

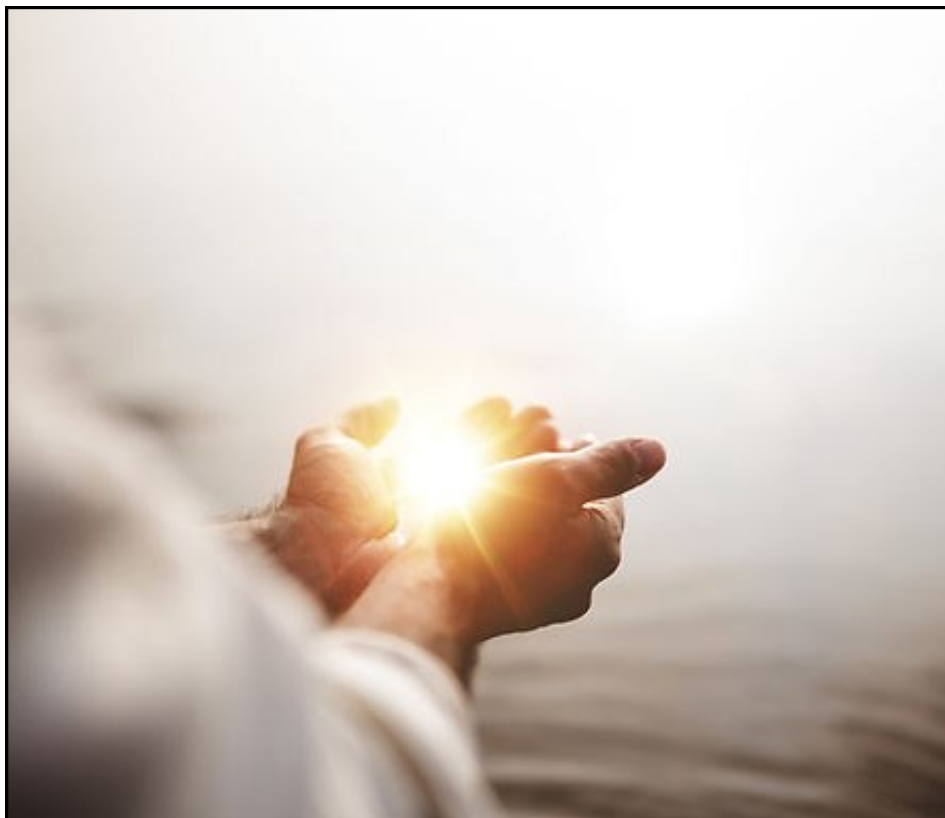
St Matthew's **MAIL**

**Suggested
Donation**

£1.00

News from the Parish of Kingsley, Northampton

August 2026



www.stmatthewsnorthampton.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 winter months of November to March, may be 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 12 noon Mass

Thursday 12 noon Mass

Friday 12 noon Mass

Saturday 9.30am Mass

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

Major Feast-Days Procession and Sung Mass at 7.30pm

(Always held in church. The morning Mass may be cancelled — refer to literature in church and on website)

Sacrament of Reconciliation, commonly known as Confession, is celebrated in the Lady Chapel by appointment with the clergy. They are also available for advice and guidance on any matter of concern.

All aspects of the sacrament are in confidence.

Worship Calendar for August

The Church prays for the local community daily; please also include 'Our Parish' in your own daily prayers.

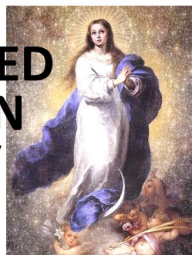
<i>Date</i>	<i>Observance</i>	<i>Mass Intention</i>	<i>Our Parish</i>
1	Of the BVM	Foster and adoptive parents	Shelley Street, Moore Street
2	THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 13)	The Parish	Chaucer Street, Junction Road
3	Feria	The Ministry of Healing	Local businesses
4	S John Mary Vianney, Pr	For parish priests and confessors	Cowper Terrace, Lingfield Terrace
5	S Oswald, K, M	For Christian leaders	Randall Road, Romany Road
6	Transfiguration of the Lord	Our glimpses of God's glory	Waverley Road, Milton Street North
7	Feria	Our response to God's love	Carlton Road, Carlton Gardens
8	S Dominic, Pr	For prophetic preachers	Local Shops
9	THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 14)	The Parish	Ryland Road, Brookfield Road, Betjeman Court
10	S Laurence, Dcn, M	Discerning where our 'treasure' lies	Sunningdale Close, Masfield Way, Fairway
11	S Clare of Assisi, V	The value of religious orders	Hazeldene Road, Greenview Drive
12	Feria	God's forgiveness and ours	Kenmuir Avenue, Kenmuir Crescent, Kenmuir Gardens
13	Feria	Lenders and those in debt	Local Doctors, Dentists and Vets
14	S Maximilian Kolbe, Pr, M	Helping others at our own expense	Malcolm Road, Malcolm Terrace
15	Of the BVM	St Matthew's Minis	Fairfield Road, Raeburn Road
16	ASSUMPTION OF THE BVM	Our hope of heaven	Wallace Road, Wallace Terrace, Wallace Gardens
17	Monthly Requiem	The Faithful Departed	Rothersay Road, Rothersay Terrace
18	Feria	Inequality: the wealth and poverty of nations	Church members not living in the parish
19	Feria	Turning to Christ each day	Kingsley Primary School, Wallace Road Nursery

