

St Matthew's **MAIL**

**Suggested
Donation**

£1.00

News from the Parish of Kingsley, Northampton

APRIL 2025



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 April

<i>Date</i>	<i>Observance</i>	<i>Intention</i>
1	Feria	Our armed forces and their families
2	Feria	Our parish Lent Course
3	Feria	Gaza and the Middle East
4	Feria	Ecumenical Stations of the Cross
5	Feria	Those dependant of welfare
6	THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Passiontide begins)	
7	Feria	The Ministry of Healing
8	Feria	A just peace in Ukraine
9	Feria	Our preparations for Holy Week
10	Feria	Ecumenical Stations of the Cross
11	Monthly Requiem	The Faithful Departed
12	Of OLW	The Society and Shrine of OLW
HOLY WEEK		
13	PALM SUNDAY	
14	Monday of Holy Week) Keeping company
15	Tuesday of Holy Week) with Christ in Jerusalem
16	Wednesday of Holy Week) through prayer and worship
THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM		
17	MAUNDY THURSDAY	
18	GOOD FRIDAY	
19	HOLY SATURDAY	
20	EASTER DAY	
21	Monday of Easter Week) Thanksgiving for the
22	Tuesday of Easter Week) Resurrection of
23	Wednesday of Easter Week) Our Lord Jesus Christ
24	Thursday of Easter Week) from the dead
25	Friday of Easter Week)
26	Saturday of Easter Week)
27	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER	
28	S George, M, Patron of England	For the Royal Family
29	S Catherine of Siena, V, Dr	For our theological colleges and courses
30	Feria	For Kingsley Primary School

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

April Pastoral Letter from the Vicar – part 1

Palm Sunday – witnessing to Christ in public

On Palm Sunday Jesus' disciples openly acknowledged their belief in him and loyalty to him. What made their display of support all the more praiseworthy was the fact that it was carried out in the teeth of bitter opposition from the Pharisees. When some Pharisees came to Jesus to protest he said, "If they kept silent, the very stones would cry out."

There are occasions when a public demonstration is called for. This was one of them. It was the only time that Jesus accepted something akin to hero-worship from the people. He knew that his disciples had a right and a need to express publicly their belief in him. But one has a doubt about the commitment to those disciples. Not that one doubts their sincerity. But it was a mass response, and a mass response is often more loud and deep.

It's easy to witness to Jesus in church. We are among our own. But it's not so easy to witness to him out in an indifferent and sometimes hostile world.

There are times when we too need to profess our faith in Jesus publicly. And there are times when the occasion cries out for it.

The stones will not speak out. Only humans can do that. Let us not remain silent when a word cries out to be said: a word of support in defence of someone who is being treated unjustly; a word of praise to someone whose contribution is being forgotten; a word of truth when deliberate lies are being told. But it's not easy to speak out. It's far easier and safer to stay silent.

So let us be careful while we profess our faith in Christ in church, that we do not ignore him or deny him in the marketplace. Christ says to us, "Anyone who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven."

We can draw inspiration from the first disciples of Jesus. They are revealed in the Gospels as people who were not afraid to admit their doubts, their needs, their lack of faith. Yet on the first Palm Sunday they were strong and bold in their witness to Jesus.

May the Lord take pity on us, his timid and fearful disciples, and give us courage so that our lives may bear witness to the faith we profess with our lips. May that faith, that witness be our companion as we journey through the climactic events Holy Week and rediscover the meaning of life.

Your sincere friend and parish priest,

Start where you are

Nothing seems to have caused more upset over recent months than the meeting in the Oval Office between the President of the United States (and his entourage) and the President of Ukraine. Personally, I found it very painful to watch, but what can I do? Perhaps we are too often left in total frustration or helpless anger as world-shaping news seeps into the security of our living rooms. Here's the good news: Just because you can't change everything doesn't mean you can't change anything.



When I was a curate in Bristol Diocese, the former Archbishop of York, Stuart Blanch, visited the curates and asked how many of us were working in large parishes. Many of us dutifully raised our hands. He said, "Just because you can't visit everybody doesn't mean that you can't visit anybody." That principle is true in a number of areas of life. Just because you cannot bring peace to the Middle East or to Ukraine, does not mean that you cannot work for peace in your family, or amongst your work colleagues, or in your community, or even in your church. Start where you are.

When Jesus left his disciples, he told them to begin changing the world where they were (in Jerusalem) and then move on from there, to the ends of the earth. That's great advice. Start where you are. In the 6th Century BC, the Chinese philosopher, Lao Tzu, said, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." Take that single step. However helpless we feel when watching the news and however appalled we are at the conduct of leaders, we can start to make a difference where we are.

Jesus said, "If you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded." Most of us can manage a cup of cold water. Start where you are and, in this year of prayer, surround your action in prayer. Like the young boy at the 'Feeding of the Five Thousand', put your offering into Jesus's hands and watch him do extraordinary things.



The Venerable Richard Ormston
Archdeacon of Northampton

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St Matthew's Beavers, Cubs and Scouts Chilly Camp

Hedgehog (Sandra Rivett)

Our Beaver mascots Jim Bob, Jefferey Junior and Jessica Jelli were joined by 12 Beavers, 9 Cubs, 7 Scouts, 2 Young Leaders, 4 Beaver Leaders, Akela, and 3 Scout Leaders for our annual Chilly/Brass Monkey camp at

Overstone Scout Activity Centre over the weekend of 31 January to 2 February 2025.

The Cubs and Scouts were staying two nights, arriving at 6.30pm on Friday evening. The Beavers arrived at 10am on Saturday morning. Camp finished on Sunday at 2pm after Reflection and our AGM.

