

St Matthew's **MAIL**

**Suggested
Donation**

£1.00

News from the Parish of Kingsley, Northampton

January 2024



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 January

Date	Observance	Intention
1	THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS	
2	Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bs and Drs	
3	Feria	
4	Feria	
5	Feria	
6	EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	
7	BAPTISM OF THE LORD	
8	Feria	The Healing Ministry (<i>transferred</i>)
9	Feria	
10	Monthly Requiem	The Faithful Departed
11	Feria	
12	S Aelred of Rievaulx, Ab	
13	Of OLW The Shrine and Society	
14	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	
15	Feria	
16	Feria	
17	S Anthony, Ab	
THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY		
18	Confession of S Peter	
19	S Wulfstan, B, Rel	
20	Of the BVM	
21	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	
22	S Vincent, Dcn and M	
23	Feria	
24	S Francis de Sales, B and Dr	
25	Conversion of S Paul, Apostle	
26	Ss Timothy and Titus, Bs	
27	Of the BVM	
28	THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	
29	Feria	
30	Feria	
31	S John Bosco, Pr	

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

January's Pastoral Letter from the Vicar

Ripe for the Call

The calendar and the festive period have this year conspired to present a number of practical and church-going challenges. Christmas Day and New Year's Day were Mondays, the preceding day, The Fourth Sunday of Advent, was also Christmas Eve, and New Year's Eve was the First Sunday of Christmas with the Feast of the Holy Name the following day. The Epiphany of the Lord, 6 January, is a Saturday, which means the following day we skip forward thirty years to the Baptism of the Lord, as always on the Sunday following.

The story of the Magi is a beautiful story for January and I have – apparently – succumbed in recent years to the temptation felt by many an artist or poet to say something new about it in these pages. Not so this year because its near neighbour – though not in chronological terms – the Baptism of Christ has something important and fundamental to say to us all who seek to follow Christ.

Alpine flowers bloom at the first touch of the spring sun. Why? Because they have been growing quietly under the crust of snow, and are just waiting for the door to be unlocked in order to burst out. They are ripe for the call of spring, ready to grow and blossom.

Jesus lived for thirty years at Nazareth. Why did he wait so long before beginning his public ministry? Was he merely idling his life away? Nothing could be further from the truth. A vocation requires a period of apprenticeship and formation. The profound experiences that shape a person's character, the things that make a person what he or she is, take time.

Jesus first of all lived a real and true life. He began by doing before he started to preach to others. He made sure his own garden was blooming before he set out to show others what to do with their gardens.

During the thirty years he spent at Nazareth, he had been growing quietly, growing in wisdom and grace. But all the while he was waiting for a call to something more important.

When the call (to begin his ministry) finally came it was no stranger to him. It was always in him, but he couldn't hurry it. He couldn't have done it earlier. The future has to enter into us long before it happens. 'When destiny comes to a man from within, from his innermost being, it makes him strong, it makes him a god' (*Hermann Hesse*).

The call was a call to the service of his brothers and sisters. Jesus was ripe for this call. And the moment was ripe. John the Baptist had started a movement of conversion towards God. A tide was flowing.

Baptism was the moment of decision. On the day of his baptism he said goodbye to his old life at Nazareth and committed himself irrevocably to the work he had been sent into the world to do, namely, to bring sinners back to God. From that moment on his life would never be the same. All his hidden qualities of care and love, which had been growing quietly like wheat in a field, now manifested themselves and were given full expression.

Most of us have known moments that have proved turning points in our lives. However, the direction our lives have taken may not be the result of some major decision, but of a series of little decisions. From time to time we need to look at the direction our lives have taken. A New Year is one of them, favoured by many though not always enduring. If we are not happy with the way things are going then we should try to change them.

At baptism we were pointed in a very specific direction, once and for all. In baptism we share in the life of God. In baptism we became disciples of Jesus. We are called to fight against evil, and to love one another.

We too are called to grow in wisdom and grace. It took Jesus thirty years to reach maturity and to acquire wisdom. It will take us a lifetime to grow, to mature, and to ripen as human beings and children of God.