20	S Bernard, Ab, Dr	The teaching profession	Abington Avenue, Ashburnham Road
21	Feria	The symbolism of the dry bones	Birchfield Road, Cedar Road
22	Of the BVM	For the people of Venezuela	Broadway, Park Avenue North
23	THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 16)	The Parish	Oakwood Road, Collingwood Road
24	S Bartholomew, Ap	The daily living of our faith	Nursing and Residential Homes
25	Feria	Belief in the return of Christ	Abington Grove, The Crescent
26	Feria	Sloth and a work ethic	The Drive, Tudor Road, The Vale
27	S Monica	The responsibility of parenting	Brookland Road, Brookland Crescent, Highfield Road
28	S Augustine, B, Dr	Finding our rest in Christ	Kettering Road, St Matthew's Parade, Kingsley Park Terrace
29	The Beheading of S John the Baptist	The Prison Service	Kingsley Road, Oliver Street
30	THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 17)	The Parish	Milton Street, Byron Street
31	S Aidan, B, and the Saints of Lindisfarne	Places of spiritual encounter	Shelley Street, Moore Street

The Parish Church of St Matthew

Sunday 16 August

The
ASSUMPTION
of the
BLESSED
VIRGIN
MARY



10.15am
The Parish Mass

August Pastoral Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends,

There is something rather different about August.

The pace changes. Schools are closed. Parliament disappears into recess. Traffic mysteriously becomes lighter – until one reaches the M5 somewhere near Bristol, when it appears everyone in Britain has had exactly the same idea. Parish diaries, usually full to overflowing, suddenly acquire the occasional blank page. Even the gardens, usually demanding constant attention by this stage of the summer, seem to have admitted temporary defeat in the face of this year's prolonged dry spell. It is a month that reminds us that rest is not an indulgence but a gift.

In the creation story God himself rests on the seventh day – not because he was tired, but because he delighted in what he had made. If God himself builds rest into the rhythm of creation, perhaps we should not feel too guilty about sitting in the garden with a cup of tea, listening to the birds, or occasionally finishing an entire newspaper or jigsaw before lunch.

This year, many of us have also enjoyed the drama and heartbreak of the World Cup. England's journey to the semi-finals captured the imagination of the country once again. Like so many tournaments before it, there were moments of exhilaration, moments of nail-biting tension and, ultimately, the disappointment of defeat at the final hurdle. We have become rather practised at saying, "Maybe next time!" Yet there was much to admire: commitment, teamwork, resilience and the determination to keep going even when the odds were against them.

Sport has an extraordinary ability to unite complete strangers. For ninety minutes – or sometimes rather longer – we discover ourselves cheering, hoping and occasionally hiding behind the sofa in unison. It reminds us that we are made for community, that shared joys and shared disappointments are part of being human.

The same is true of the Church, although I am pleased to report that the outcome of the Parish Mass is generally rather more predictable than a penalty shoot-out.

While we may have been following football, the wider world has continued to remind us how fragile peace remains. Wars continue, humanitarian crises fill our television screens, and many families face anxieties that are hidden from

public view: illness, bereavement, financial pressures or uncertainty about the future. Such realities cannot simply be switched off because it is summer.

Yet neither can the hope that lies at the heart of the Christian faith.

The Church has always understood that true peace is not simply the absence of conflict. It is the presence of Christ. It is perfectly possible to be surrounded by noise and uncertainty, yet possess a quiet confidence that God has not abandoned his world. Equally, one can be sitting on the most beautiful beach imaginable and still carry an anxious heart. The peace Christ gives begins within us and gradually transforms the way we see everything else.

Perhaps that is one reason why Jesus so often withdrew to quiet places to pray. He knew that life could not be lived at full speed all the time. Silence, prayer and rest are not interruptions to the Christian life; they are part of it.

Here at St Matthew's, August is traditionally a slightly gentler month. Choral Evensong takes a summer pause while the choir enjoys a well-earned break, weekday worship continues faithfully, and we gather as always around the altar week by week. Some of us will be travelling; others will be welcoming visitors; many will simply enjoy familiar routines at a rather slower pace. Whatever your plans, I hope you will find moments to recognise God's presence in ordinary things: a conversation with a friend, an evening walk, the laughter of children, the beauty of creation, or simply the gift of having nowhere urgent to be.