As it was Chinese New Year, that was our theme for the weekend. The young people and leaders enjoyed Chinese food, including steamed buns which went down very well with jam and honey, and homemade noodle soup for Saturday lunch.

Some young people had a problem with this – no worries, we always have plenty of sandwich supplies, crisps and fruit for such occasions, but we always encourage our young people to try new things. Homemade sweet and sour chicken, chow mein and egg fried rice was well received with just a couple of Beavers objecting.



The young people were kept busy with plenty of activities as we are supported by an excellent leadership team. Mr Badger, Akela, Cricket and Hedgehog stayed the whole time with Wolverine doing two nights and part days as she was also working that weekend (that's dedication), Fox and Rabbit arrived Saturday morning and stayed Saturday night, and Raccoon came daily. Father Nicholas visited on Sunday afternoon and seemed impressed with our young people and their activities.



There was a wide game played by the Cubs and Scouts on the Friday evening and again by the Beavers Saturday afternoon. They had to find numbered red envelopes and then learnt about the Chinese New Year and some Scouting history. It's the Year of the Snake, just in case you were wondering.

All of us made tie-dye activity T-shirts which turned out excellently. The young people had a go at archery and, of course, Roy's Challenge. We didn't do the climbing wall because it was cold and wet and we decided it wasn't the safest of activities. Of course, all Beavers and Cubs love to hunt for golf balls which are in abundance from the golf course next to us (there must be some pretty rubbish golfers because I've been going to Overstone for 30 years or more and there are always plenty to find). I played a game with my Beavers and told them they won't be able to go home unless they find a golf ball and they always find one.



We made Chinese dragons with coloured card and lolly sticks, Chinese lanterns, and the Beavers coloured and decorated paper plates. Akela did a History of Overstone tour. Cricket and Hedgehog managed once again to make a campfire from wet wood but we did have to resort to cotton wool and Vaseline to get it started. We all had a lovely sing-along around the campfire on Saturday evening before watching Kung Fu Panda on DVD with hot chocolate and popcorn.

The Knights Lodge building can accommodate 24 young people and four leaders. The Beavers and Cubs stayed in the bunk rooms while Akela, Hedgehog, Fox and Rabbit were in the leaders' rooms. Mr Badger was in his camper van, Cricket slept in his tent while the Scouts and Young Leaders camped in tents on the adjacent site.



Wolverine was inside on Friday night and camped out on Saturday night. She was very cross early Sunday morning as she couldn't get into Knights Lodge for a shower and coffee before work. Hedgehog had locked the doors because the Scouts had decided to play football in the main hall of the building at 6am the day before. Akela was not happy! Hedgehog was very impressed that 11 Beavers slept right through the night with no problems.



Rabbit organised a lovely Sunday morning sing-along with Chinese music and songs for the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

The Young Leaders and Cricket organised a crazy game of football in the top field afterwards, but Hedgehog and Rabbit took the Beavers back to Knights Lodge because they looked a bit fatigued. We had milk and biscuits and coloured in pictures of Jim Bob and Jessica Jelly that Hedgehog had drawn.

Lots of awards were given out after Reflection with five Beavers receiving their first Nights Away, a Cub receiving his Chief Scouts Silver Award and two Scouts receiving their Chief Scouts Gold Award.

It was a fun-packed exhausting weekend, but with lots of smiling faces and chattering young people with muddy boots and grubby hands, missing socks and lost toothbrushes. The usual camping frolics, friendships and random acts of kindness with everyone looking out for each other, all happy to be outdoors in the fresh air with no worries or cares for a little while at least.

After the AGM and the last young person had departed, the clean-up began. The lost property was collected up and the tea-towels bagged up for washing. Knights Lodge fell silent. A deer was spotted wandering through the woods by the stream. Birds singing in the early afternoon sunshine. Let's go home.



A COURSE FOR THE CHRISTIAN JOURNEY

Six Lent Group Meetings

Wednesdays 2pm – 3.30pm

Venue: Parish Centre Garden Room

The Pilgrim Course approaches issues of faith, not through persuasion, but by participation in a pattern of reflection and discussion in the company of a small group of fellow travellers.

We are following the Course module ‘Church and Kingdom’

What does it mean to live as a child of the kingdom of God and follow in the way of Christ each day as a member of his Church? How does it affect our life at work as well as at home? How does it affect what we do with the gifts we have been given, especially those gifts of time and talents, passions, resources and money? How does it affect our relationships with others? And how does it affect our relationship with the world? How is the Christian faith changing us and shaping us so that we become more like Jesus?

The remaining Sessions

Wednesday 2 April Session Four: In all my Relationships

In this session we are looking at how faith in the God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit shapes and changes all our relationships.

Wednesday 9 April Session Five: Confronting the injustices of the World

In this session we are looking at how the Christian life requires us to be involved in the affairs of the world and to witness to God’s kingdom of peace and justice every day.

Wednesday 16 April Session Six: Treading lightly on the Earth

In this session we are looking at our relationship with the Earth itself.

Further details about the Lent Group are on the weekly Pew Sheet and Parish Website

Easter Flowers

Sarah Oughton

The presence of fresh flowers in churches on Easter Sunday is significant because they represent new life, and symbolise the new life given to Jesus when he rose from the dead.

They are a very welcome sight after the solemnity of Lent when there are no flowers in church.

The traditional Easter flower is the lily; it takes its roots back to the Ryukyu Islands in Southern Japan, and was first introduced to England in 1819.



The Easter lily is the shape of a trumpet which recalls the trumpet of the Angel Gabriel. It is a symbol of peace, purity, grace, hope, rebirth and new beginnings.

In Pagan traditions the Easter lily is associated with motherhood and is often gifted to mothers as a symbol of gratitude.

Easter flowers can be bright, fresh yellow with vivid tones of spring flowers, blue, red, orange, cerise and purple, representing the beauty and abundance of life emerging from the winter. They can symbolise the Son of God's triumph of life over death.

