

St Matthew's
MAIL

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News from the Parish of Kingsley, Northampton

MAY 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 Currently suspended

Friday 12 noon Mass

Saturday Currently suspended

(Mass of Our Lady of Walsingham followed by a Cell Meeting on the second Saturday of the month at 9.30am)

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 May

<i>Date</i>	<i>Observance</i>	<i>Intention</i>
1	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	
2	S Athanasius, B and Dr	The ministry of healing
3	Feria	
4	The English Martyrs	
5	Feria	
6	Feria	
7	Feria	
8	THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
9	Feria	
10	Feria	
11	Feria	
12	Feria	
13	Feria	
14	S Matthias, Apostle	The Shrine and Society of OLW
15	THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
16	Feria	
17	Feria	
18	Feria	
19	S Dunstan, B	
20	Monthly Requiem	The Faithful Departed
21	Feria	
22	THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
23	Feria	The Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham
24	Feria	
25	S Bede the Venerable, Pr and Dr	
26	ASCENSION OF THE LORD	
27	Feria	
28	S Lanfranc, B	
29	THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
30	Feria	
31	Visitation of the BVM	

NB **Bold** denotes weekdays on which mass is celebrated

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

May's Pastoral Letter from the Vicar

Christ is Risen!

Before you begin reading, look at your watch. Has time flown since you last checked? Maybe you're reading this while waiting, much slower than you'd like. Time, whether too swift or too slow, evades our grasp. We worry about wasting it, running out of it, or having to wait for it. With instruments we measure it, but we can never control it. As days become years, the cycles and repetitions of our lives highlight our captivity to time. Easter comes again with its proclamation of joy; but another year has passed. Our lives trickle into history. And, somewhere on the horizon of our lives, we know there is a moment coming when our time will cease.

For many, the Easter feast begins with the ancient liturgy of the Easter Vigil. It starts as a fire crackles into light in the darkness. From it the Easter candle is lit, and lifted up for all to see. Firework rockets ascend into the night sky symbolising the Light of Christ which banishes all darkness. The symbolism takes us way back, to the power of God in the beginning: Let there be light. It is the same power which begins existence anew on the third day, as Christ is lifted up from the darkness of death. A cross, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet and the numbers of the year are cut into the candle, as these words are proclaimed: Christ, yesterday and today. The beginning and the end. Alpha and Omega. All time belongs to him and all ages. All time belongs to the risen Jesus.

At Easter, we see what happens when God becomes a human being. He comes to be bounded by time, as we are; and he meets the end of time which faces each one of us, in his own death. But God in flesh is more powerful than his captor. He emerges from beyond our horizon, as a new kind of human life: mightier than death, possessing even time itself. As Lord of all time, the risen Christ is present to us: every Easter, and every Sunday, the Day of Resurrection; but also in every swift moment of our fleeting lives. He is with us, holding all our time in his eternity. Our Easter hope is to rise, and be like him. Then we will know that nothing in our lives has truly slipped our grasp or gone to waste, when we are raised to lives of everlasting peace, to join our risen and ascended Lord in heaven.

A belated happy Easter, and a premature happy Ascensiontide to you.

Your sincere friend and parish priest,

Fr. Nicholas

Easter Wings

Lord, who createdst man in wealth and store,
 Though foolishly he lost the same,
 Decaying more and more,
 Till he became Most poore:
 With thee
 O let me rise
 As larks, harmoniously,
 And sing this day thy victories:
 Then shall the fall further the flight in me.
 My tender age in sorrow did beginne
 And still with sicknesses and shame.
 Thou didst so punish sinne,
 That I became
 Most thinne.
 With thee
 Let me combine,
 And feel thy victorie:
 For, if I imp my wing on thine,
 Affliction shall advance the flight in me.

George Herbert (1593–1633)

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5	9		7					

**SOLUTION ON
PAGE 27**

The Parish Church of St Matthew

Thursday 26 May

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

7.30 pm The Parish Mass



Ascension Day

We saw his light break through the cloud of glory
Whilst we were rooted still in time and place,
As earth became a part of heaven's story
And heaven opened to his human face.
We saw him go and yet we were not parted,
He took us with him to the heart of things,
The heart that broke for all the broken-hearted
Is whole and heaven-centered now, and sings;
Sings in the strength that rises out of weakness,
Sings through the clouds that veil him from our sight,
Whilst we ourselves become his clouds of witness
And sing the waning darkness into light;
His light in us, and ours in him concealed,
Which all creation waits to see revealed.

Malcolm Guite

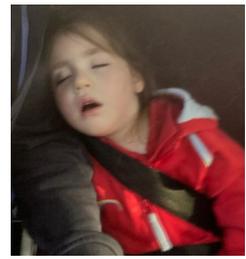
From Sounding the Seasons, 2012

32nd St Matthew's Multi-Aged Unit

Mandy Ludlow

Since our last article all sections have been exceptionally busy. On Saturday 19 March we went on our long-awaited day trip to Legoland, Windsor. During the first lockdown in 2020 the girls asked if they could go out, obviously not possible at that time but we promised as soon as we were able, we would. Legoland was chosen and although only it was the middle of March, as the coaches arrived at the Parish Centre it was blue skies and sunshine, and none of us put coats on the whole day. On arriving at Legoland, one Brownie and one Ranger joined us as they had travelled up from Sussex; they joined us when we were on zoom and have continued to do so – we not only do our meetings face to face we also have them via the laptop on zoom at the same time. We had girls from Rainbows aged 4 to Rangers nearing 16, so there was something for everyone. Those girls who did not want to go on the big rides came with the leaders and the Rainbows, while two of our younger leaders who like the rides took the Guides and those Brownies who wanted to do the larger ones, with our youngest leader, Ellie, who had turned 18 just three days before we went, going with the Rangers. It was very busy and some of the older girls queued for an hour or more! As some of the girls did not meet the required height to go on the ride without an adult, some of the leaders did the rides several times...





