

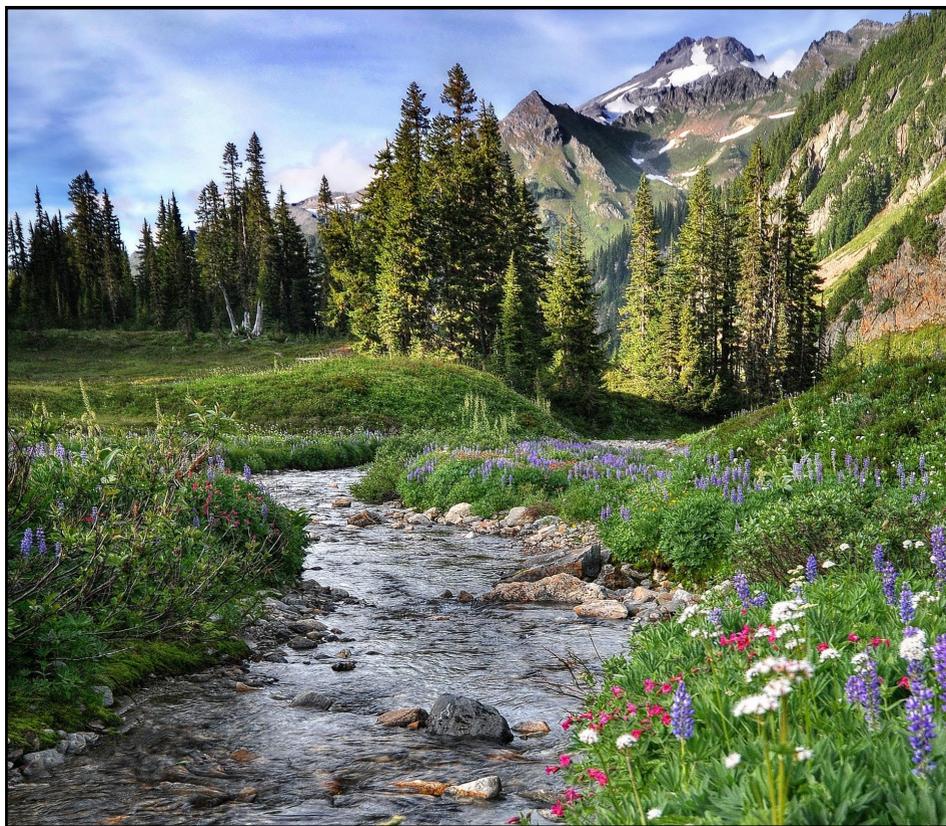
St Matthew's **MAIL**

**Suggested
Donation**

£1.00

News from the Parish of Kingsley, Northampton

AUGUST 2022



www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Services at the Parish Church of St Matthew

Sundays

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

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 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 Currently suspended

Wednesday 9.30am Mass

Thursday 9.30am Mass

Friday 12 noon Mass

Saturday 9.30am Mass

(Mass of Our Lady of Walsingham followed by a Cell Meeting on the second Saturday of 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 and on website)

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 August

<i>Date</i>	<i>Observance</i>	<i>Intention</i>
1	Feria	The ministry of healing
2	Feria	
3	Feria	
4	S John Mary Vianney, Pr	
5	S Oswald, K, M	
6	Transfiguration of the Lord	
7	THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 14)	
8	S Dominic, Pr	
9	S Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, V and M	
10	S Laurence, Dcn, M	
11	S Clare, V	
12	Feria	
13	Of the BVM	
14	THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 15)	
15	Assumption of the BVM	
16	Feria	
17	Monthly Requiem	The Faithful Departed
18	Feria	
19	Feria	
20	S Bernard, Ab, Dr	
21	THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 16)	
22	Feria	
23	Feria	
24	S Bartholomew, Apostle	
25	Feria	
26	Feria	
27	S Monica	
28	THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFYER TRINITY (Proper 17)	
29	The Beheading of S John the Baptist, M	
30	Feria	
31	S Aidan, B	

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

August's Pastoral Letter from the Vicar

A holiday task to enjoy

In his glorious little book *Do Nothing to Change Your Life*, produced some years ago by Stephen Cottrell, now the Archbishop of York, he tells the story of visiting a school staffroom. While there, a teacher told him about an exercise she had done with her class that morning.

Each child in turn was blindfolded and asked to identify objects by feel. 'One little girl, she would have been six or seven, came to the front. The teacher put on the blindfold and, to check it was on properly, asked her whether she could see. The little girl replied yes. So the teacher adjusted the blindfold and again asked her if she could see. Again, the little girl said yes.

