF), younger son of Mr and Mrs A G Beer, of Brookland Road, Northampton, previously reported missing during November last, is now known to have lost his life. He is buried in the Heidehof Cemetery at Uehelen, near Apeldoorn, Holland.



Warrant-Officer Beer was a member of the 'Goldfish Club', his life having been saved by the aid of a rubber dinghy when his plane was forced into the Gulf of St Lawrence in 1943.

Before joining the RAF in June 1941, he was a member of the 12th Battalion Northamptonshire Home Guard. He is an old boy of Northampton Grammar School and was employed by Messrs Benbow and Airs, accountants. He was a member of the Abington Church Choir and the Boy Scouts.

By co-incidence, as a member of the Abington Church (Npton) choir, he may have attended the interment of another of our WW2 pilots, who in this case was buried at Abington Church, Northampton; P/O Gerald Langley, a Spitfire pilot with 41 Sqn, was shot down on 15 September 1940 over Thurrock in Essex, on what was to become Battle of Britain Day.

The reader will be aware at this point that despite the distressing information that we have already reported regarding Jack's loss, the cause of the crash remains unconfirmed. As a step towards establishing the exact cause, we reviewed international flight safety platforms (that wherever possible record the loss of each and every aircraft to underpin flight safety now and in the future) and checked for German night fighter combat reports. The relevant Flight Safety Foundation record informs us as follows:

Date: 18-NOV-1944 Time: 20.15 Type: de Havilland DH.98 Mosquito FB MkVI Owner/Operator: 464 Sqn RAAF, Registration: NT189, Fatalities: 2, Occupants: 2

Aircraft Damage: Written Off, Location: Apeldoorn, Gelderland, Netherlands, Phase: En Route, Nature: Military Departure, Airfield: RAF Thorney Island, Hampshire

Narrative: Missing night intruder. Failed to return from Operations Holland. T/o at 20.15hrs on the night of 18/19 November 1944, being part of a squadron force of fifteen aircraft detailed to carry out night intruder operations on road and rail junctions, roads and bridges in Holland and North-west Germany. NT 189 failed to return from the mission. 19.11.1944.

Crew: W/O (1239605) Jack Alfred BEER (pilot) RAFVR – killed, F/Sgt (1600411) Ronald Frederick FOUNTAIN (Nav.) RAFVR – killed.

(Authors Note: The reader may have noted a less than palatable coincidence, that while Jack Beer was lost flying NT189, Flt Lt Noel Russell DFC was lost while flying NT201)

Courtesy an Australian Defence Force website (www.adf-serials.com.au), we can find the tail markings of Jack's aircraft, these are assessed to be 'SB-O'.

We can note from the air safety website the clear identification of the other crew member of Mosquito FB MkVI, SB-O, NT 189, on the night of the aircraft's loss, that was F/Sgt R F Fountain RAFVR of Banbury, Oxon. This gives us some clues as to why Jack was a Warrant Officer as opposed to a commissioned officer. By declining a commission and instead being promoted to the most senior and relatively rare of NCO ranks, Jack and Ronald, assuming he was Jack's regular Navigator-Wireless operator, would have been able to remain in the same mess and also crewed together. Excepting the awful circumstances of that night they quite possibly would have been friends for life. Such deep friendships that held strong post-war were quite usual for these men who fought and lived so closely together during such difficult times.

(Authors Note: Mosquito FB MkVI, SB-O, NT 189, using the RAF phonetic alphabet at the time, would likely have been 'call-signed' and known as Sugar, Baker, Oboe.)

There are other sources that could further investigate the more precise nature of their loss, for example to investigate damage claims from anti-aircraft and night fighter units, groundfire, mechanical failure, crew error et al; also, through contact with Ronald Fountain's family who may be able to shed

more light on events surrounding 18 November 1944. However, as the reader may be able to agree, the story is sufficiently and desperately sad enough without progressing this further, other than to offer the same information and copies of period records and newspapers to any surviving family of F/Sgt Ronald Frederick Fountain should they wish to receive it. (Indications are that a nephew of Flt/Sgt 'Ron' Fountain was online in 2010).



Recent photograph of Jack's headstone (at Arnhem Oosterbeek Cemetery)

There is one more deep element of sorrow to plumb as we read the inscription on Pilot-W/O Jack Alfred Beer's CWGC headstone. The citation, provided circa 1945 by the family for addition to his headstone reads: **He gave his greatest gift of all, his unfinished life. Finis Corant Opus** (this translates as 'The End Crowns the Work').



Wonderful and evocative photograph of a Mosquito in flight, courtesy www.adf-serials.com.au

As always, we remember the St Matthew's Fallen with pride and humility, their bravery and that of their families past and present.

Authors and Copyright at www.stonesmilitaryhistories.co.uk (NB: Unless stated, *all references and attributes for the above are recorded in the main covering paper, copy in the church.*)

The Spacious Firmament on high

The hymnal is a wonderful treasury of prayer and spiritual insight that all too often passes us by. This one, all about creation and the environment, is based on Psalm 19.1-6, and is a useful reflection as the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) approaches.



The spacious firmament on high,
With all the blue ethereal sky,
And spangled heavens, a shining frame,
Their great Original proclaim.
The unwearied sun from day to day,
Does his Creator's power display,
And publishes to every land
The work of an almighty hand.

Soon as the evening shades prevail
The moon takes up the wondrous tale,
And nightly to the listening earth
Repeats the story of her birth;
Whilst all the stars that round her burn,
And all the planets, in their turn,
Confirm the tidings, as they roll,
And spread the truth from pole to pole.

What though in solemn silence all
Move round the dark terrestrial ball;
What though nor real voice nor sound
Amid their radiant orbs be found;
In reason's ear they all rejoice,
And utter forth a glorious voice,
For ever singing as they shine,
'The hand that made us is divine.'

Joseph Addison (1672-1719)

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

Thursdays in term time
from 9.45am to 11.30am

- * Baby only area with sensory toys
- * Toys for Pre-School children to play in a safe environment, including craft and free play
- * For Parents/Grandparents/Carers to have a chat and meet new friends



Adult £1 * Child 50p

Hot drinks included

Booking is required to avoid disappointment

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).

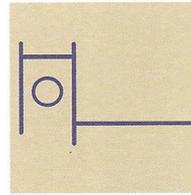
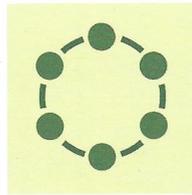
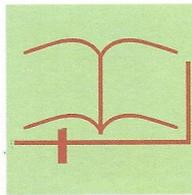
There are two methods of payment available: by a banker's direct debit or by weekly-numbered envelopes via the collection plate. The amount that you give is entirely confidential and is known only to the lay people who administer the Scheme.

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
Verger	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