To make our church looking beautiful for Easter we will need donations.

Please think about giving what you can, and your very welcome donation can be given directly to me, one of the Churchwardens, or put into a clearly labelled envelope and put in the donation box in church or posted

through the Parish Centre letterbox. Cash is easiest, but a cheque made out to 'St Matthew's PCC' is also acceptable. Please say also if you are able to Gift Aid your donation. *Thank you.*



April Pastoral Letter from the Vicar – part 2

Easter morning – standing at the grave

On Easter morning the women went to the tomb where Jesus had been buried. They had a sad task to perform – to complete the embalming of his body. But that was not the only reason they were going to the tomb. They wanted to be near the one who had filled their lives, and whose death plunged them into an inconsolable grief.

We've often done the same thing ourselves. When someone we love dies, we find it hard to accept that he/she is gone from us for ever. We feel a need to maintain a link with the one who died. One of the ways we meet this need is by visits to the grave. However, far from easing the pain of our loss, this may exacerbate it. It tends to make the dead even more dead, because nowhere do we become so sure that our loved one is dead as at the grave.

If things had gone as expected that first Easter morning, the women would have embalmed the body of Jesus, closed the tomb again, and come away more convinced than ever that what happened on Friday was not a bad dream but a terrible reality. But things did not go according to plan.

At the tomb they meet two angels who said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen." It was to these faithful women disciples that the Easter message was first given: Jesus is not dead; he is alive. So they must not waste their time looking for him at the tomb.

All of us have stood forlornly in graveyards or cemeteries, where everything speaks of death. Yet it was precisely in such a place that the resurrection was first announced. It was fitting that it was here, where death seems to reign supreme, that the good news of Jesus' resurrection was first announced.

Through the voice of the liturgy, the same message is given to us: Do not look for your loved one in the grave. He/she is not there. Jesus overcame death, not just for himself, but for all of us. He is the first to rise from the dead, but we will follow him. For a Christian, then, there is no such thing as death in the sense of final extinction. Our dead are not dead. They are alive, and live a more real and beautiful life than ours. And they are not far from us. Those who die in grace go no further from us than God, and God is very near.

Let us continue to pray for our dead in case they still need our help. And let us continue to visit the graveyard or cemetery if it helps to keep their memory alive. But let us not look for them there. And if sadness persists in our hearts, because of what happened on Easter morning, a quiet hope is mingled with our sadness.

Your sincere friend and parish priest,

F. Nicholas

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 April

14 April (Holy Week – no meeting)

28 April Speaker: Kathy Hobbs –

The work of Akamba Children's Education Fund

The full Spring/Summer 2025 programme is on our website:
Click on the 3-bar menu, go to Information & Visiting
and then St Matthew's Ladies Group

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 MAY magazine is SUNDAY 13 APRIL

Editor: Dorrie Parker

Layout and production: Gary Drinkwater

HOLY WEEK

NB Morning and Evening Prayer are said each weekday at 9.00am and 5.30pm respectively. Entry is via the sacristy door.

Palm Sunday

9.30am The Palm Liturgy, Procession of Palms, and Mass of the Passion
5.30pm Service of Penitence and Forgiveness

Monday

7.30pm Mass with homily and hymns
c 8.15pm Liturgical rehearsal for Maundy Thursday

Tuesday

7.30pm Mass with homily and hymns
c 8.15pm Liturgical rehearsal for Good Friday

Wednesday

9.30am Mass with homily and hymns
10.15am Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) in Lady Chapel
2.00-3.30pm Parish Lent Course (in Garden Room)
7.30pm The Vigil Office of Tenebrae

THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Maundy Thursday

7.30pm The Liturgy of the Last Supper
Watch at the Altar of Repose until midnight
(Please come and go via the north door facing Collingwood Road)

Good Friday

6.00am Resumption of the Watch
9.00am Morning Prayer with Prayers at the Foot of the Cross
10.30am Stations of the Cross for all ages
2.00pm The Solemn Liturgy

Holy Saturday

9.00am Morning Prayer
9.30am Church cleaning and preparation of our spiritual home for Easter
2.00pm Liturgical rehearsal for the Vigil
8.00pm The Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter

Easter Day

10.15am The Parish Mass of the Resurrection
5.30pm Solemn Choral Evensong and Benediction

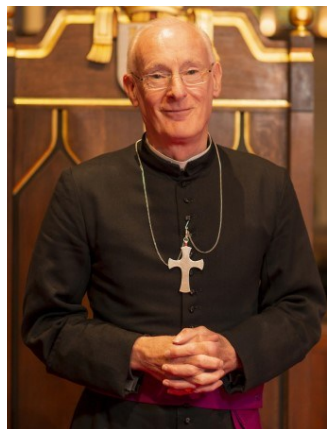
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Easter Bank Holiday

3.00pm Organ Recital given by Tom Moore, Director of Music
Programme includes works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Herbert Howells, Henri Mulet and Louis Vierne

The Easter Triduum – a visiting preacher

The Triduum, or The Three Great Days of Easter from Maundy Thursday until Easter, contains the most significant acts of Christian worship set within Holy Week, the most important week of the year. This year, I am delighted to inform you that Bishop Peter Eagles, formally Bishop of Sodor and Man 2017-2023, and now retired and living in Walsingham, will be with us during this precious time, and preaching at each of the liturgies. Bishop Peter will be joined by his wife Gail.



Bishop Peter Eagles was educated at the Royal Grammar School, an all-boys private school in Guildford, Surrey. He studied German and Russian at King's College, London, and graduated in 1982 with a first class degree. He went on to become an assistant master at Tonbridge School, and also worked as a freelance translator. In 1986, he entered St Stephen's House, Oxford, to train for holy orders and study theology, graduating in 1989.