'At this point the teacher knew something was up: the blindfold was definitely on properly. So, coming at the problem from a different angle, the teacher asked the little girl: "What can you see?"

'The little girl replied: "Flowers, and trees, and rivers and mountains." '

Cottrell reflects that, sooner or later, the girl would be told that these things were imaginary, and so she couldn't really see them. Such is our method of educating our children. In this way we set our-selves the hard task of rediscovering that freedom of imagination in later life, when, finally, we have learnt not to believe all those who told us to concentrate on facts, or, conversely, all those who directed our imaginations along paths of their own choosing.

Getting back that early innocence is not easy. It's like trying to follow a path overgrown with brambles and nettles. Those brambles are not evil: after all, they produce sweet blackberries. But they make progress so difficult.

So much of our everyday life is brambly – all the snags of work and running the household and looking after other people's wants. Good things in themselves, but, oh, too many of them!

That is why a holiday is so important. It doesn't need to be far away – or, if we're disciplined, away at all. But a week, ideally two, where everyday responsibilities can be laid aside, is a precious thing. One might say, essential.

Busy holidays are OK, as long as the busy-ness is a different sort from the everyday type. But there should be times of sitting still, staying in bed, being free from the news, the phone, the email, the internet. Because God likes best to talk to us without interruption. And he wants to show us flowers and trees, rivers and mountains once again.

A blindfold might not be necessary. Perhaps sunglasses will do.

Your sincere friend and parish priest,

Fr. Nicholas

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SOLUTION ON PAGE 26

The Cathedral is full of dinosaurs

The Cathedral is full of dinosaurs – and no, that’s not a dig at my colleagues, I hasten to add!

No, this summer, we’re hosting the Natural History Museum’s Killer Question exhibition, exploring what the famous T Rex was really like and shows what he/she and a number of other of these ancient creatures possibly looked like.

What on earth has this to do with the Cathedral’s primary purposes of worship and mission you may ask. Is this just a money-making gimmick, and has the Cathedral lost its spiritual bearings?

Well let’s first of all be honest enough to say that we are hoping to make quite a lot of money from the exhibition and from the thousands of visitors who come to see it. And that will be quite an important element in helping to keep the doors of the Cathedral open 365 days a year, the roof on, its staff paid and its ministry resourced.

But it’s not just about money. We believe this is a real missionary opportunity.

Many people never darken the door of a Church building, of any sort, from one year to the next. Even rites of passage like weddings, funerals, christenings are becoming increasingly secularized and coming to church is no longer the norm. Events and exhibitions like this however, bring a huge number of families and young people through our door and into our extraordinary and awesome space, which dinosaurs or not, unmistakably speaks of Christ at the centre of all that we are about. Visitors entering the West Door won’t see a dinosaur they will see the great cross that hangs at the head of the nave – and the figure of Jesus whose death and resurrection is at the heart of our faith.

Our past experience, (we have hosted space capsules, moons and Gaia earth in recent years) tells us that coming to the Cathedral offers many people a chance (an excuse maybe) to connect to the faith we proclaim; to light a candle, say a prayer, have a conversation with a chaplain. It really can be a small step (perhaps the first) on the journey of faith.

And as for dinosaurs – well it also gives an opportunity to dispel some of the myths about science and religion, for example that the Church doesn’t “believe” in evolution. Perhaps it will help us make the connection with the really important issues about the extinction of species, which isn’t something that only happened millions of years ago. It’s happening now – and what are we planning to do about it and the big issues of bio-diversity and climate change?

Widening our imaginations, encouraging questions, attracting new people, engaging creatively with those who come, and also supporting our mission financially. We think that’s a win win!

Happy holidays to those who are having them

God bless you



Chris Dalliston
Dean of Peterborough

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

Email: communications@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Are you able to host a Ukrainian family?

Following a successful initial meeting in April, Peterborough Cathedral is working in partnership with Peterborough Citizens and Citizens UK to link local hosts with refugees from Ukraine, finding safe and stable places for those driven from their homes by the war.

Jurgita Bilinskiene has taken up the role of Ukraine Project Coordinator, heading up this vital work and aims to offer end-to-end advice and practical help around the UK Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Jurgita brings to this new role a wealth of experience including being multilingual, having been an immigrant to this country herself and already being involved with the movement of Ukrainian refugees to Peterborough in an informal way. She is happy to have an informal chat about the opportunity or to visit your parish to talk about the project.

We have an increasing number of requests for hosts coming through as the situation in Ukraine becomes more uncertain and currently have 25 families waiting for homes in the Diocese. Are you able to help?