May God give us the patience and strength to nurture into ripeness the seeds he sowed in us on the day of our spiritual birth, the day of our baptism.

Your sincere friend and parish priest,

Fr. Nicholas

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!



New Year Resolutions

Dear Friends,

Some years ago, as Rector of Wimborne Minster in Dorset, in celebration of our 1300th anniversary, I encouraged every member of the Church community to take vows of Christian commitment for the coming year. They were a sort of Christian New Year Resolutions.



The Minster, founded in 705 as a mission Church by the saxon St Cuthburga, offered the opportunity to make these promises in front of the Bishop. Almost 400 people undertook to live by the vows and this was a really important moment in our life together:

Inspired by the example of St Cuthburga,
I commit myself to live this year
as a disciple of Jesus Christ
guided by the Holy Spirit
to the glory of God the Father

I promise to

- Pray daily
- Read the Bible regularly
- Attend public worship faithfully
- Commend the Christian faith by word and deed
- Fashion my life according to the example of Christ
- Give and forgive as generously as God has given to and forgiven me
- Promote Christian Unity

You may want to adopt all or some of these promises as your New Year resolutions. Perhaps you might replace Cuthburga with your personal Christian heroine or hero, who inspires you in following Jesus.

With my love and prayers for 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' and 'H'.

+John

Produced by the Diocesan Office,
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Our Newly Confirmed

On a rainy Sunday afternoon, 26 November, the Feast of Christ the King, a good number of our congregation were at Christ Church on Wellingborough Road to witness and support our four Confirmation candidates.

Hector Cook, Donna Murphy, Jack Murphy and Katie Murphy were confirmed by the Honorary Assistant Bishop the Right Reverend Andrew Prout and received Holy Communion for the first time.

There were also candidates from Christ Church, SS Peter and Paul, and St George the Martyr, Wootton.



Back at St Matthew's on the following Sundays* we as a congregation welcomed the four and Fr Nicholas presented them each with a Confirmation Bible and a Crucifix, and of course, they received the usual St Matthew's round of applause.

**due to postal delays/errors they weren't all able to receive them at the same time...*

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



The Parish Church of St Matthew

Monday 1 January

THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

10.15am The Parish Mass



The Parish Church of St Matthew

Saturday 6 January

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

10.15am The Parish Mass
with the Offering of the Magi's Gifts



The Parish Church of St Matthew

Sunday 7 January

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

10.15am The Parish Mass



The Parish Church of St Matthew

EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 14 January
at 4.00pm



Huge hands on train
track
Whizz down the train
slide
Drive the ride on train
Dress up,
Craft and so much more

Only Children need a
ticket. Adults are free
Suitable for all ages



Relax while your
children play!
Single and double
sessions are available
Sibling discounts
£7.25 per session

NEW DESTINATION
We are stopping at
ST Matthews Church
Rooms

Saturday 24th February

Booking is essential
<https://trainmaster.co.uk/northamptonshire/>

Let's play trains!



Playing Jesus – Part 2

Harvey Edwards

‘Who with his fear is put besides his part’ (*Shakespeare*)

We consider here the actor’s ways and means, not just as performers but as researchers, thinkers and feelers. For example:

When Robert Hardy played Winston Churchill in the series *The Wilderness Years*, he read fifty books on the life of Churchill to help him reproduce Churchill’s life. Likewise when Kenneth Branagh was cast as Shakespeare’s Prince, Hamlet, he sought a private interview with King Charles. This all helps to establish a psychological profile of the part.

In playing Jesus, resources are limitless, ie commentaries, paintings, biographies, discussions with clergy and previous films (but not to copy) as an original interpretation would be preferable in order to portray the riches of his inner nature, that he is incarnate of the Holy Ghost whilst dramatizing his changing attitudes, projecting the mystery of faith etc; this would be exceedingly difficult for a non-Christian!

As a starting point my personal recommendation would be to read J C Ryle’s classic study *Holiness* because this is a difficult role to find the precise centre and to truly establish the overflowing zeal for the spiritual deliverance of his people.

Actors must be fully prepared on an immediate basis to bounce ideas off one another and the director, and make each scene form a spontaneous whole. There is often much discussion, criticism and disagreement.