Two weeks later it was our Spring night out at Jubilee Camp Site in Castle Ashby. The girls made dens, pitched tents, collected wood for the fire on which we cooked their tea, enjoyed an Easter egg hunt and played games, so a fun night out! So what did their tea consist of? Each girl had a wrap to which they added their chosen fillings – cheese, passata, chicken, ham, sweetcorn, pepperoni – they could have as many fillings as they liked, and these were then folded into quarters, wrapped in tinfoil and cooked on the fire; they come out a bit like a folded pizza. For pudding it was a complete sugar rush! An ice cream cone filled with jelly sweets and marshmallows, then topped with a chocolate flake. Again, these were wrapped in foil and placed on a grid over the fire; all the sweets and chocolate melted into the cone – a firm favourite, so we did not have time to do the ubiquitous s'mores, time just ran out. We will do these at the Parish Centre, we are quite adept at having a campfire without burning down the building!



There was also a Backwoods Challenge, organised by the County – this was over a very cold weekend at the beginning of April. The girls took part in archery, rifle shooting, cooking over an open fire and making a shelter to sleep in. The girls and leader who attended had never done anything like this before but thoroughly enjoyed it.



The County also organised a Roller Disco for Guides and Rangers which we attended. A lot of fun, hanging on to the side and falling over. It is always good to take part in District, Division or County events as it gives both the girls and leaders a chance to see others from different units.

Café Guides Recipe for May

This recipe is one chosen by the Rangers that they cooked after the Easter holidays.

One Pot Noodles

Ingredients:

- 4 spring onions
- 2 skinless and boneless chicken breasts
- 1 red or yellow pepper
- 1 lemon
- 1 chicken or vegetable stock cube
- 1 tablespoon of sunflower oil
- A clove of garlic
- A pinch of chilli flakes
- A pinch of sugar
- 1 tablespoon of soy sauce
- 100g (4oz) fine egg noodles

This dish cooks quickly so it is advisable to chop everything ready beforehand.

Method:

- 1 Cut the spring onion into small pieces and cut the pepper and chicken into bite sized pieces.
- 2 Grate the lemon zest finely, until you have about a teaspoon. Then squeeze out the juice.
- 3 Put the stock cube into a jug. Add 250ml (9floc) boiling water and stir until it dissolves.
- 4 Heat the oil in a large frying pan over a medium heat for about a minute. Add the chicken and spring onions and cook for 2-3 minutes until the chicken is white all over.
- 5 Add the pepper and cook for a further minute. Crush the garlic into the pan and cook for a few seconds, being careful it does not burn.
- 6 Pour in the stock, lemon rind and juice, chilli flakes, sugar and soy sauce.
- 7 When the mixture boils partially cover with a lid and cook for 2 minutes.
- 8 Break each block of noodles in half. Add to the pan and stir. When the mixture is bubbling again, put the lid back on and cook for a further 3 minutes.
- 9 Test the chicken that the juices are running clear, and the noodles and vegetables are cooked, and you are ready to serve.

Tips:

- You could add a small packet of prawns instead of using chicken, adding them at step 6.
- Instead of lemon use limes.
- You could also add some sliced mushrooms and baby corn at step 7.
- Different vegetables could be used and a sprinkling of chopped coriander added to the finished dish, if you like.

A Surprising Passion? Two.

Dorrie Parker



Last month Liz wrote about her passion for Shackleton and his mission to cross Antarctica from Sea to Sea. I thought this could be a good series for the magazine, so if you have a passion you think others might find surprising of you, then do send it in. I too have a passion that, if you don't know me well, you too might find surprising, or even... bonkers. So, in the month of Good Shepherd Sunday, be prepared to be amazed!

Because my passion is for Shaun the Sheep. Before you scoff and send for the men in white coats, let me tell you that although the 7-minute episodes are broadcast on a children's tv channel, Shaun has great appeal for all age groups. The humour in it often goes over children's heads as some parodies of films are snuck in that only adults would recognise – take the episode *Pig Swill Fly*, where Shaun is chased across a field by the three hooligan pigs in a monoplane to the film score from Hitchcock's *North by Northwest*. There are other similar instances.



In 2015 Carol (knowing I'm such a big fan) told me she'd read that giant sculptures of Shaun were going to be displayed in Bristol – similar to the lions etc we'd enjoyed in Northampton. What a great excuse for a few days away! Bristol is the home of Shaun's creator (and of Wallace and Gromit too, of course), Aardman Animations. As with the lions in Northampton, a trail map showing all the locations was available from Tourist Information, so with that being my first stop on arrival (after the hotel), I excitedly planned my route for the following three days. Unfortunately there were a few children inconveniently getting in the way at times, but I was delighted, and relieved, to find so many older people like myself doing the trail. And they weren't just photographing them for their grandchildren, as I chatted to a lot of them – no, they were passionate about Shaun too! 70 sculptures were displayed in Bristol, with a further 50 simultaneously in London; and then in September, all 120 of them came together in one glorious Shaun-fest in Covent Garden piazza. Another great excuse for a day out in London!