Girlguiding News

On Thursday 7 July 2022 in the Threshing Barn at the Chester House Estate, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire County Guides held an Adult Awards evening to honour adult members of the Girl Guide movement.

That evening, Elizabeth March was presented with a Good Service Award for her voluntary work as Brownie Leader of the 31st St Matthew's Brownie Pack (the Wednesday Pack).



The Chester House Estate holds the ARC – the Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre – as well as several interesting facilities which can be discovered at <https://chesterhouseestate.org/>

Congratulations Elizabeth!

Cats and Walls

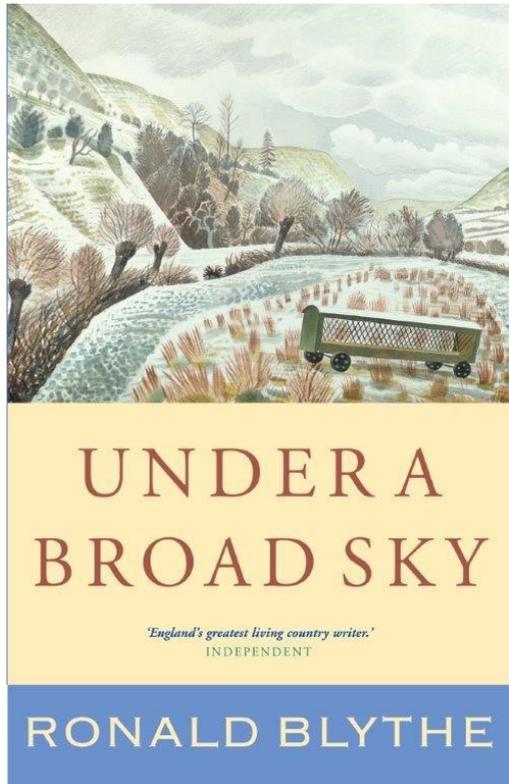
'AUGUST for the people,' said Auden. And the people for the A12. So stay at home, I said.

A little bit of woodland clearing grew into an ambitious amount of nettle-scything and sawing down of some already toppling crack willows (*Salix fragilis*); and by midday I was creating what never in my life had I thought of creating before, a glade. For I saw what the nettles etc. had hidden from me: a perfectly fitted carpet of ivy, and the pearly evidence of disturbed snowdrops.

Thus I toiled all day, virtuous and solitary. The overgrowth had long since hidden a farmyard wall that had kept the animals from straying into the orchard. The white cat, being addicted to walls, observed the emergence of this one with excitement, and, once it had been cleared and brushed down, walked its length rather showily; and, when the 'Suffolk whites' – the somewhat unsettled bricks – had been warmed up by the sun, stretched herself out for the day.

A few of the willows had obligingly fallen far enough for me to cut off their tops nice and tidily before tackling their trunks. By early afternoon, the glade appeared. I prayed that the August people would not do likewise, would not have what they called 'a run out to see' me, and break into my labour with their Bank Holiday. But they didn't; and by sundown I finished doing what at breakfast had never before crossed my mind. And now I wanted them to see what I had done, so that I could boast.

This is an extract from Under a Broad Sky by Ronald Blythe (Canterbury Press, £14.99). By permission



Northamptonshire Platinum Jubilee Pageant

Gary Drinkwater

On a cold and wet Saturday morning a few thousand people gathered in Northampton town centre to parade in the biggest Pageant Northamptonshire has ever seen. Alongside the many military organisations and uniformed youth organisations Dorrie, Carol and I felt underdressed as representatives of St Matthew's in the Faith section of the parade.



There was a lot of confusion as to where we should be until Morcea Walker in her inimitable way took charge of the Community and Faith Sections and gave us all our instructions.

Apart from the uniformed organisations the rest of the procession was very haphazard and certainly not up to St Matthew's standard. However it was good to be part of a historic occasion.

Once all had arrived at the Market Square the Lord Lieutenant inspected and took the salute before Father Oliver Coss and Revd Canon Stephen Trott in his position of Chaplain to the Police Service led a service of thanksgiving. During this it started to rain. The Lord Lieutenant and many Mayors and Chairs of Councils present all put their umbrellas up, however the priests and those in uniform had no such privilege and got wet. As did I because I was silly enough not to take an umbrella or wear a coat with a hood.



Once it was over there was a reception in the Guildhall where certificates of attendance were given out. We didn't go but the Lord Lieutenancy office very kindly posted ours.



St Matthew's PCC is planning on planting a tree as part of the Queen's Green Canopy so please keep an eye out on how you could be involved in this.



