

St Matthew's **MAIL**

**Suggested
Donation**

£1.00

News from the Parish of Kingsley, Northampton

FEBRUARY 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
<i>When the choir is on holiday (coinciding with school holidays and half terms) Choral Evensong is replaced with Congregational Evensong</i>	

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 February

<i>Date</i>	<i>Observance</i>	<i>Intention</i>
1	THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	The Parish
2	CANDLEMAS	Presenting our whole selves to God
3	Feria	The children of divorced / separated parents
4	Feria	The struggle and violence in Iran
5	Agatha, V, M	International agencies of peace and welfare
6	The Martyrs of Japan	Threats between nations
7	Of the BVM	Our Junior Church
8	THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT	The Parish
9	Monthly Requiem	The Faithful Departed
10	S Scholastica, V	God's presence in his Word
11	Feria	Coping with temptation
12	Feria	Whatever compromises our faith
13	Feria	Those coping with hearing impairment
14	Ss Cyril, monk & Methodius, B	The Shrine and Society
15	THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT	The Parish
16	Feria	Our preparations for Lent
17	Feria	Faith in our daily difficulties
LENT 2026		
18	ASH WEDNESDAY	Faithfulness without ostentation
19	Feria	A time to reassess our lives
20	Feria	Stations of the Cross at St Gregory's
21	Feria	Choosing God over ourselves
22	THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	The Parish
23	S Polycarp, B, M	The human needs I see each day
24	Feria	A commitment to daily prayer
25	Feria (Ember Day)	Openness to God's word
26	Feria	Perseverance in prayer
27	Feria	The courage to forgive
28	Feria (Ember Day)	Causes of racial hatred

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

February Pastoral Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends,

What might a *good* Lent look like?

By the time you are reading this, Christmas will already feel like a fond (and possibly slightly blurry) memory, Epiphany will be drawing to a close, and the Church will be quietly, but firmly, steering us towards Lent. Like it or not, the desert looms.

Lent has a rather unfair reputation. For some it conjures images of grim faces, joyless self-denial, and the sort of resolutions that are abandoned by the Second Sunday. But Lent, at its heart, is not about spiritual misery. It is about honesty, attentiveness, and re-centring our lives on Christ – and that, while demanding, is ultimately life-giving.

My hope for each of us this year is that we might keep a *good* Lent: not necessarily a heroic one, but a faithful one.

Traditionally, we think of Lent in terms of giving something up. There is real value in that, especially if what we forego genuinely matters to us and serves a spiritual purpose. Going without something we enjoy can sharpen our awareness of Christ's forty days in the wilderness, his temptations, his vulnerability, and his trust in the Father. Chocolate can indeed be theological.

But Lent also invites us to *do something extra*. This is often where the deepest growth happens. Perhaps this might be attending a weekday Mass occasionally – or even regularly – allowing the rhythm of prayer and Scripture to shape the week. You might consider joining the parish Lent Course, or coming along to the Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings, where we walk prayerfully with Christ through the final hours of his earthly life.

Lent is also a particularly fitting time to think about the Sacrament of Reconciliation. For some, this will be a familiar and much-loved practice; for others, something distant, uncertain, or even daunting. If you have never made a confession before – or not for many years – Lent offers a gentle invitation to find out more, with a view to making a first (or renewed) confession before Easter. It is not a test to be passed, but a gift to be received.

Whatever shape your Lent takes, I would encourage you to set aside some dedicated time each day for prayer – even if it is brief – using Lenten themes, Scripture, or a simple prayer of quiet attentiveness. Consistency matters more than quantity.

Above all, Lent prepares us to relive, in heart and mind, the saving events of Holy Week, not as distant history, but as something that still speaks powerfully into our own lives and our world today. If we allow ourselves to engage deeply with Christ's passion, then our Easter joy will not be forced or superficial, but genuine and hard-won.

So let us encourage one another to keep a good Lent – faithful rather than flashy, honest rather than heroic – trusting that God will do far more with our small offerings than we could ever imagine.

With every blessing for the journey ahead,

Fr Nicholas

Fr. Nicholas

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

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

Number **48**, held by **Barbara Law**



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

A springtime for the soul

February can be a tough month. Christmas is long gone and meanwhile the winter drags on; the weather's miserable and the news relentlessly depressing. There's not much to celebrate it seems.

But there are some signs of things changing. In the woods, a scattering of brilliant yellow aconites hint at the sunshine that is to come and a bank of snowdrops defies the last frosts of the year. Nature is on the move.