A friend of mine who had scoffed at my love of Shaun came to my house one day and I made her watch an episode. It was *Operation Pidsley* – the one where the cat steals the polaroid photos of the sheep’s clandestine party in the farmer’s house and tries to drop them in it. Well, she was won over, she laughed all the way through.



You will have realised from this that I have episodes recorded – in fact 157 in total. Plus the two Christmas specials shown on BBC1 – *The Farmer’s Llamas* and last year’s *The Flight before Christmas*. And what greater accolade than having last Christmas’s BBC idents featuring Shaun and the rest of the flock? There’s also been two films made for the cinema – *Shaun the Sheep Movie* and *Farmageddon* – and yes, I’ve got the DVDs... I was in Vue cinema in Northampton for the very first showing of the first film, and guess what? All the other people in the audience were adults.



So why do I love Shaun? He is inquisitive, mischievous, and amazingly clever – he always finds the solution to get the flock out of the scrapes that regularly seem to happen, often drawing technical diagrams on a blackboard to explain his plan! It’s pure slapstick, and I love the moments when he looks directly at the camera in disbelief about something. The sheep speak in bleats, the other animals in their own grunts or snorts etc, and the farmer and other humans in human noises – there’s no spoken dialogue. And he always, ALWAYS makes me laugh.



So now you’ve seen it can be a serious passion or a daft passion, do let’s hear about yours...!



Prayer: The Good Shepherd

Jesus said, 'I have come that people may have life, and may have it in all its fullness. I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.'

St John 10:10-11



Almighty God, our Lord Jesus Christ,
You stretched out your pure and loving hands on the Cross for us,
And redeemed us with your holy and precious blood:
Enable me so to feel and understand this mystery
That I may attain true repentance,
And unfailing perseverance all the days of my life.

Amen.

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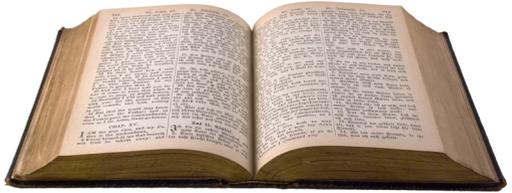
BUDGIES

PARROTS

CHINCHILLAS

Weekday Scripture Readings for May

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	2 nd	Job 23.1-12	John 1.43-end
Tuesday	3 rd	Leviticus 19.9-18, 32-end	Matthew 5.38-end
Wednesday	4 th	Genesis 3.8-21	1 Corinthians 15.12-28
Thursday	5 th	Isaiah 33.13-22	Mark 6.47-end
Friday	6 th	Nehemiah 9.6-17	Romans 5.12-end
Saturday	7 th	Isaiah 61.10 – 62.5	Luke 24.1-12
Monday	9 th	Jeremiah 31.10-17	Revelation 7.9-end
Tuesday	10 th	Job 31.13-23	Matthew 7.1-12
Wednesday	11 th	Genesis 2.4b-9	1 Corinthians 15.35-49
Thursday	12 th	Proverbs 28.3-end	Mark 10.17-31
Friday	13 th	Ecclesiastes 12.1-8	Romans 6.1-11
Saturday	14 th	1 Samuel 16.1-13a	Matthew 7.15-27
Monday	16 th	Genesis 15.1-18	Romans 4.13-end
Tuesday	17 th	Deuteronomy 8.1-10	Matthew 6.19-end
Wednesday	18 th	Hosea 13.4-14	1 Corinthians 15.50-end
Thursday	19 th	Exodus 3.1-15	Mark 12.18-27
Friday	20 th	Ezekiel 36.33-end	Romans 8.1-11
Saturday	21 st	Isaiah 38.9-20	Luke 24.33-end
Monday	23 rd	Proverbs 4.1-13	Philippians 2.1-11
Tuesday	24 th	Isaiah 32.12-end	Romans 5.1-11
Wednesday	25 th	2 Samuel 23.1-5	Colossians 2.20 – 3.4
Thursday	26 th	2 Kings 2.1-15	Matthew 28.16-end
Friday	27 th	Exodus 35.30 – 36.1	Galatians 5.13-end
Saturday	28 th	Numbers 11.16-17, 24-29	1 Corinthians 2
Monday	30 th	Numbers 27.15-end	1 Corinthians 3
Tuesday	31 st	Zechariah 2.10-end	John 3.25-30

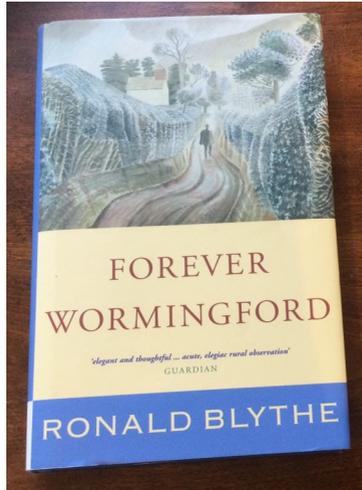
Book Review

Fabian Robertson

Forever Wormingford

By Ronald Blythe CBE (born 6 November 1922 – present)