During August I shall also be taking a short period of annual leave. I am deeply grateful to Fr Nicholas Gandy for covering the Sunday and weekday Masses, and to the many members of our parish family whose quiet faithfulness ensures that the life of St Matthew's continues day by day. Churches, rather like gardens, flourish because many different people lovingly tend them.

As we move through August we also look towards the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which this year falls on a Sunday. Mary's life reminds us that the Christian journey is always one of trust. She did not know where God's call would lead, but she entrusted herself to him completely. In the end, her faithfulness was crowned with glory – not only as her own reward, but as a promise of what God intends for all who belong to Christ.

That is a hopeful thought with which to enjoy the closing weeks of summer.

Whether your August is filled with holidays, grandchildren, gardening, decorating, catching up with neglected jobs – or simply shielding from, or wondering where on earth the sunshine has gone – I pray that you may know something of God's peace, his refreshment and his joy.

Your sincere friend and parish priest,

Fr. Nicholas

The Parish Church of St Matthew

**Sunday
13 September**

at 10.15am

**All Age Mass
for the Parish Family**



Weekday Scripture Readings for July

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.

Saturday	1	Ecclesiastes 5.10-19	1 Timothy 6.6-16
Monday	3	Joshua 1.1-9	1 Corinthians 9.19-end
Tuesday	4	Proverbs 15.1-11	Galatians 2.15-end
Wednesday	5	Isaiah 49.1-7	1 John 1
Thursday	6	Exodus 34.29-end	2 Corinthians 3
Friday	7	Isaiah 59.8-end	Mark 15.6-20
Saturday	8	Zechariah 7.8-8.8	Luke 20.27-40
Monday	10	Judges 13.1-23	Luke 10.38-42
Tuesday	11	Proverbs 15.15-end	Matthew 15.21-28
Wednesday	12	Isaiah 45.1-7	Ephesians 4.1-16
Thursday	13	Jeremiah 16.1-15	Luke 12.35-48
Friday	14	Jeremiah 18.1-11	Hebrews 1.1-9
Saturday	15	Song of Solomon 2.1-7	Acts 1.6-14
Monday	17	Ruth 2.1-13	Luke 10.25-37
Tuesday	18	Proverbs 16.1-11	Philippians 3.4b-end
Wednesday	19	Deuteronomy 11.1-21	2 Corinthians 9.6-end
Thursday	20	Ecclesiastes 2.12-25	John 16.1-15
Friday	21	Obadiah 1-10	John 19.1-16
Saturday	22	2 Kings 2.11-14	Luke 24.36-end
Monday	24	Deuteronomy 18.15-19	Matthew 10.1-22
Tuesday	25	Proverbs 17.1-15	Luke 7.1-17
Wednesday	26	Jeremiah 5.20-end	2 Peter 3.80-end
Thursday	27	Daniel 2.1-23	Luke 10.1-20
Friday	28	Daniel 3.1-28	Revelation 15
Saturday	29	Daniel 6	Philippians 2.14-24
Monday	31	2 Samuel 7.4-17	2 Corinthians 5.1-10

If you are online, a new facility lately introduced on our website is on the Weekday Scripture Readings page – you can now click onto an individual reading and it will pop up for you without you having to search through your bible (in the New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised Catholic Edition).

Chippings from the Vicar's Work Bench

A Time for Rest

Please note that I shall be taking annual leave from Monday 3 August until Sunday 23 August inclusive. Helen and I are looking forward to a little time away, an opportunity to recharge the batteries, catch our breath and perhaps even remember what it is like not to have a diary permanently attached to us! During this period Fr Nicholas Gandy will kindly preside and preach at our Sunday Parish Masses and will also celebrate certain weekday Masses at the usual times. These will be advertised in the weekly notices and on our website. As ever, I am extremely grateful to Fr Nicholas for his generosity in enabling me to take a proper break, and to all those who continue the many unseen tasks that keep the life of St Matthew's flourishing while I am away. A parish is never the work of one person, and I remain deeply thankful for the wonderful team of people who serve so faithfully.

Our Monthly Healing Mass

Our Mass for Wholeness and Healing takes place on Monday 3 August at 7.00 pm in the Lady Chapel. This is one of the gentlest and most prayerful services in our monthly pattern of worship. After Holy Communion, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed upon the altar and the liturgy gives way to an extended period of quiet intercession. We pray especially for those whose names have been placed on our parish prayer board, for those who are sick in body, mind or spirit, for the staff and patients of Northampton General Hospital, for local surgeries, the Cynthia Spencer Hospice and care homes, and for those former members of our congregation who are now unable to worship with us because of infirmity or illness.

Many of those we pray for tell us how much it means simply to know that they have not been forgotten. Prayer may be unseen, but it is never unnoticed. We warmly encourage anyone who has placed a name on the prayer board to come and join us if they are able. The service concludes with a simple form of Benediction.