Many scenes would be physical in nature; the sheer awkwardness of the presentation of the crucifixion is an outstanding example. However, scenes involving fewer or one or two characters create a totally different atmosphere.

It is the actor’s ability to alter the atmosphere that can make the Gospel story so intensely meaningful as it heightens the conflict within the drama!

American actors are more specific and direct with the lines. British often establish a more ironic approach, looking for comedy in drama and drama in comedy. In any role, no matter how outstanding, even one garlanded with awards, an actor can only convince roughly eighty per cent of the audience as he attempts to reproduce the life of Jesus hopefully into the lives of others.

Rehearsals in the theatre are usually tentative at first, the actor feeling his way gradually as the cast interact, that is three steps forwards and two steps back in a rough beginning, but smoother rehearsals emerge as greater familiarity develops. Costume is often worn in rehearsal as the cast take risks because the process they're involved with is not an exact science but a highly sensory craft.

Marlon Brando described it thus: "You must be convincing enough to make dishonesty seem like honesty!"

A constant striving towards perfection perhaps.



There's no escaping it...

Yes, a Significant Big Birthday will get you in the end and it happened to an embarrassed Fr Nicholas in December.

He was forced to endure the customary habit of being sung to in church with organ accompaniment, but when he admitted that he was 60 and Cate shouted out "You don't look it!" – much to everyone's amusement – it did help to soften the blow.

He also received a *Dad's Army* card, which he opened later in the Parish Centre, and large cake had been made specially; Fr Nicholas cut the first slice (he should take lessons from the King!) and then it was shared out amongst those assembled to wish him well.



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 FEBRUARY magazine is SUNDAY 14 JANUARY

Editor: Dorrie Parker

Layout and production: Gary Drinkwater

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01604 619285



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

Weekday Scripture Readings for January

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	Deuteronomy 30 [1-10] 11-end	Acts 3.1-16
Tuesday	2 nd	Isaiah 66.6-14	Matthew 12.46-50
Wednesday	3 rd	Deuteronomy 6.4-15	John 10.31-end
Thursday	4 th	Isaiah 63.7-16	Galatians 3.23-4.7
Friday	5 th	Isaiah 49.1-13	John 4.7-26
Saturday	6 th	Isaiah 60.1-9	John 2.1-11
Monday	8 th	Amos 1	1 Corinthians 1.1-17
Tuesday	9 th	Exodus 17.1-7	Acts 8.26-end
Wednesday	10 th	Exodus 15.1-19	Colossians 2.8-15
Thursday	11 th	Zechariah 6.9-15	1 Peter 2.4-10
Friday	12 th	Isaiah 51.7-16	Galatians 6.14-18
Saturday	13 th	Leviticus 16.11-22	Hebrews 10.19-25
Monday	15 th	1 Kings 17.8-16	Mark 8.1-10
Tuesday	16 th	1 Kings 19.1-9a	Mark 1.9-15
Wednesday	17 th	1 Kings 19.9b-18	Mark 9.2-13
Thursday	18 th	Leviticus 11.1-8, 13-19, 41-45	Acts 10.9-16
Friday	19 th	Isaiah 49.8-13	Acts 10.34-43
Saturday	20 th	Genesis 35.1-15	Acts 10.44-end
Monday	22 nd	Ezekiel 37.15-end	John 17.1-19
Tuesday	23 rd	Ezekiel 20.39-44	John 17.20-end
Wednesday	24 th	Nehemiah 2.1-10	Romans 12.1-8
Thursday	25 th	Isaiah 56.1-8	Colossians 1.24-2.7
Friday	26 th	Leviticus 19.9-28	Romans 15.1-7
Saturday	27 th	Jeremiah 33.1-11	1 Peter 5.5b-end
Monday	29 th	Jonah 3	2 Corinthians 5.11-21
Tuesday	30 th	Proverbs 4.10-end	Matthew 5.13-20
Wednesday	31 st	Isaiah 61.1-9	Luke 7.18-30

32nd St Matthew's Multi-Aged Girlguiding

Mandy Ludlow

We have now finished for the Christmas holidays, and whilst Christmas these days seems to start before we get to the end of summer, because of how dates fall we start our Christmas activities in the middle of November. This year was no exception. As from 13 November we made Christmas cards and decorations, snowmen with lots of cotton wool, painted ceramics and stained glass window decorations amongst many others.