ISBN 978 1 78622 027 1 Published by the Canterbury Press Norwich



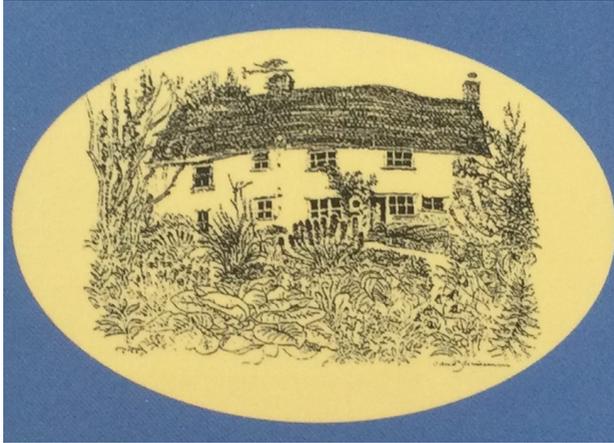
Although a Church Times reader for many years, by the time the back page was reached, the weekly article at the bottom headed *Wormingford* seldom got a glance. The newspaper was ordered and picked up on Fridays from the village paper shop. About three years ago when that shop closed for good, I am pleased I succumbed to the paper's advert to take out an annual subscription which has proved very convenient and a bargain as it arrives in the post through the letterbox each Friday. A surprise hard bound complimentary copy of this book arrived after paying the subscription, which reproduces Ronald Blythe's weekly contribution month by month for the year before he retired.

Wikipedia tells us the author was a 'writer, essayist and editor best known for his work *Akenfield – Portrait of an English village* – an account of agricultural life in Suffolk from the turn of the century to 1960. Until recently he wrote a long -running, considerably praised column in the Church Times entitled *Word from Wormingford*.

Ronald Blythe was an admirer of the Northamptonshire poet John Clare and his love of birds. In this instance the cuckoo, Blythe refers to Clare in a May weekly contribution with his own observations:

And there it sings, Colchester way, not too far off, a creature of variegated greys, monotonous, plaintive with early summer. "Did you hear the cuckoo last evening?" I will say at the first opportunity; for this is the drill. And I will forget that it was last listened to in Africa, and it is not the prerogative of an English late spring.

In church I read, 'O Lord from whom all good things do come: Grant to us thy



humble servants that by holy inspiration we may think those things that be good, and by thy merciful guiding may perform the same,' And I preach on Julian of Norwich.

Ronald Blythe was a lay reader in the parishes of Wormingford and Little Horkesley in the diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich (Constable country).

Possibly this book may be out of print and not available on ABE books or Amazon – not to worry, equally fascinating books in the Wormingford Series are for sale as very good second-hand copies from £3.79

Also in the Wormingford series:

Word from Wormingford

Out of the Valley

Borderland

Village Hours

In the Artist's Garden

As a postscript, thinking back 42 years, my interview for a job teaching at Wormingford C of E Primary School was unsuccessful, but Northamptonshire wanted me – so instead I had the privilege of joining St Matthew's congregation.

Frosty Mornings – Maths in the kitchen and Science in the garden

Sandra Rivett

The three children and their good friend Sandra were in the kitchen at the boys' house.

Mateo was playing with his Paws patrol cars, Micah was doing maths on the computer, and Luca had a workbook from which he was working. It was fractions, not everyone's favourite and certainly not Luca's or Sandra's. Luca was getting more and more frustrated while Sandra was starting to become quite confused. Then Sandra had a fantastic idea! She made a cup of tea, got the boys some milk, then she got the biscuit tin and the fruit bowl out. She put them on the table with chopping boards and knives. Luca looked relieved thinking he was being let off the task. Micah looked a bit confused as he looked at the kitchen clock. It was a bit early for a snack, but he wasn't going to complain, especially as it seemed to be a special snack day with biscuit and fruit. Mateo just looked delighted as he abandoned his toys and rushed to get a seat at the table. Biscuits were on offer and he wasn't going to miss out.

So for the next twenty minutes or so Luca's frown was turned upside down as he, Micah and Mateo (helped by Sandra) chopped up bananas, apples and pears, divided tangerines and shared out biscuits... suddenly fractions became quite easy to understand. Maybe the workbook got a little sticky but the answers to the questions got filled in and the Maths lesson ended on a happy note.

Then it was decided that some exercise was needed, so play shoes and old coats were put on. Three small people and their friend burst out of the kitchen doors, into the garden. Gosh it was chilly outside. The children raced around like crazy things for a few minutes then they started to explore. Mateo wanted to float his boats in the water trough, Micah wanted to play with the mud kitchen and Luca was very excited to try out the new toy that Sandra had brought with her.

There were three plastic propeller blades that fitted on a plastic thing and a balloon which when blown up was also fitted to the plastic thing. Then when you let it go, it whizzed around like a little helicopter, such fun.

So Luca was happily flying the helicopter, but Micah and Mateo were finding that their activities were not working so well. Micah found that the mud was too hard to dig, because the ground was frozen. Mateo was furious because his boats were stuck in the frozen water trough.

It was very interesting how the ice could be broken to reveal the very cold water beneath. The children studied all the different shapes and thicknesses of the ice, some bits so smooth and others sharp like glass. They found that in sunny areas of the garden the ice was melting more quickly. Also, once you cracked the surface, the ice that fell in the water below would start to melt. Sandra said that they should collect some ice in the big saucepan that lived in the mud garden. Also, could Luca find the tennis racket that should be in the garden shed. Sandra said she was just popping inside to boil the kettle. "Are you making more tea?" asked Micah. Sandra did like tea, but she had just had some so it did seem a little odd. "No," she smiled, "just wait and see, but find plenty of ice." When Sandra returned with the kettle the boys had collected a goodly amount of ice. The boys were surprised at how quickly the ice melted when the boiling water was poured over it. They used the tennis racket over the saucepan; the ice ran through the holes as it melted. Mateo wanted to make stone soup so some large stones were put in the pan and then carefully stirred with big wooden spoons, then the ladle was used to remove the stones. The boys were surprised that they made lovely hand warmers.