Weekday Masses – Looking Ahead

Earlier this year we introduced an experimental pattern of weekday Masses, including the celebration of Mass at midday on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Although relatively few comments have been received, the attendance recorded in our service registers suggests a modest but encouraging increase in the number of worshippers over the past six months. On that basis, I intend to recommend to the PCC that these arrangements now become our permanent weekday pattern. Assuming that is agreed, our noticeboard on the Kettering Road will be updated to reflect the revised service times and other changes that have taken place over recent months.

Alongside the revised timetable, we have also gently refreshed the weekday liturgy itself. When Mass is celebrated at midday we now begin by praying the Angelus together before the statue of the Madonna and Child in the North Transept before moving into the Lady Chapel for the Eucharist. New service booklets have also been produced. The previous ones had served us faithfully for many years, but were beginning to look rather tired. Some had become well-thumbed; others were held together more by hope than by staples – and even the staples had begun to rust! The new booklets include a brief welcome and preparation before Mass, prayers of thanksgiving after Holy Communion, and a prayer before we leave the Lady Chapel and return to the demands of everyday life. My hope is that these small developments will help deepen our prayer and remind us that the grace we receive at the altar accompanies us into the whole of our daily living.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This year the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary falls on Sunday 16 August, when it will be celebrated at our 10.15 am Parish Mass. The Assumption is the principal feast of Our Lady. It celebrates God's final vindication of the one who first said "yes" to his saving purpose and points us towards the destiny prepared for all God's faithful people.

Mary's Assumption is not simply about Mary's glory; it is also about *our* hope. In her we see the promise of what Christ intends for his whole Church – that where she has gone, we may one day follow.

Walsingham Cell

Please note that there will be no Walsingham Cell Mass and meeting during August. We gather again on Saturday 12 September at 9.30 am in the Lady Chapel. New members are always most welcome.

Monthly Requiem

Our Monthly Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Monday 17 August at 7.00pm. Everyone is welcome, but we particularly encourage those remembering the anniversary of a loved one's death during August to join us. Most of us know what it is to grieve someone we love. At the altar we commend them afresh into God's everlasting mercy and remember also former members of our congregation, together with all whose earthly remains rest in our churchyard. Love never ends, and neither does the Church's prayer.

Evening Prayer in August

As has long been our custom during August, Evening Prayer according to the Book of Common Prayer will be said each Sunday in Quire rather than Evensong. With holidays, family commitments and choirs enjoying a well-

earned summer break, August has traditionally been a quieter month. Yet the daily offering of prayer continues, as it has done for centuries, and you would be very welcome to join us as we end the Lord's Day in the beauty and simplicity of the Prayer Book.

Looking Ahead – Our Next All Age Mass

Our next All Age Parish Mass will take place on Sunday 13 September at 10.15am. The theme is forgiveness, based on Jesus' teaching in Matthew 18 v21–35. Peter asks how often he should forgive someone who has wronged him, probably expecting to be congratulated for suggesting seven times. Jesus, characteristically, raises the bar rather higher!

Forgiveness is not always easy. Children discover that very quickly – and, if we are honest, so do adults. We all like receiving forgiveness; offering it can be rather more demanding. Yet every time we pray the Lord's Prayer we ask God to forgive us as we forgive those who trespass against us. It is a searching reminder that mercy received and mercy given belong together.

As always, there will be lively worship, participation, and refreshments afterwards. Whether you are eight or eighty-eight, we look forward to welcoming you.

Next month's magazine

Contributions to our magazine are always appreciated so let us know what you / your group are up to! If you don't have the confidence to write something yourself, just let us have the details and we'll write it for you.

Please leave paper contributions in the 'P' (for 'Parker') pigeon hole in church or email files to: magazine@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

When attaching photographs to the email address please send no more than 7mb -worth per email, otherwise it jams the system! Thank you.

Deadline for the SEPTEMBER magazine is SUNDAY 16 AUGUST

Editor: Dorrie Parker

Layout and production: Gary Drinkwater

Church of England Apology For Historical Adoption Practices

The Church of England has issued an apology for its role in historical adoption practices, particularly in mother and baby homes and similar settings. The apology recognises the pain, trauma and stigma experienced by many mothers, adoptees, fathers and wider families, and acknowledges that some people were separated from their children in circumstances where they had very few meaningful choices.

This history has a particular local significance because St Saviour's Home in Northampton was included in the research undertaken by the Church of England. The Diocese of Peterborough has also expressed sorrow for the harm caused to those affected.

At St Matthew's, we recognise that this may be painful for some members of our congregation or community. Some people may have personal or family experience of adoption, separation, institutional care, or the wider culture of shame and silence that surrounded unmarried mothers and their children. Others may simply find this history distressing.

As a parish, we want to be part of a Church that listens, learns, laments, and responds with compassion. Anyone affected is welcome to speak to the clergy or Parish Safeguarding Officer, but we also recognise that some people may prefer independent or specialist support.