On 27 November we held an Awards and Promise evening, and we had girls from all sections making their Promise, the Guides being more nervous than the Rainbows. There were girls who left Rainbows going over the Rainbow into Brownies, and older girls moving along their Guiding journey from Brownies into Guides. Tea and mince pies were served by the Guides. We gave out a number of awards, amongst them "Brown Owl's Special Award" – this year it went jointly to a Brownie, Amara, and a Guide, Ruby. Amara joined us during lockdown on zoom meetings as a Rainbow, knowing no one else. She achieved her Rainbow Gold this year before moving to Brownies, where she quickly became a Brownie Buddy to Ellen. Whatever we are doing, whether it is collecting tins for the Hope Centre, doing badges at home or just on a normal Monday, Amara always goes above and beyond. Her joint recipient was Ruby – back at the latter half of 2022 when Ruby was a Brownie she became very ill which meant a 5+ month hospital stay. Out of the blue one Monday afternoon, imagine my surprise and delight to get a message saying "Would it be ok if Ruby came tonight?" By this time she had reached the age of 10 so came straight into Guides, made new friends and it was like she had never been away.

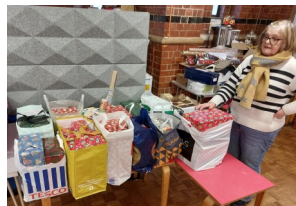


As is tradition we have an old-fashioned Christmas party with magician, food, and of course, a visit from the main man (no, not Fr Nicholas!). Whilst this is loved by the Rainbows and Brownies we wanted to do something different for the Guides. Pizza Hut was suggested. So, on 4 December we had the

Rainbow and Brownie party at the Parish Centre which finished at just after 7 o'clock, and the leaders then hot-footed it to Sixfields to meet the Guides. Pizza, salad, garlic bread and fries were enjoyed but the big hit was the unlimited ice cream and toppings – I think the staff filled the machine at least five times!



Each year we have a Christmas Elf Good Turn; in the past this has been the girls and leaders bringing in Christmas chocolate which we then take to the Hope Centre. However, this year my attention was brought to a small group based in St James Three Pillars. They feed the homeless, sofa surfers and the like twice a week on a Tuesday and Friday night, sometimes feeding between 80 and 100 people. They were appealing for shoe boxes and items to go in them; these boxes would be gift wrapped and then given out on 22 December and Boxing Day. For the recipients this would be their only Christmas gift. All the girls brought in items, nearly all of them bringing a completed shoebox. We also asked the congregation to help, which they did. We were hoping to be able to donate 12 boxes but when we had them all put together and wrapped, we had a staggering 38 boxes, so thank you to all who helped with this.



Since 2012 the Guides have made up Christmas Hampers, which Fr Nicholas then distributes to either members of the congregation or the parish who he thinks would benefit. They not only contain basic items such as tinned fruit, vegetables, soup etc, but we try and put some treats in too – chocolate, nice biscuits and the like. This year, as we knew that a couple of the boxes would be going to people on their own (we never know who receives them but sometimes we know if it is for a family or a single person), a small bottle of wine was included.



In just over two weeks from writing this article we will be welcoming in 2024, and so it only remains for me to wish you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful new year.



St James Three Pillars feeding the homeless and supporting the local community Christmas shoe box appeal

jo bradley <jofofinhabradley@yahoo.co.uk>
 Reply-To: jo bradley <jofofinhabradley@yahoo.co.uk>
 To: "79brownowl@gmail.com" <79brownowl@gmail.com>
 Cc: Info <info@vintagefishingtackle.co.uk>

Sat, Dec 16, 2023 at 10:12 AM

Good morning Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Leaders,

My name is Jo Silvestre and I am one of the managers at St James Three Pillars feeding the homeless and supporting the community to whom you recently gifted a large amount of shoe boxes for our Christmas appeal.