And so too is God. As we enter the season of Lent, we tentatively begin our preparations for Easter. Ash Wednesday's ceremonies may seem sober; reflecting on our mortality and need for forgiveness ("remember you are dust and to dust you shall return; turn away from sin"), but also pointing us to the One in whom all our hopes are founded ("be faithful to Christ").

Traditionally a season of fasting, perhaps it might be better to think of Lent rather as a time to make space for God. Fast by all means but maybe it's head space we really need, so why not, for example, turn our smart phones off for a few hours so we can think and feel and 'be' ourselves in the presence of God rather than at the beck and call of others?

Perhaps that way we might truly make Lent, what Brother Roger of Taizé called it: "a springtime for the soul" and arrive at Easter with a renewed clarity about God's love and care for us all.

Have a spacious Lent

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Chris Dalliston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small underline at the end.

The Very Revd Chris Dalliston
Dean of Peterborough

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Email: communications@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Weekday Scripture Readings for February

Our weekday scripture readings, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament, taken from the 'Additional Lectionary' which was constructed by the Church of England principally for use in Cathedrals at weekday Evensong.



Monday	2	Haggai 2.1-9	John 2.18-22
Tuesday	3	Proverbs 4.10-end	Matthew 5.13-20
Wednesday	4	Isaiah 61.1-9	Luke 7.18-30
Thursday	5	Isaiah 52.1-12	Matthew 10.1-15
Friday	6	Isaiah 56.1-8	Matthew 28.16-end
Saturday	7	Habakkuk 2.1-4	Revelation 14.1-7
Monday	9	Isaiah 61.1-9	Mark 6.1-13
Tuesday	10	Isaiah 52.1-10	Romans 10.5-21
Wednesday	11	Isaiah 52.13–53.6	Romans 15.14-21
Thursday	12	Isaiah 53.4-12	2 Corinthians 4.1-10
Friday	13	Zechariah 8.16-end	Matthew 10.1-15
Saturday	14	Jeremiah 1.4-10	Matthew 10.16-22
Monday	16	2 Kings 2.13-22	3 John
Tuesday	17	Judges 14.5-17	Revelation 10.4-11
Wednesday	18	Isaiah 1.10-18	Luke 15.11-end
Thursday	19	Genesis 2.7-end	Hebrews 2.5-end
Friday	20	Genesis 4.1-12	Hebrews 4.12-end
Saturday	21	2 Kings 22.11-end	Hebrews 5.1-10
Monday	23	Genesis 6.11-end; 7.11-16	Luke 4.14-21
Tuesday	24	Deuteronomy 31.7-13	1 John 3.1-10
Wednesday	25	Genesis 11.1-9	Matthew 24.15-28
Thursday	26	Genesis 13.1-13	1 Peter 2.13-end
Friday	27	Genesis 21.1-8	Luke 9.18-27
Saturday	28	Genesis 32.22-32	2 Peter 1.10-end

Chippings from the Vicar's Work Bench

Return of Last Year's Palm Crosses

Many of us may not realise that the ash used on Ash Wednesday is made by burning the palm crosses from the previous year. This ash is a powerful symbol of our mortality and marks the beginning of Lent, when we are invited to strip away our self-deceptions about who we are and all that separates us from an intimate relationship with God. Please return your palm crosses and place them in the basket provided in church. It takes a great deal of palm to make a very small amount of ash, so do please be thorough – even returning crosses of some antiquity. They all count! A Palm Cross Amnesty is hereby proclaimed.

Candlemas – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

We keep the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas), forty days after Christmas Day, on Monday 2 February. The Parish Mass will be at 7.30pm. Candlemas is a pivotal moment in the Christian year: it allows us one last look back to Bethlehem while also inviting us to look forward to all that lies ahead as we journey towards Lent and Holy Week. Please do come if you possibly can.

Service of Preparation for Lent This service is a valuable way of turning our spiritual focus towards the themes of Lent: faith, our need for repentance, restoring a right relationship with God, the importance of spiritual discipline, and the value of spiritual reading, fasting, or eating less – always with a clear spiritual intention. As this falls during school half term, the service will be congregational rather than choral, though the content will otherwise remain unchanged.

A Lent Course

Easter Day this year falls on 5 April, which is three weeks earlier than last year. Lent therefore begins on 18 February.