Support is available from:

Safe Spaces — confidential support for anyone abused by someone in the Church

Helpline: 0300 303 1056

Website: safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk

PAC-UK Advice Line — specialist advice for people affected by adoption, special guardianship and permanent care

Phone: 0300 1800 090

Email: advice@pac-uk.org

FamilyConnect — support with tracing and reconnecting with family members

Phone: 0300 1800 205

Email: familyconnect@pac-uk.org

Adoption UK — information, support and signposting

Phone: 0300 666 0006

Email: informationsupport@adoptionuk.org.uk

Further information from the Church of England is available on its historical adoption webpage.

Ben Drouet - Parish Safeguarding Officer



Safe Spaces 

is an **independent** and **confidential** support service for adults who have been abused by someone in the Church.

If you have been affected, however long ago, Safe Spaces can support you.

Call our free helpline

 **0300 303 1056**

 safespaces@firstlight.org.uk

Opening hours
Mon- Fri- 9am-9pm
Sat- 9am-1pm
Sun- 1pm-5pm



WWW.SAFESPACESENGLANDANDWALES.ORG.UK

Our Fete in your hands

Denise and Nick Bailey

After months of meticulous planning, the grass was cut and the sun shone. The congregation manned the stalls along with family members roped in (you know who you are!).

This year's Summer Fete proved as popular as ever. Queues waiting for the off. We raised an amazing £3,620.54 for St Matthew's.

Visitors were entertained by the Raggle Taggle Folk Group, our resident DJ Dave and the very talented dancers from SLT Academy of Irish Dance. Philip Bricher gave an organ recital in church and families had fun searching for the animals hidden on Noah's Trail.

There was fun and games for all ages and a variety of food and drink choices.

Thank you to each and every one of you who either helped or came along to our wonderful and happy community event.

Here are a few photos from the afternoon. Many more are available to see on our website: stmatthewsnorthampton.org.uk





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

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

Number **58**, held by **Ben Drouet**



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

Football, Faith, and Community

Gary Drinkwater

Football and the church coexist through a shared pursuit of community, purpose, and ritual. While both provide distinct forms of belonging, they often intersect – with many professional clubs originally founded by church groups. Today, the two often align, offering athletes and fans a space for shared values and outreach.

A Shared History

The connection between the beautiful game and the pulpit is deeply rooted. In the late 19th century, the ‘Muscular Christianity’ movement swept through Victorian England, championing the idea that physical fitness and sportsmanship built strong moral character. Clergymen began forming local parish football teams to provide a constructive outlet for working-class youths. Several of the biggest names in modern football trace their origins directly back to these church roots: Aston Villa – formed in 1874 by members of the Villa Wesleyan Methodist Church; Everton and Southampton – both clubs birthed out of church congregations; Manchester City – founded by the St Mark’s Church of England in 1880; Celtic FC – established by the Marist Brothers to raise funds for the poor in the East end of Glasgow.

Modern Partnerships and Outreach

Today, this relationship continues to thrive through community outreach and faith-based sports ministries. Organizations like Christians in Sport actively support both grassroots and elite players,



creating environments where athletes can discuss faith, mental well-being, and identity. Churches regularly bridge the gap between faith and sport by hosting watch parties for major tournaments. They utilize these gatherings to offer a welcoming, informal environment for neighbours to bond. Many clubs – including those in the Premier League – also have team chaplains who offer pastoral care, emotional support, and counselling to players and staff, regardless of their religious backgrounds. The Reverend Haydon Spenceley serves as the official Club Chaplain for Northampton Town FC aka “Cobblers”.

Faith on the Pitch

On the field, the modern game frequently acts as a visible stage for Christian expression. Famous players across major global leagues regularly incorporate their faith into the game. From pointing to the sky after scoring a goal to gathering in prayer circles with opponents after the final whistle, athletes often use their massive platform to share their testimonies and give glory to God.

Shared Rituals and Belonging

Sociologists and theologians have long noted the striking parallels between the stadium and the sanctuary. Both environments revolve around: *Ritual and Tradition*: Chanting, wearing team colours or religious symbols, and standing in unison; *Community*: Gathering together regularly to experience shared highs and lows with a unified group; *Hope*: Placing faith in an outcome, trusting in something larger than oneself, and participating in an emotional journey. For many, football and the church ultimately complement each other. While the church provides a foundation for spiritual growth and community service, football creates a dynamic, universally accessible avenue for people of diverse backgrounds to come together, celebrate, and build lasting friendships.

Postscript: Whilst this article is about football the same applies to rugby. Indeed, Northampton Rugby Football Club was founded in 1880 by Rev Samuel Wathen Wigg at St James' Church, and Northampton Saints (Northampton St James) began as a youth rugby project. Nicknamed “the Saints” and “the Jimmies”, the club established their permanent home at Franklin's Gardens.