Fourteen days

Mary Wallis

How did I come to spend fourteen days in Northampton General Hospital? I had for some time been feeling tired, and I managed to get in to see a nurse at my surgery who thoroughly examined me. The doctor telephoned the next day to say I had an infection but was unsure where. I asked for antibiotics to clear it. They didn't appear to help but I felt sure when the course was completed all would be well.

On the Sunday when we celebrated the Queen's Jubilee after the morning service I felt so tired – too tired to go to the evening service.

That night I slept until 1.15am when I woke up needing to go to the bathroom. As I started to go back to bed the walls in the loo attacked me... or so I thought! The next thing was Bryan asking me what had happened... I said "it's okay, I'm in bed." He said "no, you're on the floor!" This was in the early hours of Monday.

I just could not get up, I tried! The floor was just like a feather bed, I was very comfortable. Bryan wanted to call an ambulance but I said no, I would get up in a minute. We chatted a bit. I still said no to calling an ambulance because I thought I would get up. After some time I realised I could not get up. He called an ambulance. We waited three hours. Two paramedics and a trainee arrived and immediately checked me over. I needed to go to hospital. They pulled me up and sat me on a blow-up cushion to enable me to sit on my stairlift.

They got the stretcher outside the house and with their help I laid on it. Once inside the ambulance they began 'doing' things I cannot remember, and eventually we left for the hospital, leaving Bryan at home.

Arriving in A&E many people seemed to appear around me – I remember very little, only that they kept asking what was my name and date of birth, had I any pain, was I allergic to anything, had I had Covid? To all the questions I said no, other than my name and DoB of course. It appears I was gravely ill, my oxygen levels poor, I had pneumonia and an infection. My illness was not related at all to Covid.



I was moved from A&E on the Tuesday afternoon.

I had an oxygen mask which I needed on all the time. When I felt like eating it was very difficult to eat with a mask on, especially soup which was a distance away!

The treatment I received from the start to my leaving hospital was outstanding. Nothing was too much trouble. When the doctor visited, he explained very clearly what had happened and what I must do to get well. He also listened when I asked a question and always answered me.

Some funny moments occurred; one doctor came and asked the usual “have you had a bowel movement?” I said no, I hadn’t eaten for two days. He said “can I see your tummy?” I duly revealed my tummy... he looked at me, his assistant looked at him, I looked at her, she looked at him then me and said, “he asked to see your tongue!” I must put my hearing aids in!

I cannot thank NGH enough for the care I received in helping me recover. I am improving well but it’s down to me now to take care and listen to what my body is telling me.

My thanks to you all for your prayers, lovely cards and good wishes for my speedy recovery. Thank you also for caring for Bryan – it’s always the one left at home to cope who suffers too. Bryan did appreciate you checking on him.

St Matthew’s Ladies Group

Autumn / Winter Programme 2022

12 September	Annual General Meeting and Quiz
26 September	Speaker: Shez Webb <i>The Work of the Beehive</i>
10 October	Fish & Chip Supper and Bingo (£1)
24 October	Speaker: Steve Dimmer <i>Nessie – The Search for the Loch Ness Monster</i>
14 November	Speaker: Douglas Goddard <i>The History of Abington Park</i>
28 November	Christmas Auction with mince pies and mulled wine
12 December	Christmas Lunch

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



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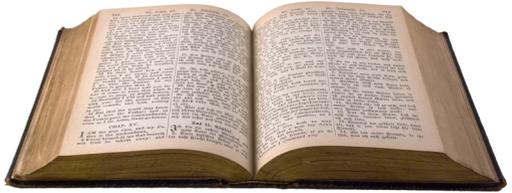
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**On Tuesdays and Wednesdays,
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**Book your tables at:
www.aromaofindia.co.uk ,
01604 791555 or
07717475366**

Weekday Scripture Readings for August

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.