A noise from the patio alerted the four friends to the fact that Mummy and Daddy had returned from work, and it was time to clean up before lunch.



Introducing the Archdeacon of Oakham

In 6 February 2022 I became the Archdeacon of Oakham, living in Peterborough and serving the parishes of six Deaneries – Peterborough, Oundle, Higham, Kettering, Corby and Rutland. I must be new as I'm still counting my time in weeks – rather than months!



This is not a part of the world which I know, as I've spent the last 10 years as the Vicar of between five and nine villages in East Leicestershire which I really enjoyed; I was near the retreat house Launde Abbey, shared between Leicester and Peterborough Diocese. So I still feel at home when I go to Launde Abbey, although life generally now has less village life about it, less in the way of fetes and village events, less working out how to get the large Christmas tree into the small Church building and less sheep from my upstairs windows.

I am someone who loves being outside, particularly in the countryside; I'm happiest when walking long distances – a good day is about 15 miles on a fresh, sunny and not too hot day. If there is a coffee and cake somewhere then so much the better. On the rare occasion that the weather is too wild for me to be outside (I really do most weathers – all you need is good kit!) then I can be found at my sewing machine; I made my daughter's prom dress with her, and the waistcoats for my youngest son's wedding with him, as well as one or two jackets for myself which you'll spot me wearing when I'm out and about.

I'm settling into Archdeacon's life and getting out into our parishes; being out on a Sunday morning and midweek evenings meeting people is one of my favourite parts of the role. I have a heart for Mission having a background particularly in Mission and Evangelism with young people and in rural places particularly. I enjoy leading collective worship in schools and there's nothing better than the danger of standing in front of a primary school class and saying "Any questions?"

I am looking forward to the places I will get to visit in the next few months with all their variety and the people I will be meeting – I am sure there will be exciting new places, challenging new questions and things I can't even imagine!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Booker'.

Alison Booker
Archdeacon of Oakham

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Kingsley's Fallen Heroes

Life Guard Troopers Redley and Westley

The following is an account by Martin and Lindsey Stone of the background and military service of the two young Life Guard Troopers, Sidney Joseph 'Henry' Redley and Ralph William Westley, who died for their country on the Western Front in 1915. They are remembered as two of the one hundred and sixty-eight brave men of the parish listed within the memorial chapel at St Matthew's Church, Kingsley, Northampton, and also on the Northampton Town Centre memorial at Abington Square.

This was one of the several histories relevant to St Matthew's Church that became more clearly apparent when the authors had gathered sufficient information to create an electronic database, which identified and listed the details of the 126 men of the parish who fell during the First World War 1914-18 and the 42 men who fell during the Second World War 1939-45. Thus, we were better able to connect these brave men where they served in the same regiment, and in several cases where they sadly fell in the same action.



Trp. S.J. (Henry) Redley



Trp. R.W. Westley

(photographs can be dated 1912-14)

Troopers (Trps) Redley and Westley served in the 1st Life Guards regiment, and both had very similar service numbers indicating that they may have enlisted at a similar time. In fact, we would find that both these men enlisted with the regiment in 1912, albeit in different circumstances, and both would sadly be killed in 1915 while serving their King and country.

The first of the two in alphabetical order, Trooper Sidney Joseph Redley, Service Number 2882, attested as Henry Redley, and to conform with his apparent wishes I will continue using his chosen name throughout the story.

Henry was the son of Joseph and Elizabeth Redley who lived in Oliver St, Kingsley Park, Northampton, in the parish of the recently consecrated St Matthews. He had enlisted into the Corps of Household Cavalry at Regents Park Barracks on the 8 January 1912, aged 19 years and 3 months. His father was a police constable who was born in 1864 and who died in 1951. His mother was Elizabeth Ann Redley, nee Darker, who had been born in 1865 at Sywell; she died before her husband Joseph in 1931. Two of 'Henry's' brothers would also serve during the first war, albeit in an entirely different regiment; they were Frederick and George and they served in the Army Service Corps.

I found two of the three Redley brothers' service records were quite unusual, Henry's being that of a regular soldier and a Life Guard was unusual enough; George's service record was unusual too for several reasons in that firstly, the record survived the bombings and destruction of the next war, plus it records that he was *Specially Enlisted* into the Army Service Corps and on a significantly enhanced rate of pay from joining of 5s per day. This was more than four times the usual rate of pay for an Army Service Corps Private which was 1s 2d. Henry too would receive an enhanced rate of pay, as a Trooper of the Household Cavalry was paid 8d a day more than an infantry Private.

Prior to the war the men of the Redley family were working in relatively well-paid and secure employment. As we noted, the father a police constable in the Northampton Borough and the elder brother George was a Blacksmith; Henry himself was an Asylum Attendant in London and later at Northampton before choosing to become a regular soldier, and Fred was a Butcher. Two younger siblings, Elizabeth and Albert, were not of working age at the time.

In 1912 Trooper Henry Redley quickly passed his army 3rd and 2nd Class Certificates of Education and would have been fulfilling his regimental ceremonial and guard duties for the royal household when war broke out on the 4 August 1914.

Henry with a part of his regiment embarked for France together with their cavalry horses, sailing on the SS Thespis from Southampton and arriving on the 15/16 August. There is a huge amount of detail available regarding the regiment's wartime operations, as the official war diaries as well as those of

many of their senior officers, survived; they were very well maintained diaries, and have been recently been collated and returned to print care of the Naval & Military Press.