Bishop Peter was made a deacon at Pentecost that year by Graham Leonard, Bishop of London, at St Paul's Cathedral and ordained a priest the following Pentecost by Tom Butler, Bishop of Willesden, at his title church. From 1989 to 1992, he served his curacy at St Martin's Church, Ruislip.

On 27 January 1990, he was commissioned into the Royal Army Chaplains' Department of the British Army as a Chaplain to the Forces 4th Class (equivalent in rank to captain). He was promoted to Chaplain to the Forces 3rd Class (equivalent in rank to major) on 27 January 1998, and to Chaplain to the Forces 2nd Class on 5 September 2005 (equivalent in rank to lieutenant colonel). From 2007 to 2008, he was Chaplain of the Royal Military Chapel (Guards Chapel) at Wellington Barracks in London.

On 28 January 2008, Peter was promoted to Chaplain to the Forces 1st Class (equivalent in rank to colonel) and appointed an Assistant Chaplain General. On 28 July 2011, he was collated and licensed as the Archdeacon for the Army, the most senior Anglican chaplain in the British Army, during a service at Lambeth Palace Chapel; as such he was a member of the General Synod of the Church of England. From 2013 to 2014, he attended the Royal College of Defence Studies to prepare for further promotion. On 14 July 2014, he was appointed the Deputy Chaplain General (equivalent in rank to brigadier), thereby becoming the second most senior chaplain in the British Army.

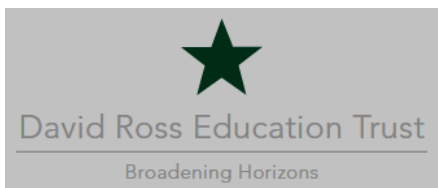
During his military career, Father Peter undertook multiple tours of duty. These included postings to Northern Ireland during The Troubles, with the United Nations in Kosovo, to Iraq as senior chaplain to the 12 Mechanised Brigade and to Helmand Province, Afghanistan as senior chaplain to the 16 Air Assault Brigade. He officially retired from the British Army on 6 July 2017.

Fr Peter was consecrated a bishop on 22 June 2017 during a service at York Minster, by John Sentamu, Archbishop of York. He was installed at the Cathedral Church of St German in Peel, Isle of Man on 30 September. As Bishop of Sodor and Man, he has an ex-officio seat on the Legislative Council of the Isle of Man which he took up upon his installation as bishop.

In March 2023, it was announced that Bishop Peter would retire as Bishop of Sodor and Man after six years in the post in October 2023. His farewell service was followed by the laying down of his crozier, symbolically ending his time as bishop.

An Opportunity...

Does being a School Governor interest you?



Victoria Linthwaite, Executive Assistant and Governance Officer for the David Ross Education Trust is encouraging people to join their Academy Scrutiny Committees as School Governors at their schools across Northamptonshire.

Being a Governor within a Multi Academy Trust is not like traditional school governance where Governors set budgets, write policy etc, it's more of a scrutinising and checking role. The commitment is fairly minimal (5 meetings a year, all in term time, with the occasional optional review panel) but volunteers get Board experience to put on their CV, networking opportunities both within education and with other Governors, as well as learning about finance, education, HR etc.

If this is something of interest to you, please contact Victoria at vlinthwaite@dret.co.uk for further information or visit www.dret.co.uk

Chippings from the Vicar's Work Bench

Live streaming of the Parish Mass

As you know, we have been live streaming Sunday morning worship since the beginning of the pandemic. Initially this took place from the vicarage, and thereafter, having introduced Wi-Fi and from the congregation's generosity having purchased the necessary equipment, from church. It was a spiritual lifeline to many at a desperate time, and has remained so for a group of people who are for various reasons unable to worship with us in person. The PCC is also alive to the evangelistic potential of streaming – a shop window with an invitation to come and see us.

From the outset, five years ago, Adam has been making this provision possible for us. He has done so virtually without a break. We are indebted to him. Adam has been promoted at work at a time of some upheaval to responsibility within the firm for whom he works. As a result, Adam needs to take a step back from the live streaming. At the time of writing it is likely that our live streaming will cease until further notice. You will understand that it is difficult to find someone not only with the technical proficiency required, but also who will reliably sustain a weekly commitment of this kind. We will explore other possibilities of course, though this may take some time. My apologies to those affected.

Paschal Candle

This year's Candle, wax relief, and delivery will cost approximately £120. The Paschal Candle is the symbol of the presence of the Risen Lord in his church, not only during the fifty days of Easter but throughout the liturgical year when lit for baptisms, funerals and other liturgies. If anyone would like to contribute toward this cost, perhaps in memory of a departed loved one, then please do so via the parish office. Thank you.

Preparations for our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

PCC members are reminded that we meet on Palm Sunday after the liturgy, in the Parish Centre for the Reports Meeting. This meeting is a legal requirement preparatory to the APCM at which reports are 'received' by the Council. Papers will be circulated in advance.

Pre-Easter Confessions

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated on the Wednesday of Holy Week after Mass, from 10.15am. Fr Nicholas will be available in the Lady Chapel from this time. Penitents are asked to come and go via the north door facing Collingwood Road and sit and wait in the middle of the nave well away from the Chapel. Thank you.

Watch at the Altar of Repose

'Will you not stay and watch with me for one hour?' With these words Jesus invites us on Maundy Thursday to keep watch with him in his sacramental presence in the Lady Chapel. A sheet is available in church to sign in order that we may be sure that at least two people are keeping the Watch at any one time. Do please consider your response to Christ's invitation at his time of greatest need.