Monday	1 st	Numbers 23.1-12	1 Corinthians 1.10-17
Tuesday	2 nd	Proverbs 12.1-12	Galatians 3.1-14
Wednesday	3 rd	Isaiah 49.8-13	2 Corinthians 8.1-11
Thursday	4 th	Hosea 14	John 15.1-17
Friday	5 th	2 Samuel 18.18-end	Matthew 27.57-66
Saturday	6 th	Exodus 34.29-end	2 Corinthians 3
Monday	8 th	Joel 3.16-21	Mark 4.21-34
Tuesday	9 th	Proverbs 12.13-end	John 1.43-51
Wednesday	10 th	Isaiah 55.8-end	2 Timothy 2.8-19
Thursday	11 th	Isaiah 38.1-8	Mark 5.21-43
Friday	12 th	Jeremiah 14.1-9	Luke 8.4-15
Saturday	13 th	Ecclesiastes 5.10-19	1 Timothy 6.6-16
Monday	15 th	Song of Solomon 2.1-7	Acts 1.6-14
Tuesday	16 th	Proverbs 15.1-11	Galatians 2.15-end
Wednesday	17 th	Isaiah 49.1-7	1 John 1
Thursday	18 th	Proverbs 27.1-12	John 15.12-27
Friday	19 th	Isaiah 59.8-end	Mark 15.6-20
Saturday	20 th	Zechariah 7.8-8.8	Luke 20.27-40
Monday	22 nd	Judges 13.1-23	Luke 10.38-42
Tuesday	23 rd	Proverbs 15.15-end	Matthew 15.21-28
Wednesday	24 th	Deuteronomy 18.15-19	Matthew 10.1-22
Thursday	25 th	Jeremiah 16.1-15	Luke 12.35-48
Friday	26 th	Jeremiah 18.1-11	Hebrews 1.1-9
Saturday	27 th	Jeremiah 26.1-19	Ephesians 3.1-13
Monday	29 th	Ruth 2.1-13	Luke 10.25-37
Tuesday	30 th	Proverbs 16.1-11	Philippians 3.4b-end
Wednesday	31 st	Deuteronomy 11.1-21	2 Corinthians 9.6-end

Summer Fete

Denise and Nick Bailey

Thank you to everyone who made St Matthew's 2022 Church Summer Fete a record-breaking success.

We made nearly £4,000 profit – remarkable as Britain is in the grip of a cost-of-living crisis and most people no longer carry loose change.

But best of all was the community spirit and family fun we created. It was much needed after the misery of Covid lockdowns.

It was a fun-filled afternoon with lots of games, competitions, face painting, bouncy castles and many more attractions to keep everyone smiling.

From the 1pm start, people queued to get in. The ever-jovial Bryan Wallis, with his 'Grumpy Geezer' badge and orange bucket, took over £340 in donations on the gate – extraordinary when you consider entry was FREE!

This year we had the added bonus of a model railway show by the Northampton & District Model Railway Club, a special stall by Martin and Lindsey Stone displaying the stories of Kingsley's Fallen WW1 and WW2 Heroes, a busy plant stall, and candy floss galore.



Northamptonshire Police Community Officers came with their patrol car and a real fire engine and its entire crew turned up and proved massively popular.

An extra attraction for the kids this summer was a fun Noah's Ark trail inside the church. Children were invited in to find animated animals hidden throughout the building. Everyone left with sweetie rewards and sticker badges.

In all, a record 150 people – mostly from Kingsley – came into the church itself. They also enjoyed two organ recitals by Philip Bricher during the three-hour bonanza.

None of this would have been possible without your help, energy and generosity – particularly in setting up and manning stalls and to everyone who helped deliver the Church Fete flyers.

Thank you to all those who gave towards our raffle. The prizes were spectacular.

Mandy, Mark and the marvellous Café Guides did a brilliant job with their Vintage Tea Room.

Seymour and Girlie's gleaming new barbecue proved a big hit. They sold out of food for the first time ever.

Jonathan and Anita did an incredible amount of work behind the scenes on the run-up to the Fete and on the day itself. Their efforts went way beyond the call of duty.

Nigel and Thelma Woolliscroft, who did so much to revolutionise St Matthew's fetes in recent years, helped enormously in the planning stages for this year's event. It was tragic that Nigel was taken from us just a couple of weeks before the big day. He'd have loved it. We think we did him proud.

PS: Fr Nicholas managed to dodge the wet-sponge stocks this time. He may not be so lucky next time...

More photos (and in colour!) can be seen on our website.



32nd St Matthew's Multi-Aged Unit

Mandy Ludlow

At the time of writing this the temperature outside is 29.5°... We were due to have our last night (18 July) as an Ice Cream Fundraiser and Awards Evening; however, on listening to the advice from the NHS and re-visiting our Risk Assessment for Hot Weather we decided we would not go ahead and cancelled the whole evening – therefore the 11 of July was to be our last evening of this academic year. Where has that time gone, it only seems a few weeks ago that we were going back in September and looking forward to welcoming in 4 year-olds?

At the beginning of July Café Guides helped at the fete by running Vintage Tea Rooms. We were busy from the moment we arrived, providing breakfast bags to 'the workers' and then 1 o'clock hit and we did not stop, serving tea, cakes, sandwiches etc. At the end once we had totted up, the monies we had taken were in excess of other years, and this is all down to the team.