We wanted to say a massive thank you for your generous donation. These boxes will be gifted to the people who use our service over the Christmas period. People who otherwise probably won't receive a present because they are rough sleepers or sofa surfers or on a low income.

So a huge thank you and a Merry Christmas,

Kindest regards,

Jo Silvestre
 St James Three Pillars feeding the homeless and supporting the local community



CAFÉ GUIDES

*SERVING A VARIETY OF
 TEAS, COFFEE, AND
HOME MADE CAKES*

*BACON ROLLS &
 SAUSAGE SANDWICHES*

*COME AND VISIT US - SUNDAY
 14th JANUARY FOLLOWING THE
 10.15am SERVICE*

*We are now able to take card
 payments*



Café Guides Recipe for January

January is the time of year when we look in the cupboard and fridge and find opened or at least half jars of this and that lurking. This is a good way to use up the last of the mincemeat. They have oats in, so they must be healthy! Just the thing on a dreary January afternoon with a cup of tea.

Mince Pie Crumble Bars

Ingredients

- 175 g rolled oats
- 200 g plain flour
- 150 g light brown soft sugar
- 175 g unsalted butter (cold and cubed) – or whatever you have in the fridge
- ½ tsp baking powder



Method

- 1) Preheat the oven to 200°C/180°F and line a 9"x9" square tin with parchment paper
- 2) In a large bowl, add the rolled oats, plain flour, light brown soft sugar, baking powder and unsalted butter
- 3) Rub the ingredients together with your fingers until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs and there are no large lumps of butter left
- 4) Pour 500g of the oatly crumble mix into the lined tin and press down firmly
- 5) Pour the mincemeat onto the base crumble and spread
- 6) Sprinkle over the rest of the crumble mix
- 7) Bake the bars in the oven for 30+ minutes, or until golden and beautiful
- 8) Leave the bars to cool fully before portioning. Refrigerating them can sometimes make this easier.

Church Crawling no.7

Fabian Robertson

Church Cats – Church Mice

On the side of our cheeseboard (shown here) is a carved mouse, a delightful wedding present in 1978. Recently thoughts went around in my head of stories in the media of pet mice and cats being abandoned, having been given as Christmas presents. On a long weekend to Yorkshire and thereabouts with the Friends of Northampton Museum, a friend asked whether I had noticed the carved mouse whilst kneeling at the altar rail of the Chapel of the East Yorkshire Regiment in Beverly Minster. I hadn't – so a retracing of steps to have a look.



*Cheeseboard by
Robert (Mouseman) Thompson
of Yorkshire*

The story goes that Robert (Mouseman) Thompson 1876-1955, who lived in Kilburn, North Yorkshire, set up there a business manufacturing objects which featured a carved mouse on almost every piece of woodwork. It is claimed that the mouse motif came about accidentally in 1919 following a conversation about 'being as poor as a church mouse' which took place between Thompson and one of his colleagues during the carving of the cornice for a church screen.



Altar rail in Beverly Minster

Examples of his work in churches are dotted throughout the land. Perhaps they can be found in Northamptonshire? He made household furniture too from small items like the cheeseboard to large wardrobes with the mouse ever present.

Unfortunately, mice in churches can do severe damage not only to fabrics like vestments, but also to books. This picture comes from the historic library of Salisbury Cathedral where a whole mummified mouse was found inside an ancient leatherbound book.



*Salisbury Cathedral Historic Library –
an unexpected page!*

A mouse that was squashed by 19th-century pupils at the Cathedral School in a Latin textbook that was published in 1684. MATT CARMY VIA GETTY IMAGES

Sir John Betjeman in his poem *Diary of a Church Mouse* puts damage in a lighter vein (*part extract*):

Here among long-discarded cassocks,
Damp stools, and half-split open hassocks,
Here where the Vicar never looks
I nibble through old service books.
Lean and alone I spend my days
Behind this Church of England baize.
I share my dark forgotten room
With two oil-lamps and half a broom.
The cleaner never bothers me,
So here I eat my frugal tea.
My bread is sawdust mixed with straw;
My jam is polish for the floor.