Church Cleaning on Holy Saturday

As ever we will be cleaning and preparing our spiritual home for the Easter festival. Many hands really do make for lighter work, and I hope many of all ages will give of their time and join in this spiritually informed activity. We start after Morning Prayer at 9.30.

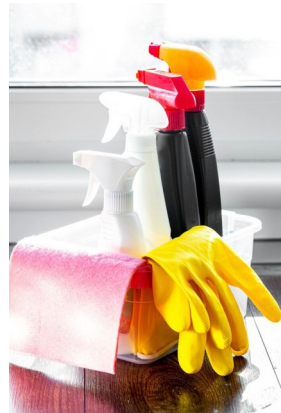
Our Spiritual Home

It's time to don those marigolds and

Clobber those Cobwebs,
Buff up the Brass,
and Polish the Pews

If you can spare an hour or two on
Holy Saturday morning
from 9.30am your help
will be much appreciated
to get our spiritual home
looking bright and clean
for Easter

Café Guides are setting
up stall with refreshments
to keep us all going



32nd St Matthew's Multi-Aged Girlguiding

Mandy Ludlow

We are already halfway through March and only have four weeks left of this term.

All four sections have been working on Skillsbuilders, Unit Meeting Activities and Interest Badges.

On the first night back after half term we marked World Thinking Day. This falls on 22 February, but as this was a Sunday we celebrated on the Monday. Using empty drinks bottles and cardboard stars, the Brownies made lanterns, into which they added battery operated tea lights. We invited parents in for the latter part of the evening when girls from all sections made their Promise – Georgina and Delia from Rainbows, Ava from Brownies, Orla and Rallicia from Guides, and lastly Alice and Jenna made their Promise as Rangers.

Ten Brownies received their Baking badge, and the girls and leaders were fortunate to sample the apple cake made by Amara. Rainbows, not to be outdone, also did baking at home and many of them received a 'Star Baker' badge.

Annually Brown Owl's special award is presented, and for 2024 this was awarded to a Brownie, Juniper.

Since the beginning of February we have been joined by two new leaders. Sienna is working with Guides and the girls absolutely love her; she is just 19 so relates to the girls, more than us 'oldies'. Already she has finished Media Critic badge and worked on a number of Skillsbuilders and Unit Meeting Activities. Some of the Guides are well on their way to achieving their Bronze Award. Our second new leader is Georgina, who is helping Paula with Brownies. Georgina was working with another unit before coming to Northampton with work, so has been able to give us lots of new ideas.

Rangers basically run themselves and make their own decisions; one of the activities they chose was to fabric paint tote bags. They have spent a number of weeks on these, firstly marking out the design in pencil before carefully painting. They have done a really good job.

As has previously been written about during the winter months (from when we change the clocks in October to Easter) we do hot snacks. Some of our girls have little to eat at home between school lunch and breakfast club the next day. We have an assortment of snacks, sausage rolls, pizza, toast,

crumpets, with milk or hot chocolate. As we were meeting the day before Shrove Tuesday we enjoyed pancakes with lemon and sugar or golden syrup. Some of the girls thought they could have sugar AND golden syrup – unfortunately for them the leaders said No! Can you imagine parents trying to get the girls to bed!

Each term the leaders try and get together socially, and in February we went out for an Indian meal at the Imran, which we all enjoyed. It also gave us time to talk about what we would like to do in coming weeks and outings the girls might like.

Café Guides will not be working in April as it is the Easter holidays. However, they will be providing refreshments for those who are helping with Church cleaning on Holy Saturday.



Café Guides Recipe for April

Perfect for a dinner party, with its rich and tasty sauce. Also for Easter Sunday lunch. Serve with buttered baby new potatoes and tenderstem broccoli. Monkfish is expensive and not always readily available, so this can be substituted with any firm white fish.

Serves 6

Monkfish Fillets with Mushroom and Bacon Sauce

Ingredients

- 6 x 5oz monkfish fillets – or similar firm white fish
- 3 tbsp plain flour
- 2 tbsp oil
- A knob of butter
- 6 rashers of smoked streaky bacon, cut into small pieces
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 7 oz button mushrooms, halved
- 7 floz full fat crème fraîche
- Juice of ½ lemon
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- 3 tbsp chopped parsley
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method

- 1) Preheat the oven to 200°C/180°C fan/gas mark 6 and line a baking tray with baking paper.
- 2) Season the fish fillets with salt and pepper. Sprinkle the flour onto a plate and dust the fish until fully coated, shaking off any excess flour.
- 3) Place a frying pan over a high heat, add the oil and butter, and when the butter is foaming, add the fillets and fry for 2-3 minutes until the fish is sealed and lightly golden, turning once. Transfer to the prepared baking tray and pour over the buttery juices from the pan. Roast in the oven for 8-10 minutes until still firm and the flesh has turned white and is cooked through.
- 4) Meanwhile, wipe the frying pan (to remove any traces of flour so they don't catch) and add the bacon. Fry over a high heat until crisp, then

transfer to a plate. Tip in the oven and fry for 3 minutes, then cover, reduce the heat to medium and cook for a further 5 minutes until soft. Remove the lid, turn up the heat, add the mushrooms and fry for a few minutes, stirring constantly until golden.

- 5) Add the crème fraiche, lemon juice and mustard with half the cooked bacon and half the chopped parsley. Bring to the boil and allow to boil for a few minutes until the sauce is reduced and thickened slightly, then season to taste with salt and pepper.
- 6) Slice the fillets into three and arrange on a plate, spoon over the sauce and garnish with the reserved bacon and parsley.

Friends of St Matthew's Music 100+ Club

Congratulations to the lucky winner of £50 in our MARCH draw —
Number **82**, held by **David Waller**



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

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



Weekday Scripture Readings for April

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.