Friends of St Matthew's Music

SATURDAYS AT 4



Saturday 8th August 2026 at 4:00pm

TAPESTRY

Saxophone and piano duo

Tickets £10	FSMM Subscribers £8	Under 18s FREE
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32nd St Matthew's Multi-Aged Girlguiding

Mandy Ludlow

Adventure, Friendship and Fun with Girlguiding

It has been another busy and exciting few weeks for 32nd St Matthew's Girlguiding, with Rainbows, Brownies and Guides all enjoying activities that have helped them learn new skills, explore the world around them and have plenty of fun together.

Our Brownies were delighted to welcome the Battle of Naseby team, who brought history to life in a fun and child-friendly way. The girls had the chance to try on costumes and even play the drum, which proved very popular. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to learn about a local historical event through hands-on activities.

Rainbows have been working hard on their Bee Rescuer and Nature interest badges. They discovered how bees move pollen between flowers using a paper bag, a packet of Wotsits, flower cut-outs and a bee finger puppet. To complete their Nature badge, they also learnt about the different seasons. This was done through a lively game of snap and a sorting activity, matching items such as hats, gloves and scarves, ice lollies and sunglasses, blossom, lambs, Easter eggs, pumpkins, leaves and twigs to the right season.

Guides have been out and about on a penny hike. At every road junction they tossed a coin to decide their route – heads for left and tails for right. It was surprising to see just how far they travelled, and the girls enjoyed the adventure and independence of finding their way.

We were also pleased to be part of a special county-wide moment as Northamptonshire County launched its new bell boat. For those unfamiliar with bell boating, the boat looks rather like a catamaran without a sail, or two canoes joined together with a plank down the middle. Units across the county were invited to put forward names for the initial all-female crew for its maiden voyage, and we were very proud that Amelia represented Brownies and Alex represented Guides. The boat was launched by Lynda Norris, our County Vice President (Pastoral).

As we come towards the end of the academic year, some of our girls are moving on to their next Girlguiding adventure, from Rainbows to Brownies and from Brownies to Guides. This means we now have spaces available for new girls in both Rainbows and Brownies. If you know someone who would enjoy making friends, trying new activities, learning new skills and having lots of fun, we would love to hear from you. Please do get in touch to find out more – everyone is very welcome.

Once again, Café Guides ran the tea rooms at the fête, and it was an incredibly busy day. This year we added chai latte and iced coffees to the menu, with the iced coffees proving especially popular on such a warm afternoon. The following day was All Age Worship, so Café Guides were back on duty for a second time that weekend. Across the two days we cooked 6kg of chips, 4kg of bacon, used 1.6kg of cheese and nearly 24 pints of milk. A huge thank you to everyone who has supported us through Café Guides, whether by visiting, buying refreshments or helping behind the scenes – your support makes such a difference. Café Guides will be open again on the first Sunday in August, although it will be Café Guides Lite as many of our members and leaders will be enjoying the summer holidays.



*Patrick Rawlinson celebrating his
ninetieth birthday at
Café Guides*



Café Guides Recipe for August

Posh Sardines on Sourdough Toast

A tasty little lunch for two – bright, fresh, and ready in minutes.

Sardines on toast, or sometimes a jacket potato, is my normal Monday meal. It is easy and quick, either before I head off to my Rainbow, Brownie or Guide meeting, or when I get home afterwards. My usual version is very simple: bread in the toaster, butter on top, then the tin of sardines emptied over it. This is the slightly 'posh' version, with crunchy sourdough, juicy tomato, lemon, herbs and a few little extras – still quick, still affordable, but just a bit more special.

Serves 2

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cooking time: 3-5 minutes

Ingredients

- 2 thick slices sourdough bread
- 1 tin sardines in olive oil, about 100–120g, drained lightly but with the oil reserved
- 1 small vine tomato, thinly sliced
- 1 small shallot, finely sliced, or 2 tsp frozen chopped shallot
- ½ unwaxed lemon, zest and juice
- 1 small garlic clove, peeled and halved
- 1 tsp capers, drained, optional
- A small handful of fresh parsley, dill, chives or any herbs to hand
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Optional: a few rocket leaves or a pinch of chilli flakes

Method

1. Pop the sliced shallot into a small bowl with the lemon juice and a pinch of salt. Leave it for a few minutes to soften while you get the toast ready.
2. Toast the sourdough until it is golden and crisp. While it is still warm, rub one side of each slice with the cut side of the garlic clove.

3. Spoon or drizzle a little oil from the sardine tin over each slice, then add the tomato. Give it a light sprinkle of salt and black pepper.
4. Place the sardines gently on top of the tomatoes. Add the lemon zest, capers if you are using them, and the softened shallot with a little of its lemony juice.
5. Finish with chopped herbs, another small drizzle of oil and a pinch of chilli flakes if you fancy a little warmth. Eat straight away while the toast is still crisp.

Serving suggestion: Lovely with a small green salad and a wedge of lemon on the side.