The Rangers had been asking for a mocktails and tapas evening so this has now duly been held. The girls had a selection of mocktail recipes, the ingredients, paper umbrellas, straws, even a cocktail shaker; they each chose the one they wanted to make and then all tasted each other's. This coupled with olives, salamis and cheese made for a lovely evening as they were able to eat and drink on the lawn outside.



The Rainbows and Brownies have been looking at the Promise in readiness for the new girls to make their Promise. It had been planned to welcome parents back in to see this but, with the rising cases of Covid and the new strain of omicron, as a leadership team we decided we would revert back to full sanitising – hands on the way in and out, all the tables and chairs we used, door handles, equipment etc – plus back came mask wearing for the over 10s. Whilst we could not insist, everyone understood why and parents were supportive; as one parent messaged: "I work in the hospital and numbers are exploding". Fortunately, the weather was on our side and we were able to have our Promise Ceremony outside and therefore parents could be there.



We try and get out and about as much as possible, and give the girls of all ages as many experiences as possible, and to this end we took them all to the Water Activity Centre on Bedford Road. The girls aged 7+ all did bell boating with Mark as our helm, whilst the Rainbows had their own fun night. Everyone enjoyed a picnic tea before their activities – Brownies, Guides and Rangers off on the water while the little ones went on a nature walk collecting leaves and sticks; we were going to make leaf necklaces and magic wands. They then had the opportunity to do pond dipping to see what they could find in the water. We had left St Matthew's a little after 5.30pm and could not believe it was nearly 8 o'clock and the coach was waiting to take us back.



The Euro Women's Football has been playing in the UK so on Saturday 16 July girls from all sections went to Milton Keynes Stadium to see Germany v Finland. Some of us, me included, had never been to watch a professional football match, but we soon got into the swing of things and joining in the Mexican Wave.



Girlguiding really does have something for everyone, we are not all craft! A bit like the WI not being just Jam and Jerusalem! Our programme is wide and diverse from engineering to space to cooking and camping with everything in between.

Café Guides Recipe for August

Lentil and Mushroom Shepherd's Pie

We are all being encouraged to eat less meat, plus coupled with the rising food costs, this makes a nice supper dish.

Serves 4

Preparation time : 20 minutes | Cooking time : 30 minutes

Ingredients

- 1 tin or packet of Puy Lentils
- Punnet of mushrooms chopped very finely
- 1 carrot diced up small
- 1 stick of celery chopped small
- Tin of tomatoes
- Stock cube
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Dash of Worcester Sauce
- 2 bay leaves
- Tablespoon of tomato puree
- Tablespoon of flour for thickening
- Glass of red wine (optional)
- Potatoes for the topping as you would normally use

Method

1. Fry onions, celery and carrot until soft. Add the red wine at this stage, if using.
2. Add mushrooms, lentils and bay leaves, stir and add the tomato puree, a spoonful of flour, tinned tomatoes, stock cube and some water, then add the seasoning and Worcester Sauce.
3. Cook out for about 10 minutes or so then put in your dish.
4. Cook and mash your potatoes, top your pie.
5. Pop in the oven, gas mark 6/190°F/180°F and cook until golden brown.

To make vegan substitute the Worcester Sauce for something similar and use a vegan stock cube.



Friends of St Matthew's Music 100+ Club

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

Number **103**, held by **Stephen Stringfellow**



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

Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham

Gary Drinkwater

On the last Monday morning of May six of us left for Walsingham. We began our pilgrimage with a simple service of blessing during which Father Nicholas 'sprinkled' us with holy water. I say sprinkled but really I should say splashed, I think if he had his way he would be throwing buckets of it at us.

We divided between two cars and set off with the aim of meeting for lunch at Worzals Bar and Grill. This is a really good reasonably priced restaurant the other side of Wisbech so about three quarters of the way to Walsingham. We have been going here for many years and have seen it expand from a small Farm Shop and café to the award winning restaurant with open fire, patio area and children's playground. There is still a farm shop and a butchery.

Lunch for five of us was fish finger sandwiches and we all agreed that if the size of the fingers was anything to go by we are glad we didn't meet the whole fish. I can't remember who the 'odd one out' was or what they had. Feeling well sated we set off again on the thirty minute journey to the Slipper Chapel.

Built in the mid-14th century, and dedicated to Saint Catherine of Alexandria, this chapel served pilgrims on their way to England's Nazareth. Saint Catherine was the patron saint of pilgrims to the Holy Land and her knights kept open the road to Nazareth during the Crusades. Her tomb lies in the Monastery on Mount Sinai, within the Basilica of the Annunciation. Just as on Mount Sinai, Moses took off his shoes because he was on holy ground, so the pilgrims to England's Holy Land used to remove their shoes and walk the Holy Mile into Walsingham.