Tuesday	1	Jeremiah 13.12-19	Acts 13.26-35
Wednesday	2	Jeremiah 13.20-27	1 Peter 1.17–2.3
Thursday	3	Jeremiah 22.11-19	Luke 11.37-52
Friday	4	Jeremiah 17.1-14	Luke 6.17-26
Saturday	5	Ezra 1	2 Corinthians 1.12-19
Monday	7	Joel 2.12-17	2 John
Tuesday	8	Isaiah 58.1-14	Mark 10.32-45
Wednesday	9	Job 36.1-12	John 14.1-14
Thursday	10	Jeremiah 9.17-22	Luke 13.31-35
Friday	11	Lamentations 5.1-3, 19-22	John 12.20-26
Saturday	12	Job 17.6-end	John 12.27-36
Monday	14	Lamentations 2.8-19	Colossians 1.18-23
Tuesday	15	Lamentations 3.40-51	Galatians 6.11-end
Wednesday	16	Isaiah 63.1-9	Revelation 14.18–15.4
Thursday	17	Exodus 11	Ephesians 2.11-18
Friday	18	Lamentations 5.15-end	Colossians 1.18-23
Saturday	19	Job 19.21-27	1 John 5.5-12
Monday	21	Isaiah 54.1-14	Romans 1.1-7
Tuesday	22	Isaiah 51.1-11	John 5.19-29
Wednesday	23	Isaiah 26.1-19	John 20.1-10
Thursday	24	Isaiah 43.14-21	Revelation 1.4-end
Friday	25	Isaiah 42.10-17	1 Thessalonians 5.1-11
Saturday	26	Job 14.1-14	John 21.1-14
Monday	28	Isaiah 43.1-7	John 15.1-8
Tuesday	29	Ezekiel 1.4-14	2 Timothy 4.1-11
Wednesday	30	Hosea 5.15–6.6	1 Corinthians 15.1-11

A Damp Day Trip

Gary Drinkwater

As you will have read in my article last month, I don't seem to have much luck with the weather on my days out. It was a windy, wet morning when thirty-two of us left for the Cotswolds. This time, however, we were on a modern coach with heating, so no blankets required, just scarves and umbrellas when in the open.

Our prime destination was Donnington Brewery, a mile away from Stow-on-the-Wold, which was our first stop. We had forty minutes to pass here, twenty minutes of which some of us spent looking for a pub that sold beer. A few were open but only for soft drinks as their licences didn't allow alcohol sales before noon. Eighteen of us then left for the brewery, leaving the others to the delights of Stow.

As we approached the Brewery itself, we saw a setting and buildings that can only be described as idyllic, with beautiful Cotswold buildings, and carefully tended lawns and paths (albeit muddy) leading down to the mill pond and lake which feeds into the River Dickler.



There has been a brewery at Donnington since 1865, when Richard Iles Arkell started brewing beer alongside the farming enterprise. The building itself dates back to 1291 when it was one of the mills of Broadway Manor.



Sometime in the 16th century the millrace was built and the building, like many others in the Cotswolds where the wool trade was dominant, was used as a cloth mill, before being converted by the Manor into two corn mills in 1580. Inside the building nearly all of the mechanics that helped to grind the corn are still in existence, including the two stones, gearing, cogs and exterior waterwheel.

Early in the 17th century the mill became a separate freehold estate and in 1827 it was bought by Thomas Arkell. It was his grandson



Richard who began brewing beer in 1865 and we saw ledgers from some of the first beer he brewed. "Too heavy," says one entry. "Not the right colour" says another.

Richard's sons took over the burgeoning business from their father, and his son Herbert finally bought his brother out to run it alone. Herbert had two sons and two daughters, but it was his son Lawrence Claude, more commonly known as Claude, who came back from the second World War as an RAF Officer in 1951.

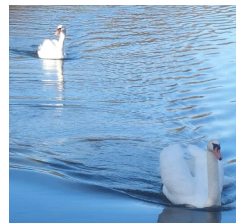
Until the mid-1960s, the brewery grew its own barley and malted it on a special malting floor which is still in existence today. Today the maris otter malt is bought from trusted growers in Norfolk and is still milled at the brewery. The hops come from Herefordshire and Worcestershire and the water is drawn from a natural spring beside the millpond. It's only the sugar which is imported.



The Bobby mill arrived in 1920 which is still used in the brewing process and an internal water wheel drives belts for mashing and pumps for the copper. I was mesmerised watching the belts going up through the ceiling to the floor above and then back down to the ground floor.

Claude successfully ran the brewery until his death in 2007, but with no children of his own, he left it to his cousins Peter and James Arkell. Claude knew he left this beautiful brewery in safe hands; James learned the art of brewing alongside his cousin at Donnington Brewery and under his guidance Donnington Brewery continues to flourish.

We saw much the same as they might have done 100 years ago. The honey-coloured buildings sit quietly in the valley next to the mill pond, with its black swans and peacocks, originally from Australia and introduced by Claude who took an interest in the birds. Many families have worked, father and son, alongside Claude and James and still do.



Donnington Brewery is the only brewery using a waterwheel to power all the original equipment. Our guided tour of the historic brewhouse followed the traditional process from the raw ingredients through to tasting a few halves from a complementary Donnington glass.

Once back on the coach to return to Stow-on-the-Wold to pick the others up, we discovered we were going nowhere, the engine wouldn't start. The driver realised this was because the door wasn't shutting properly so for safety reasons it cuts the engine off. After some fiddling and the aid of a Saints scarf the door was tied shut and off we went. Of course, our friends didn't believe that we were late picking them up due to a legitimate reason – "Oh yeah, stuck at a brewery, pull the other one" was said when we phoned one of them to advise we'd be late.

Having tied the door up for a second time, we headed off for the Hook Norton Brewery Visitor Centre via The Tite Inn at Chadlington where we changed coaches.