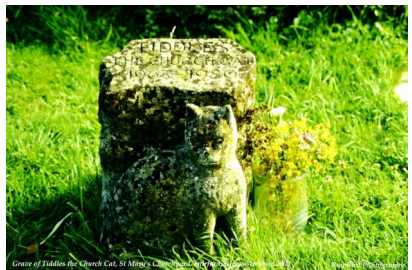
Church Cats

My church crawling group visited the outstandingly fine church of St Mary the Virgin in the Gloucestershire village of Fairford. A local church guide met us at the churchyard gate. He told us that St Mary's is a superb example of Perpendicular style and possesses what is probably the most complete set of medieval stained glass in Britain, a testimony to the wealth of the medieval wool trade in the Cotswolds. After this gent's short speech he led us into the church. "By the way," he said "Some of you may be interested in an unusual grave by the West door."



St Mary the Virgin, Fairford

The church website tells us that Tiddles was for 17 years the tabby cat of this famous church. She was resident from 1963 until her death in 1980. Having befriended the verger and his wife, she stayed on and became a firm favourite, attending services regularly and sitting on the knees of willing members of the congregation. A local stonemason, Peter Juggins, felt that when she died she deserved a memorial at least as much as some of the people who already had one ("more in some cases" said a commentator) – so he carved one which stands outside the church porch. Apparently the vacancy was filled by another cat – Tiddles 2!



The grave of Tiddles in St Mary's churchyard, Fairford, Gloucestershire

Richard (Dick) Whittington, four times Mayor of London comes to mind. In 1423 he was buried in the churchyard of St Michael's Church, Paternoster Royal in the City of London. Today it is the Missions to Seafarers Church. One of the stained glass windows there is of him with his cat.

He is also remembered in Westminster Abbey, and the photograph here shows part of a window in the Abbey where the cat is very prominent.

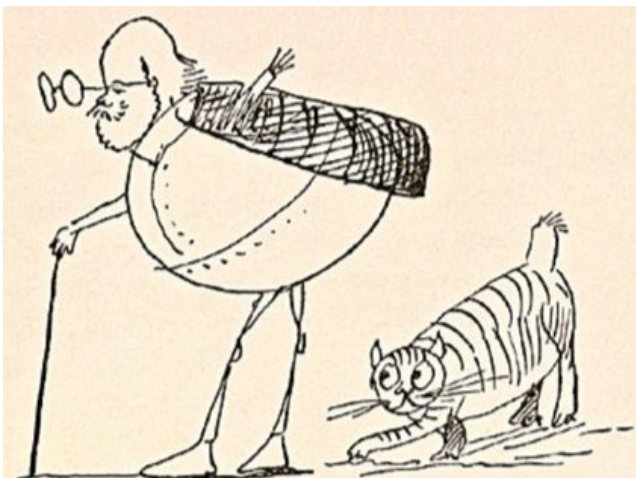


Dick Whittington's cat

Dorkins, the cat of Southwark Cathedral, must get a look-in as he was admired by the late Queen in 2013. When Dorkins died in 2020 he was succeeded by the present feline called Hodge. Larry, the much-publicised cat living at 10 Downing Street doesn't qualify for this article as there has never been a chapel in the Prime Minister's London house.

A favourite pet in our family was a ginger marmalade tomcat we had for 17 years. We called him Foss after the cat called Foss loved by Christian academic, artist, and limerick writer Edward Lear (see his *Book of Nonsense*). Lear's cat also died aged 17 years in San Remo and had a large tombstone to mark his life. Lear himself died two months later in January 1888.

He has many friends, laymen and clerical,
Old Foss is the name of his cat;
His body is perfectly spherical,
He weareth a runcible hat.



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

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

Number **16**, held by **Ian Rivett**



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

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WILD BIRDS

BUDGIES

PARROTS

Scrabble Group

As the first Monday of January is New Year's Day, St Matthew's next get-together of its 'Happy Scrabblers' will be on Monday 5 February (it's always the first Monday of the month).



We gather in the garden room of the Parish Centre for refreshments at 1.45pm, aiming for a prompt start at 2.00pm and a finish at 4.00pm.