At the Slipper Chapel six became seven as Peter who was already in Norfolk visiting family joined us. Usually we are here for a quick prayer lasting no more than five minutes, however I thought as we went in that there were more people there than usual, the reason soon became evident as a priest appeared and began praying. As we didn't know exactly what this service was we weren't sure how long it was going to last but felt we couldn't leave. Fifty minutes later after joining in the Rosary, devotions to Our Lady and Benediction we left and as we did we saw on the door a notice saying about this service. If only we had looked on our way in. The silver lining to the cloud was Father Nicholas excused us from Evening Prayer.

After unpacking and a hearty meal we played host to Andrew and Caroline Ward. This was a renewal of acquaintances as some of you may know they both played a part in St Matthew's for some years. Caroline told us how her job at the shrine had changed over the past two years and Andrew spoke about his Lay Reader ministry at Kings Lynn Minster. I can assure you Andrew's jokes have got no better.

Talking about renewing acquaintances, at breakfast time on Tuesday seven became eight. Seymour joined us, he was only able to do two nights due to his commitments. After Morning Prayer and Mass Father Ben Bradshaw the Shrine Priest spoke to us about how the shrine had fared during lockdown and the challenges facing them now. Due to uncertainties they had to let some staff go whilst others were put on the furlough scheme. The knock on effect of this is being felt now as like a lot of hospitality services they are having difficulty filling these posts. The Norton Bar closed at short notice or was not open when it would usually be as there just weren't the people to staff it. However I am happy to report the meals in the refectory were as filling and plentiful as ever.

Tuesday evening was the service of Sprinkling, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament & Healing Ministries. As ever this was a moving time being sprinkled with water from the well. In a change to previous years after benediction we were invited to leave at any time prior to or during the healing ministries taking place. This was a welcome change as there was no pressure to hurry through the ministries of healing and reconciliation.

As usual Wednesday morning was the Pilgrim Mass in the Shrine Church which all pilgrims present attend. Father Nicholas concelebrated along with some of the other priests there.

In between breakfast and Mass we asked Mark the gardener if he would video us singing Happy Birthday. We then sent it to Anita our Parish Administrator who was celebrating her birthday that day.



After lunch four of us went to Sandringham whilst the others stayed around the shrine and village. I have been to the gardens before but not in the house so I found the guided tour very interesting. I was intrigued as to how small each room was. We had headphones on which we could control volume, skip forward or backwards or pause which was really good as it meant we could go at our own pace. Each room was how it usually is when the Queen is there, the only difference was the furniture was pushed apart to enable a pathway through each room. As I leant over the rope to look at the top of an occasional table I heard a buzzer and a member of staff instantly telling me to step back. I had inadvertently stepped too far and set an alarm off. My 'misbehaviour' didn't stop there. I was in the shop looking at chutneys and picked one up. On seeing the price I decided I wasn't prepared to pay way over the odds just because it had the Queen and Sandringham House on the label. As I put it down I caught another jar and sent several tumbling.

Wednesday evening brought with it the Procession of Our Lady & Benediction at which Father Nicholas had the privilege of blessing us with the sacrament. We wound our way through the garden singing the Walsingham Hymn. I didn't need my running shoes on as with thirty seven verses and a refrain there is plenty of time to do this at a dignified pace.



After breakfast on Thursday morning we went back down to seven as Seymour departed for home and to serve at St Matthew's in the evening.

As it was Ascension Day we went to the Parish Church for Mass. The Shrine and local Church share principal feast days between them rather than be in competition for worshippers. As you would expect it was a concelebrated sung service. At service end there was wine for all and a shared lunch afterwards for locals.



Father Harri during the notices asked them to hold off from lunch until he had said grace. I believe that in the past they have started before he had taken his robes off, let alone got down to the back of church.

Later we visited The Society of St Margaret Convent in the Shrine grounds which houses two nuns, Srs Angela and Carol. We visit them every year and every time Sr Angela makes us laugh with stories of her time in Aberdeen and East London ministering to some of the roughest people. Sr Carol tells us of her work in the local school and brings us up to date with her family news . They also spoke of the changes they have made within the house, partly due to Sr Angela's age. They now have their main meal of the day in the shrine and a cleaner. At some time in the future I will write about the society and its history.