In 1849, John Harris moved into Hook Norton, purchasing a farm of 52 acres that included a Malthouse. It is thought that commercial brewing started in 1856. This is supported by the brewing books we saw which keep a record of every brew.

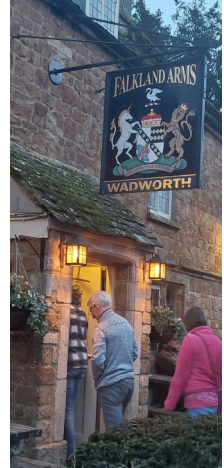
A three-storey tower brewery was built in 1872 and then enlarged in 1898. The Victorian tower brewery, attached to the earlier building, was designed by William Bradford, an architect who specialised in industrial architecture. The design of the building is in a distinctive style employed by Bradford in several industrial buildings but particularly at Hook Norton where the building resembles a Chinese pagoda. The design of a tower brewery is closely linked to each of the brewing processes. These processes continue in the brewery, some still using the historic machinery, such as the grist mill.



The 1880s were a key period for the brewery. Although this was a time of depression in many rural areas, Hook Norton was thriving. The extension of the Chipping Norton railway line into Hook Norton not only meant a captive audience for the brewery's beer (in the form of the navvies who were building the line), but also had a longer term benefit in maintaining the prosperity of the village and providing a vital means of transport for raw materials, equipment and casks of beer to and from the brewery.

A Heritage Lottery Fund grant was awarded in 2014 to conserve one of the two Grade II listed chimneys behind the main brewery building. The project included several activities designed to improve information about the heritage of the Brewery, an improved layout for the Museum, and a volunteer film project. Some of us took a walk to the stables to look at the three shire horses but they weren't interested in us as they had just been given their evening feed.

We then made our way to the Falkland Arms, Great Tew which appears in Neil Hanson's Classic Country Pubs book – in fact it is on the back cover! Built in the 16th Century and partially thatched, it retains many original features such as inglenook fireplace, oak beams and flagstone floors. We stuck out like a sore thumb here, not just because of being a big group but because of what we were wearing, or rather not wearing. Barbour gilets and Hunter wellingtons were the de rigueur clothing of the other customers. I suppose we should have guessed this as the car park was full of large 4x4 vehicles. It was in here that I got talking to the Manager of the Great Tew Estate who told me he organises shoots from £800 per person. This reminded me of when I was a child beating for the shoots at Easton Neston and earning the princely sum of £1.



We returned home via a stop at Bicester where I was able to use my staff discount in the local 'Spoons'.

Pre internet chat room using
An old version of windows...



The Parish Church of St Matthew

Lent 2025



Stations of the Cross

Friday 7 March	<i>St Gregory's</i>
Friday 14 March	<i>St Matthew's</i>
Friday 21 March	<i>St Gregory's</i>
Friday 28 March	<i>St Matthew's</i>
Friday 4 April	<i>St Gregory's</i>
Friday 11 April	<i>St Matthew's</i>
<i>All at 7.30pm</i>	

The background of the poster is a close-up photograph of organ stop tabs on a wooden console. The tabs are white and cylindrical, with black text printed on them. Some of the visible text includes '8 TRUMPET', 'DOUBLE TRUMPET', '28/3 TWELFTH', '4 WALD LUTE', '8 WALD FLUTE', '8 HARMONIC FLUTE', '4 OPEN DIAPASON (SMALL)', '4 DULCIANA', '2 HARMONIC PICOLO', '28/3 TWELFTH', '4 WALD LUTE', '8 WALD FLUTE', '4 OPEN DIAPASON (SMALL)', '4 DULCIANA', '2 HARMONIC PICOLO', '28/3 TWELFTH', '4 WALD LUTE', '8 WALD FLUTE', '4 OPEN DIAPASON (SMALL)', '4 DULCIANA'. The tabs are arranged in rows and columns, creating a textured, musical background.

The Parish Church of St Matthew

Easter Bank Holiday

ORGAN RECITAL

**Monday 21 April
at 3.00pm**

**given by Tom Moore
*Director of Music***

Free entry, with a retiring collection

***Programme includes works by*
Johann Sebastian Bach, Herbert Howells,
Henri Mulet and Louis Vierne**

St Matthew's Scrabble Group

Tony Day

St Matthew's 'Happy Scrabblers' continue to enjoy their monthly get togethers over a cuppa tea/coffee and refreshments, and to play the best known word game of SCRABBLE.



Jean Millard first started our Scrabble group in October 2010, when good fellowship was enjoyed with Scrabble being played around the table in Jean's dining room, but it soon became so popular that required space meant the move to the Parish Centre's Garden Room. It's been going ever since except for when the Covid 19 interrupted the fun.

After 18 months our dear friend Mary Wallis wisely stated: "After 18 months of not challenging our brains it feels right to see if people wanted to restart playing the excellent game once more" – and indeed they did! When it got dark early in the winter months Mary changed the times from 2pm-4pm to 1pm-3pm, a very sensible move which I must confess I never thought about this winter. Oh well, I'm still learning, and it's in the diary to ask players next winter what they prefer.

Scrabble is a strategic word-building game that has stood the test of time and still remains a beloved board game for social gatherings etc. Playing word-building games can enhance vocabulary, improve spelling and boost our personal skills. Scrabble encourages strategic thinking and creativity, making it useful for mental exercise.

Some Interesting Facts

Scrabble was originally called 'Criss Cross', a nice traditional English game, but was in fact invented by an American architect by the name of Alfred Butts in 1931. It was renamed in 1948 when a lawyer called James Burnett bought the rights to the game and called it 'Scrabble'.

The rarest letters in Scrabble are J, Q, X and Z.