RESERVE A TABLE

ITALIAN CUISINE

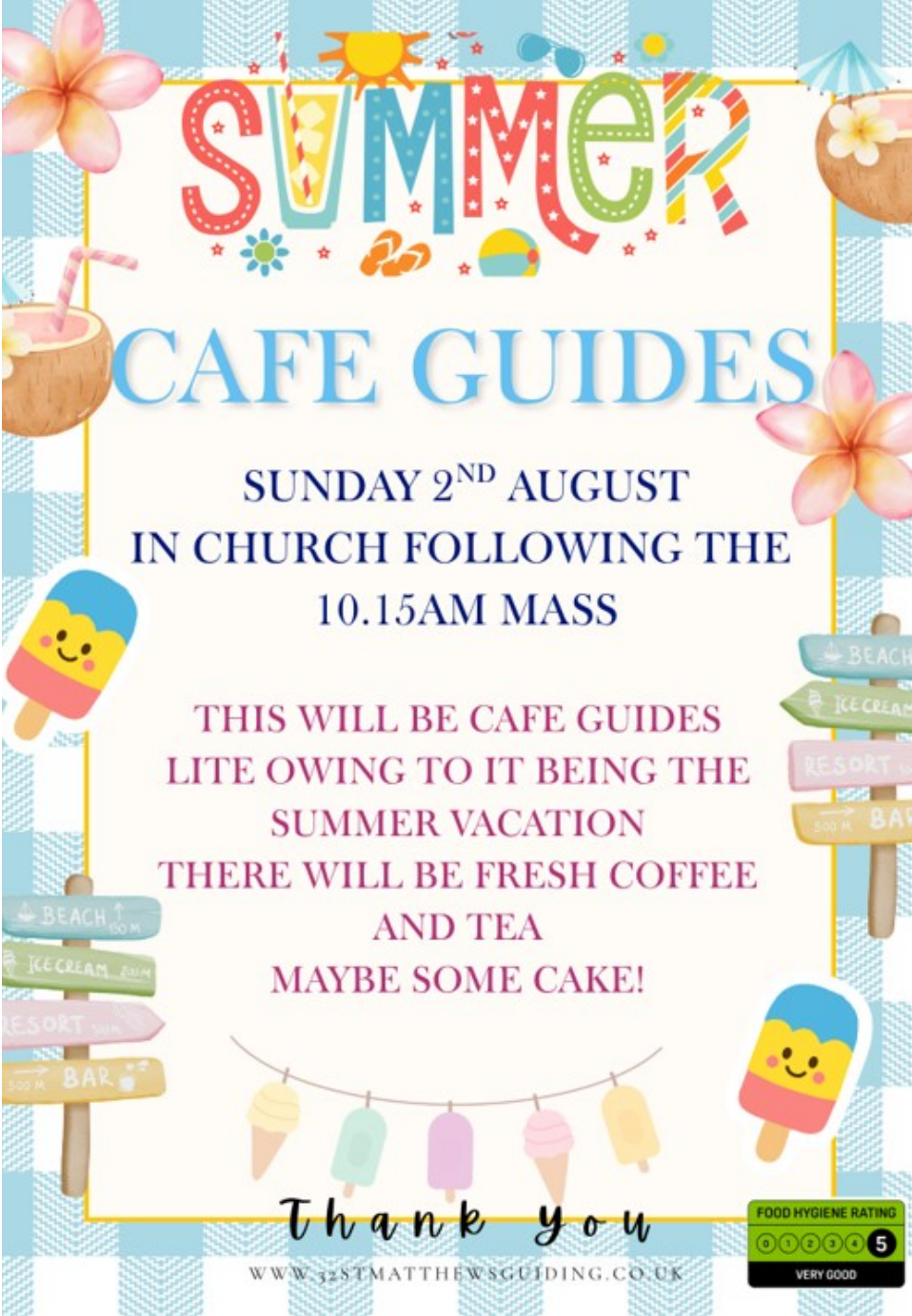
NOW OPEN

LA TIELLA

Monday 15:00 - 23:00

Tuesday Closed

Wednesday to Sunday 15:00 - 23:00



SUMMER

CAFE GUIDES

SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST
IN CHURCH FOLLOWING THE
10.15AM MASS

THIS WILL BE CAFE GUIDES
LITE OWING TO IT BEING THE
SUMMER VACATION
THERE WILL BE FRESH COFFEE
AND TEA
MAYBE SOME CAKE!

Thank you

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Coming soon...

In fact, on **Saturday 12 September!** It's the day when churches and chapels around the county are throwing their doors open to visitors. It would be great for members of our congregation to take advantage of the day – and do it on behalf of St Matthew's so you can raise some cash for the church at the same time, as well as, very importantly, for the places of worship that desperately need maintenance, more than their congregations can cover.

The county **Historic Churches Trust** is a body of voluntary organisations that raise money for the restoration and maintenance of historic churches and chapels, supported by the national Churches Trust. In 2012 St Matthew's received a grant of £10,000 for our own major repair works.