Father Nicholas then led us in Stations of the Cross, which are situated in the garden. Although Father led us the wrong way it was uneventful compared to the time a pigeon left a deposit on his head. We managed to avoid the promised rain.



After dinner we decided to go to the Black Lion. We weren't so lucky with the rain. We waited for the downpour to become a trickle then braved the five minute walk. On getting there we found it was shut, I was not happy getting wet for nothing. We then walked back to the pub opposite the shrine and went in there. This is more of a 'locals' pub so fairly loud which doesn't suit everyone. Here we presented Father Nicholas and Jean with gifts as a thank you for leading and organising the pilgrimage.



Friday morning came all too soon and it was time to depart. We divided into three cars and set off. As we got close to Peterborough we had a discussion about stopping off at the service station for refreshment. However as we weren't in a hurry decided instead to go to a Mediterranean garden centre at Oundle. Once there we discovered that whilst the centre was still open the coffee shop had closed during the first lockdown and not reopened. That put paid to that idea so we decided just to come home. We were approaching

Rushden and decided that maybe our bladders wouldn't hold out, (none of us were in the first flush of youth) so we stopped and made use of Marks and Spencer's facilities. We also had a leisurely late lunch of tea and sandwiches watching the cars come and go in the car park and getting to know each other more.

If this article has whetted your appetite to know more about the Shrine and its work please ask any of the cell members. We have Mass of the Holy House on the second Saturday of the month with refreshments and a chat afterwards, do come to this, it is open to all not just members.

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.

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 SEPTEMBER magazine is SUNDAY 14 AUGUST

Editor: Dorrie Parker

Layout and production: Gary Drinkwater

Girlguiding News

On Thursday 7 July 2022 in the Threshing Barn at the Chester House Estate, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire County Guides held an Adult Awards evening to honour adult members of the Girl Guide movement.

That evening, Elizabeth March was presented with a Good Service Award for her voluntary work as Brownie Leader of the 31st St Matthew's Brownie Pack (the Wednesday Pack).

The Chester House Estate holds the ARC – the Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre – as well as several interesting facilities which can be discovered at <https://chesterhouseestate.org/>

Congratulations Elizabeth!



Olde England Public House

199 Kettering Road, Northampton
NN1 4BP
Tel. 01604 619285



OPENING TIMES:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday & 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



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Saturday 10 September 2022

Yes, it's almost that time of year again! And I'm now looking for helpers – riders, striders and people to sponsor us with cash... We've been taking part on behalf of St Matthew's for many years now, and we ourselves have been grateful recipients of a grant for £10,000 – the largest grant ever awarded – for our major repair works in 2012, so let's help give a bit back!

Ride+Stride is organized by the county Historic Churches Trust – voluntary organisations that raise money for the restoration and maintenance of historic churches and chapels, supported by the national Churches Trust. It's been an annual event across most of the country since it began in Suffolk in 1981, Northamptonshire joining in 1955, and not even COVID-19 managed to stop it! Last year, with your help, we raised £530, half of which came back to St Matthew's – funds raised are divided equally between the Trust and the individually sponsored church.

So there are three ways you can help:

- ❖ You can **walk** on a route of selected Northampton churches – and enjoy a fun and sociable morning at an easy pace!
- ❖ You can **man** St Matthew's (we'll be open between 10.00am and 2.00pm) to welcome and record others visiting our church – it's a nice easy sit-down job!
- ❖ You can **sponsor** us with money – please do!

Like to help?

As during covid, when we didn't fill in a communal form, please just register your interest with me, either in person after Mass or via the Parish Office letterbox, in an envelope with a note giving your clearly readable name, address and phone number, and addressed to **Dorrie Parker, Ride+Stride** (and if donating, please include it as cash or a cheque payable to NHCT, as it will save me chasing you later—it makes it SO much easier...!). I'll do the paperwork and keep you well informed. And I'll be having a Pester Paragraph each week in the pewsheet...

Thank you in anticipation! Dorrie Parker

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

SOLUTION TO SUDOKO
(page 3)

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).

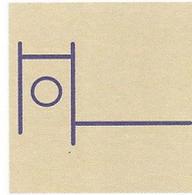
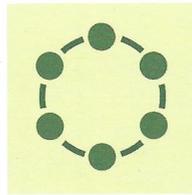
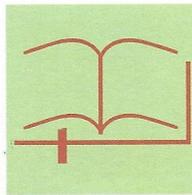
There are two methods of payment available: by a banker's direct debit or by weekly-numbered envelopes via the collection plate. The amount that you give is entirely confidential and is known only to the lay people who administer the Scheme.

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
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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	Tom Moore (<i>from September</i>) 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