The longest word ever made up from the Scrabble dictionary is OXYPHENBUTAZONE, which from the left of the board hits three triple word squares and seven cross words downwards, making a score worth 1778 points! (And no, it was not from any of our St Matthew's game sessions!)

The longest scrabble game recorded took 153 hours in 1984. (Phew, the room rent to be paid for that would be phenomenal!)

There are 100 letter tiles in the game of Scrabble (98 letters and two blanks) and is played by 2 to 4 players. Although success at Scrabble is largely determined by skill and technique, about 10-15% of success is down to luck which can tip the game in your favour. (I even won a game once!)



Spring and Summer are now upon us, so abandon that Monday ironing routine (I have to do it on the Tuesday that week) and other chores, and enjoy a nice afternoon out one Monday each month and really do your mental health a great favour by exercising those 'little grey cells' in good company.

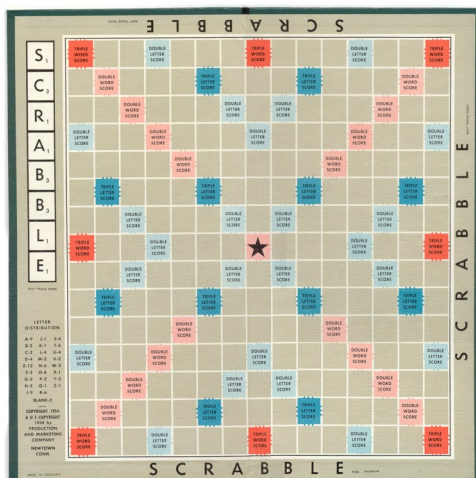
Don't hold back because you think your spelling/English/memory might be a little rusty, you would be surprised what comes back to you when playing with others at Scrabble, and we all learn just that little bit more each time we play. Do come along and enjoy, you'll be most welcome.

Details

We meet in the Garden Room of the Parish Centre on the first Monday of each month (Anita very kindly reminds us the day before in the Sunday pewsheet).

We gather at 1.45pm for refreshments and a prompt 2.00pm start, finishing at 4.00pm. We pay £4 each for the afternoon, which pays for the room rental and the refreshments and any other miscellaneous expenses that crop up during the year.

If anyone would like more information or have any questions, please feel free to ask me after Mass on Sundays.



Junior Church

Every Third Sunday of the Month



**Join us during the 10:15am mass
in the children's area
for adult led stories and crafts
linked to the Church Year**

**The next Junior church session is on
Sunday 20 April 2025
On the theme of EASTER**

The Parish Church of St Matthew

HOLY WEEK

Sunday 13 April

PALM SUNDAY

9.30am

The Liturgy of Palms

(in the Parish Centre)

**Procession to Church, and
Parish Mass of the Passion**

with healing ministries

5.30pm

**A Service of Penitence and
Forgiveness for Holy Week**



The Parish Church of St Matthew

HOLY WEEK

Monday 14 April

7.30pm

Mass with homily

Tuesday 15 April

7.30pm

Mass with homily

Wednesday 16 April

9.30am

Mass with homily

7.30pm

The Vigil Office of Tenebrae



The Parish Church of St Matthew

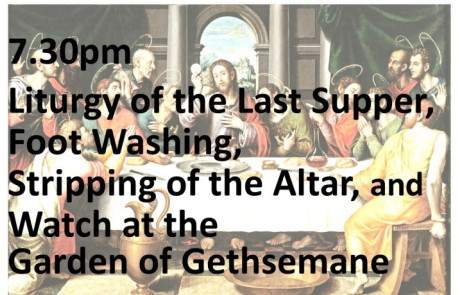
THE EASTER TRIDUUM

Thursday 17 April

MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.30pm

**Liturgy of the Last Supper,
Foot Washing,
Stripping of the Altar, and
Watch at the
Garden of Gethsemane**

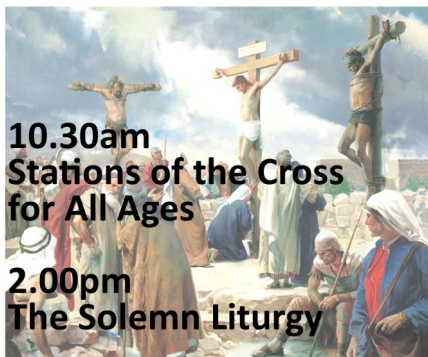


The Parish Church of St Matthew

THE EASTER TRIDUUM

Friday 18 April

GOOD FRIDAY



10.30am

Stations of the Cross
for All Ages

2.00pm

The Solemn Liturgy

The Parish Church of St Matthew

THE EASTER TRIDUUM

Saturday 19 April

HOLY SATURDAY



8.00pm

The Pascal Vigil and
First Mass of Easter

The Parish Church of St Matthew

Sunday 20 April

EASTER DAY

10.15am

Procession and Parish
Mass of the Resurrection



5.30pm

Solemn Choral Evensong
and Benediction



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A Christian Workers Co-operative supporting the local community and the wider world.

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).

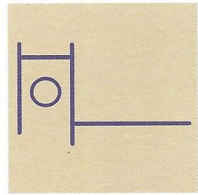
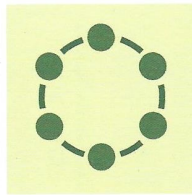
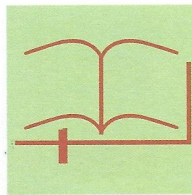
There are two methods of payment available: by a banker's direct debit or by weekly-numbered envelopes via the collection plate. The amount that you give is entirely confidential and is known only to the lay people who administer the Scheme.

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
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
Stewardship Recorder	Polly Matthews

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	Nick Everitt head-server@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
Sacristan	Seymour Franklin sacristan@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
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	Steve Stringfellow friends@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Walsingham Cell

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