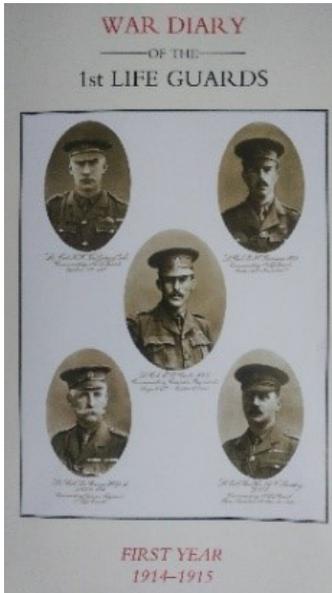


Photo image: the authors copy of the collated war diaries 1st Life Guards 1914-15

So, a brief resume. The first squadrons of the 1st Life Guards regiment travelled with, and were formed into a coherent unit that included, a squadron of Royal Horse Guards and a squadron of the 2nd Life Guards which had been based at Windsor. The unit was known as the Guards Cavalry Composite Regiment, until October 1914, when the rest of the 1st and 2nd Life Guards squadrons joined. The Guards Cavalry Composite Regiment was at this time a unit allocated to the 4th Cavalry Brigade and of the 1st Cavalry Division. It is I feel well worth noting that the 1st and 2nd Life Guards war diaries are littered with the names of the great and good, underlining a very special relationship with both the Crown and the British Army's most senior officers. As an example, I quote from the diaries: *Aug. 16 Disembarked very well (at Le Havre). Went into rest camp 5 miles out. Astor's horse fell coming.*

Many other great names are listed as serving with the Life Guards during WW1, including Sir RV Sutton, RG Thynne, Count J.de Salis, Viscount Althorpe, Sir P. Brocklehurst, the Earl of Caledon, Sir F. Carden, Lord Cavendish, The Hon CC Fellowes, AE Fitzroy and WG Garton, Lord Grosvenor, Sir R. Levinge, Viscount Newry, Lord Somers, Sir R. Sutton, the Duke of Teck, the Hon G Ward, EH & R Wyndham, the Marquis of

Tweeddale, the Hon C Yeatman, and in the Reserve regiment, Lord Leconfield, and the Duke of Abercorn, it goes on.

I was surprised how quickly they went into action after arrival in France on the 16th, but they were of course a mounted regiment comprised of regular soldiers. On 20 August the commanding officer noted in his diary that he had a *bath and change*. (In a) *very comfortable billet*. The following day they made contact with advance German patrols and on the 22nd the Division which now included Lancers and Greys took their first casualties in men and horse. In September an excerpt reads: *Hot attack all morning. Very heavy artillery fire. Got into communication with Headquarters by helio, and with squadron. Paissy very unpleasant in the wet. Many dead horses and some bodies about*. A September excerpt also gives mention to how the great and the good were well connected. I quote: *General Douglas Haig came and saw me and explained position. He required 1st (Life Guards) Squadron saddled by 5.30 a.m.*

During this period the regiment including Henry saw action at Mons, then the withdrawal to the Marne, The Battle of the Marne and at Ypres. Henry was now entitled to the 1914 Star and would have become an 'Old Contemptible'.

Trp Henry Redley survived only until 1 June 1915, falling after the 2nd Battle of Ypres while serving with the Machine-gun section of the 1st Life Guards, 7th Cavalry Brigade, 3rd Cavalry Division. He was aged 23. The Life Guards war diary reads: *Campagne-May 29 – Regiment embussed and proceeded to Vlamertinghe as per orders A.K.93. A&D Squadrons took over from Royal Scots Greys in ramparts, B Squadron from 12th Lancers.*

A.K.93 was an enlightening read, as follows: *While occupying dug-outs in the ramparts the following precautions must be observed:- 1. Men are not to be allowed to wander about on top of the ramparts during daylight and should remain in their dug-outs. 2. Cooking must be done in the dug-outs as far as possible. Fires lighted are apt to cause shelling. In fact every precaution must be taken to avoid attracting attention. 3. Each regiment is to maintain a patrol permanently in the trenches at the top of the ramparts to give notice of the approach of poisonous gas. At night these patrols are to be under officers, one from each regiment. 4. Returns of strength – officers and other ranks, actually with units in the ramparts are to be rendered by 9 a.m. tomorrow. 5. Casualty returns for previous 24 hours to be rendered to Brigade Headquarters daily at 6 p.m. D.P. Tollemache, Captain, Brigade-Major, 7th Cavalry Brigade.*

The war diary then notes: *The Machine-gun section under Captain Earl of Caledon was attached to the Squadron of 3rd Dragoon Guards commanded by Major P. Mason. They occupied trenches designed for all round defence immediately S. of Menin Road at Hooge.*

Ypres-May 30 and 31. – Nothing to report, except that on 31st trenches occupied by 3rd Dragoons were very heavily shelled, several feeble infantry attacks by the enemy were repulsed. Captain Earl of Caledon was wounded and Machine-gun section lost one man killed and one wounded.

The following day Capt. JJ Astor went up with 200 men and dug in behind Caledon's Machine-gun section and the Dragoons, allowing them to fall back. However, the one man from the 1st Life Guards Machine section who had been mentioned as killed that day, was in fact our own 2882 Trooper Henry Redley. He is listed in the regiments war diary for the week ending 6 June 1915. The Divisional Commander wrote: *The Army Commander recognises the difficult task which was allotted to the troops of the Division, especially on the left of the line, and has expressed his appreciation of the gallant manner in which the position was held and maintained under most difficult and trying circumstances.* The Northampton Independent noted that a letter sent to Henry Redley's parents, Joseph and Mrs. Redley of Oliver Street, Kingsley Park, Northampton, by Henry's commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel G. Holford, informed them that Sidney, known as Henry, had been killed-in-action.