Ride+Stride is an annual fun event run by the Trust, and it's been taking place each year on the second Saturday in September across most of the country since it began in Suffolk in 1981. Last year, with your help, we at St Matthew's raised £285, half of which came back to St Matthew's – funds raised are divided equally between the Trust and the individually sponsored church.

Don't worry, you don't have to walk every step – it's ok to drive (or go by bus, especially handy if you have a bus pass!) and just enjoy walking around the churches.

If you don't have the time for visiting then you can still take part by sponsoring those in our congregation who hopefully will, or those who sit and record the visitors who come to us!

So there are three ways you can join in:

❖ You can **visit** as many or as few as you like of the Northampton/Northamptonshire churches taking part – team up with your friends and

enjoy a fun and sociable few hours and see interesting places of worship that may not normally be open except for services. I will have a list of those churches and chapels taking part and will give you a sheet which you get signed at each one you visit.

❖ You can **man** St Matthew's (we'll be open between 10.00am and 2.00pm) to welcome and record others visiting our church – it's a nice easy sit-down job for an hour or so (always with someone else).

❖ You can **sponsor** us with money – please do! Note that we donate 'en masse' for the riders/striders/recorders – all help equally.

Like to help?

Register your interest in visiting, manning or donating with me, either in person after Sunday Mass, or via the Parish Office letterbox in an envelope with a note giving your clearly readable name, address and phone number/ email address, and addressed to **Dorrie Parker, Ride+Stride** (and if donating, please **include** it as cash or a cheque payable to NHCT, as it will save me chasing you later – it makes life SO much easier...!). Please indicate if you would like to Gift Aid your donation.

Thank you in anticipation!

Dorrie Parker

Since Mary is the mother
of Jesus and Jesus is the
lamb of God.....



Does that
mean Mary
had a little
lamb?

The consecration of Alex Hughes to be Bishop of Brixworth

The consecration of Alex Hughes to be Bishop of Brixworth by the Archbishop of Canterbury took place on Thursday 16 July at Westminster Abbey.

The moving service was attended by friends and family alongside thirteen fellow bishops and representatives from the dioceses of Peterborough and Ely. The sermon was preached by the Reverend Canon Jeremy Morris and the readings were given by Gill Hughes and Thomas Hughes.

Speaking about the day Bishop Alex said; 'I am deeply grateful for all the gifts of my day of consecration - the love and prayers of so many dear friends and family, the support of the dioceses of Ely and Peterborough, including a group of young people from Bishop Stopford school, and the extraordinary privilege of being called to serve as a bishop in God's church. It was a joyful and inspiring way to begin this new ministry.'



Friends of St Matthew's Music SATURDAYS AT 4



Saturday 9th May 2026 at 4:00pm

Thomas Moore (Piano)

The music of Jacek Glenc



Saturday 13th June 2026 at 4:00pm

Rachel Capper (Soprano)



Saturday 11th July 2026 at 4:00pm

The Lebedek Duo (Music for Accordion and Violin)



Saturday 8th August 2026 at 4:00pm

TAPESTRY (Saxophone and piano duo)

Tickets **£10**

FSMM Subscribers **£8**

Under 18s **FREE**

Tickets available on the door via cash or card.

For further information please visit www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk.





SATURDAY
19th SEPTEMBER
2026 at **7:30pm**

DARIUS
BATTIWALLA
Leeds City Organist

Tickets £10

**A Silent movie screening
accompanied on the magnificent
1895 Walker Organ in St Matthew's**

Pre-concert drinks will be served from 6:45pm

**"THE PHANTOM
OF THE OPERA"**



Tickets available on the door via cash or card or online at www.eventbrite.co.uk.
For further information please visit www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk.



DECEMBER 18TH
ST MATTHEWS



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PERSONAL TOUR"



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Open Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.30pm

Saturday 9.00am to 5.00pm

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

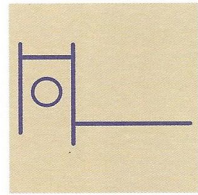
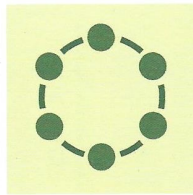
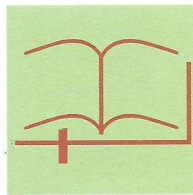
The Scheme is the most tax efficient way of contributing to the church because contributions may be eligible for Gift Aid (raising your donation by 25% at no cost to either you or St Matthew's).

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 as below.

Polly Matthews

<office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk>



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	Tel: 01604 604412
	vicar@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk	
Assistant Priest	The Revd Canon Nicholas Gandy OGS	

Parish Officers

Churchwardens	Gary Drinkwater churchwarden@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk Dave Wilson churchwarden@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
PCC Secretary	VACANT pcc-secretary@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
PCC Treasurer	Donald Cran treasurer@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
Stewardship Recorder	Polly Matthews

St Matthew's Trust

David Waller
trust@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Particular Responsibility

Safeguarding Officer	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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