We would like YOU to come along and join us too for good fellowship and an enjoyable afternoon with other friends from St Matthew's.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE GOOD! – er... referring to skill at scrabble that is, not decorum – we leave that for Fr Nicholas to guide us all with... It's a great way to get to know each other and make friends, especially if you're fairly new to St Matthew's, apart from the enjoyment of playing scrabble. We each pay £4 for the afternoon to help pay for the rental of the room and refreshments etc (any profit goes to St Matthew's of course). Do come along and enjoy, you'll be most welcome.

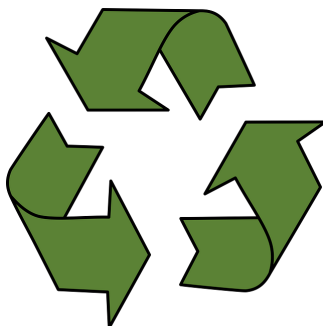
Warmth in Christian fellowship
Tony Day

Don't forget...

Hopefully you'll have saved all those postage stamps from your Christmas card envelopes? Now you just need to remember to bring them into church – there's a box in the bookstall area in church in which to put them.

And don't forget that we collect stamps to recycle for Charity all through the year.

Thank you for your contributions!



Scripture Cake

This recipe, contributed by Olive Stirling, is taken from the Northamptonshire WI original Recipe Book printed in 1933.

It's a bit of fun – don't know if anyone would be able to cope with the challenge!

	<i>Book</i>	<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Verse</i>
4½ cups of	1 Kings	4	22
1½ cups of	Judges	5	25
2 cups of	Jeremiah	6	20
2 cups of	1 Samuel	30	12
2 cups of	Nahum	3	12
1 cup of	Numbers	17	8
2 tablespoons of	1 Samuel	14	25
Season to taste	2 Chronicles	9	9
1 pinch of	Leviticus	2	13
6 oz of	Jeremiah	17	11
½ cup of	Judges	4	19
2 teaspoons of	Amos	4	5



St Matthew's Church

Christmas Fayre



St Matthew's Christmas Fayre 2023

Denise and Nick Bailey

What a heart-warming sight it was to see so many families packed into St Matthew's on Friday, 8 December for this year's Christmas Fayre.

As Fr Nicholas said: "You cannot put a price on that."

Our job is to make the Christmas Fayre a special community event for our parishioners, their children and their grandchildren.

Thanks to everyone who donated their time, money and energy into making it such a success. We raised an amazing £2,413 at a time when money is tight and attendances are falling.

Our parishioners came, stayed, and enjoyed our games, our food and drinks. They saw Santa Claus, sang with our wonderful choir and left happy – laden with gifts, prizes, choccies, drinks, and our goodwill.

Well done all. A fantastic team effort.



The Parish Church of St Matthew

Friday 2 February

CANDLEMAS

**The Presentation of Christ
in the Temple**

7.30pm The Parish Mass





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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).

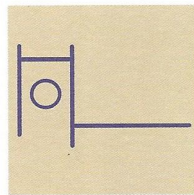
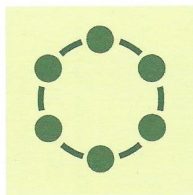
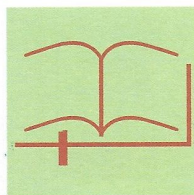
There are two methods of payment available: by a banker's direct debit or by weekly-numbered envelopes via the collection plate. The amount that you give is entirely confidential and is known only to the lay people who administer the Scheme.

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@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk>

Tel. 01604 846074



TM

PARISH GIVING SCHEME

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

Churchwardens	Gary Drinkwater churchwarden@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk Dave Wilson churchwarden@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
PCC Secretary	Sarah Oughton pcc-secretary@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
PCC Treasurer	Donald Cran treasurer@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

St Matthew's Trust

Ben Drouet
chairman@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Particular Responsibility

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

Music Department

Director of Music	Tom Moore music@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
Parish Organist	Jonathan Stamer
Friends of St Matthew's Music	Keith Hirst friends@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Walsingham Cell

Cell Secretary	Dave Wilson walsingham@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
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