We have a copy of the next letter that was sent by the regiment in October 1915, to Henry's father at Oliver Street, to ensure that he had received Henry's effects including monies, and to confirm that his medals earned would be forwarded to him in due course. Henry's body was sadly never recovered, he is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial.

Of course, St Matthew's, Northampton, has two Life Guards men listed on the memorial chapel screens, the other is 2905 Trooper Ralph William Westley, previously of Manfield Road, son to William and Vashti Westley nee Howes; their previous Northampton address had been in Compton Street. Ralph's father William was a Blacksmith who had been born at Piddington in 1869, he survived until 1941; Ralph's mother had been born at Hackleton in 1872 and survived until 1947. Ralph and his two brothers, George and Stanley, were also born at Hackleton. Stanley was a regular soldier too, but served with the 1st Seaforth Highlanders; he too would not survive the war and was killed earlier on 20 December 1914, four months before his brother Ralph. Stanley's body was never recovered and he is remembered at the Le

Touret Memorial grounds on the Bethune-Armentiers Road.

The army service record for Ralph William Westley is incomplete and contains inconsistencies together with a difficult administrative trail regarding his mother and father, and seeking confirmation that the father had passed Ralph's medals and effects to the mother at a different address (that I believe may relate to the black and white house on the right-hand side of Kettering Road as you head out from Northampton and up Spinney Hill, the house then known as Kettering Lodge, Moulton Park).

As we necessarily collated Ralph's service record with the civilian records of the time, we can determine that Ralph Westley attested into the Northamptonshire Regiment in 1911 while aged 17. Ralph had been born in the first quarter of 1894 at Hackleton and he was baptised at Piddington. All the indications are that his father William had also served as a soldier, with the Northampton Yeomanry. Most of this information is centred on the Census reports for 1901 and 1911. The 1911 Census clearly demonstrates Ralph was a private soldier located in barracks at the Northampton Regiment Depot, at what was then Leicester Road. All the indications are that he had suitable skills and was of the correct build to transfer into the Life Guards, which he did in the period 6-8 June 1912. We can also note here that if encouragement was needed for Ralph to transfer from the Northamptonshire Regiment, to a regiment of the Household Cavalry, he would see his daily pay rise from 1s 1d to 1s 9d, the same pay as an infantry Corporal. Sadly, we can also note that as we have seen with other St Matthew's men, even if he had stayed with the 1st and 2nd regular Battalions of the Northamptonshire Regiment this would probably not have prevented him from perishing on the battlefield during the 'Northampton's' deployment to France.

Just as for Trooper Henry Redley, Ralph Westley deployed with his cavalry horse on the 15/16 August 1914, and on the same ship with the same regiment, meaning he too would have become an 'Old Contemptible' had he survived. Ralph fell in April 1915, Henry in June. Similarly, and as for Henry Redley we can glean from the war diaries of the Life Guards regiment the manner of Ralph's loss.

On 23 April 1915 the Guards Brigade was located at Ebbingham together with their horses and in mounted order, having been in action now almost continuously since August 1914; I quote: *1.15 p.m.-Brigade marched from Les Cinqes Rues via Le Brearde-Caestre-Goedwaersvelde to a position of readiness at Abeele. This move was occasioned by the attack by the enemy*

with the aid of asphyxiating gases on the French positions about Langemarck. At 9 p.m. billeted at Godewaersvelde.

On 24 April the Brigade moved to the Poperinghe-Westoutre road and although put in readiness on the 26th, the horses were then deposited to rest at a farm to the West of Poperinghe and 13 officers and 273 other ranks marched to wooden huts at Vlamertinghe where they received copy of the following message from the King. I quote: *His Majesty sends the following message – During the past week I have followed with admiration the splendid achievements of my troops including the capture of Hill 60 after heavy fighting.* The message continues with congratulations for all the units which took part in what were described as successful actions.

On the following day 27 April 1915, Vlamertinghe, and those same wooden billet huts, were heavily shelled by the Germans, adding to the losses of the regiment and the list in their war diaries of those that had fallen that day. Amongst those listed as killed was 2905 Trooper R.W. Westley.

The Northampton Independent quoted a letter sent to his father, Mr William Westley, of The Lodge, Moulton Park, Northampton, by Ralph's commanding officer, Colonel O.T. Stanley. It reads: *I am afraid that this letter contains very sad news for you and all of Trooper Westley's relations. He was killed by a shell on Tuesday, April 27th, at a place near Ypres. I am afraid no words that I can write could in any way console you in your great grief and sorrow, but I must tell you that the officers and men of the 1st Life Guards send you their most heartfelt sympathy for a man they all cherished.*

His mother and father would have been sent his effects including his money held on account, amounting to £8 7s 7p and later after the war the remainder of his medals. He was entitled to the 1914 Star, the British War and Victory Medals together with a Death Plaque, awards the parents would also receive for his brother Stanley's loss. Ralph Westley was buried at Hazebrouck Communal Cemetery and his mother instructed that his headstone was inscribed with the words: *O Rest in the Lord.* He was only 21 years of age.

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

This updated story is dated 18 March 2022. Unless otherwise stated, all references and attributes for the above are recorded in the main covering paper, copy in the church). Authors and Copyright at www.stonesmilitaryhistories.co.uk.

Caption Competition: ENTRY FORM

Now the constraints of Lent are over, and following on from the success of January's Caption Competition, here's another to test your powers of wit! Again sent in by Fr Nicholas, it's another fundraiser, so start racking those brains and address your entry to **Fr Nicholas, c/o Parish Office**, clearly marked **CAPTION COMPETITION**, by **Sunday 15 May**, enclosing an entry fee (the size of donation will not affect the choice of winner, just your wit!). Entries will be judged by Fr Nicholas and he will announce the winner.



Donation /Entry fee enclosed?

Name:

Phone:

Caption:

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blank

St Matthew's Ladies Group

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

Meetings in May

9 May Speaker: John Bucknell –
Northampton Suffragettes and Suffragists

23 May The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Afternoon Tea
With Graham Harding and Ukulele players

The full Spring/Summer programme is on our website:
Click on 'Community & Events', then 'St Matthew's Ladies Group' in the right-hand column.

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

SOLUTION TO SUDOKO
ON PAGE 3

Olde England Public House

199 Kettering Road
Northampton NN1 4BP
01604 603799



NEW OPENING TIMES

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

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

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

Number **18**, held by **Liz Eliot**



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

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 JUNE magazine is SUNDAY 15 MAY

Editor: Dorrie Parker

Layout and production: Gary Drinkwater

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.



St Matthew's Church

SUMMER FETE



Saturday 2 July 2022 1.00pm-4.00pm

ROLL UP, ROLL UP!

We are now able to start receiving donations for the fete.
Time for you to sort through your drawers (ooh, missus!!), cupboards and garages for all those unwanted gifts and items.

We need donations for the bottle tombola stall, good quality bric-a-brac, children's toys, games and outfits, general items for the tombola stall, sweets and chocolate tombola stall and books for the books stall.

These can be left in the box at the back of church or brought to the parish office during office hours. Please telephone first to check someone is there to take them in.

Thank you for your support.

Denise

summerfete@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Parish office opening hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm, 1-4pm

Office closed Wednesdays

Christian Aid Week

15-21 May 2022

The combined effects of the Covid 19 pandemic and drought have robbed countries of our help during the last two years.

This year Christian Aid Week will focus on the plight of drought which numerous countries around the world face.

Together we hope to restore justice to our world and protect the future of our children and grandchildren.

With every gift, every prayer, every action, everyone of us can change lives.

We celebrate and share with our brothers and sisters facing crisis around the world from Ukraine to Zimbabwe.

This year we are having one event only which will be a

Big Breakfast,

to be held in the Parish Centre on

Saturday 14 May

at **10.00am,**

directly after the morning mass.



The Christian Aid envelopes will be given out in church on **Sunday 1 May.**

A reminder will be in the pew sheet nearer the time.

I am hoping our two events will return next year.

Girlie Franklin



Wordsearch

Can you find the words listed in the grid?

They may be written in any direction.

A	C	T	N	A	R	O	M	R	O	C	J
D	G	H	D	C	G	K	E	H	F	E	B
G	K	U	O	L	L	V	C	G	M	N	W
B	Q	O	I	N	O	N	P	K	A	R	A
F	T	E	F	L	I	C	B	W	R	C	X
I	A	T	P	F	L	D	O	A	H	T	W
C	K	P	F	C	S	E	X	H	O	D	I
N	U	A	T	U	I	Y	M	S	K	G	N
M	H	W	C	X	A	K	Q	O	W	M	G
C	E	N	A	W	S	Q	L	G	T	Y	P
O	R	D	O	V	E	B	N	W	X	F	I
G	A	S	E	W	L	Y	D	M	W	H	A

Thank you!

Our thanks to Morrisons who generously donated 100 hot cross buns for everyone to enjoy after the All-Age Stations of the Cross and The Litany on Good Friday.

Their continued support of St Matthew's requests for help is very much appreciated.

Gary Drinkwater, Churchwarden





PRAYER REQUESTS



THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST MATTHEW • NORTHAMPTON

Approximately eight members of our community will be going on pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk from Monday 23 until Friday 27 May inclusive.

Please remember them in your prayers as they will be praying for you whilst at the Shrine.

There are slips of paper on the Memorial Chapel Altar for you to indicate prayer intentions you wish to be offered at the altar of the Holy House (the Shrine's most sacred place).

Please be sure to write your intention as clearly as possible.

**Do not be anxious about anything,
but in every situation, by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.**

Philippians 4:6



Aroma of India

AUTHENTIC INDIAN RESTAURANT & BAR

ON WEEKDAYS
15% DISCOUNT
ON FOOD FOR
CHURCH
MEMBERS
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**We serve set meals on
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Adult - £8.95
Children - £4.95
12pm - 4pm**

ON WEEKDAYS
15% DISCOUNT
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CHURCH
MEMBERS
T&CS APPLY

T&Cs Apply

T&Cs Apply

**On Tuesdays and Wednesdays,
we serve a Banquet Dinner
£10.95**

**Book your tables at:
www.aromaofindia.co.uk ,
[01604 791555](tel:01604791555) or
[07717475366](tel:07717475366)**

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).

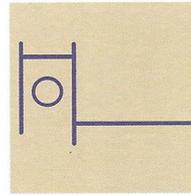
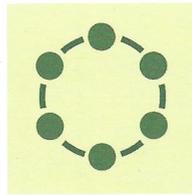
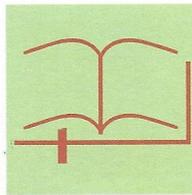
There are two methods of payment available: by a banker's direct debit or by weekly-numbered envelopes via the collection plate. The amount that you give is entirely confidential and is known only to the lay people who administer the Scheme.

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
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Music Department

Acting Director of Music Ben Horden
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