At the time of writing, not all this year's Lent resources have been published or reviewed. There will, however, be a Lent Course held on Thursdays at 2.00pm in the Parish Centre on the following dates:

- 26 February
- 5 March
- 12 March
- 19 March
- 26 March

We meet in the Garden Room. The change of day (from Wednesday) is due to the availability of the Parish Centre – though we will be meeting at the same time as our Tea Dance friends, who will be twirling their way around the hall.

All Age Mass – Sunday 1 February

Our next *All Age Mass for the Parish Family* takes place on Sunday 1 February, the Fourth Sunday of Epiphany, at 10.15am. The Gospel reading (John 2:1–11) tells the story of the Wedding Feast at Cana. We will be reflecting on Mary's interaction with Jesus and on his transformation of water into perhaps 180 gallons of the finest wine – a powerful sign of God's generosity to us in our need.

Ash Wednesday – 18 February

The Parish Mass with the Imposition of Ashes will take place on Ash Wednesday, 18 February, at 7.30pm. Please note that the calendar has once again not been kind to us, as this falls during half term, when the choir and Fr Nicholas are usually on holiday. There will therefore not be a midday Mass. Ash Wednesday is a holy day of obligation, when the committed are particularly encouraged to be present at Mass so that together we may begin our Lenten journey faithfully, walking with one another through these forty days and forty nights.

Off Duty

Please note that Fr Nicholas will be off duty from 15–21 February, though he will be at the evening Mass on Wednesday 18th.

Ecumenical Stations of the Cross

As in previous years, we will share the devotions commemorating the final hours of our Saviour's life – the Fourteen Stations of the Cross – with St Gregory's Roman Catholic Church, alternating between our two churches. These take place on Fridays in Lent at 7.30pm as follows:

- 20 February – St Gregory's
- 27 February – St Matthew's
- 6 March – St Gregory's
- 13 March – St Matthew's
- 20 March – St Gregory's
- 27 March – St Matthew's

The Stations of the Cross are a traditional devotion which invites us to walk prayerfully with Jesus along the way of his suffering and death. The fourteen stations trace the final hours of our Lord's earthly life, from his condemnation before Pilate to his burial in the tomb. As we move from station to station, we are encouraged not simply to recall historical events, but to reflect on the meaning of Christ's Passion for our own lives, and for the life of the world. The Stations help us to contemplate themes of sacrifice, compassion, endurance, forgiveness, and love offered to the very end.

This devotion has long been a central part of Lenten prayer, allowing us to slow our pace, engage our hearts and minds, and deepen our awareness of

the cost of our redemption. When shared ecumenically, as we do with St Gregory's, it also becomes a powerful expression of our common faith in Christ crucified and risen. All are warmly invited to take part, whether regularly or occasionally, as we journey together towards Holy Week and Easter.

Walsingham Cell

Since its inception, our Walsingham Cell has met on the second Saturday of the month at 9.30am. It has become clear that this timing is not convenient for everyone, and in particular it prevents potential new members from attending the monthly Mass of the Holy House. To make our gathering more accessible, we have decided to vary the day – and therefore the time – during the second week of the month for an experimental period, after which we will review how well this approach is working. The February Walsingham Mass will therefore take place in the Lady Chapel on Wednesday 11 February at midday. Please do come.



***The Crucifixion* by John Stainer**

Please make a note in your diaries that our choir will be performing *The Crucifixion* by John Stainer in church on Passion Sunday, the Fifth Sunday of Lent, beginning at 4.00pm. Stainer's work, first performed in 1887, is a deeply devotional setting of the Passion narrative, combining congregational hymns with choral and solo movements, and has long held a special place in Lenten worship.

Purchase of this year's Paschal Candle

The Paschal (Easter) Candle is the primary symbol of the presence of the Risen Lord at the Easter Vigil. It burns at all services during the fifty days of Easter, and at baptisms and funerals throughout the year. Each year we invite members of the congregation to contribute towards the purchase of this candle, perhaps in memory of departed loved ones. This year's beeswax candle, together with its wax relief and markings, costs £114.98. Given the cost, it is very appropriate that this is a shared community offering, and contributions of any size would be most welcome. If you would like to contribute, please speak with Anita or contact the parish office. Thank you for your generosity.

The Parish Church of St Matthew

Lent 2026



Stations of the Cross

Friday 20 February	<i>St Gregory's</i>
Friday 27 February	<i>St Matthew's</i>
Friday 6 March	<i>St Gregory's</i>
Friday 13 March	<i>St Matthew's</i>
Friday 20 March	<i>St Gregory's</i>
Friday 27 March	<i>St Matthew's</i>

All at 7.30pm

From Christmas Tree to Cross: One Story Told in Wood

This year, many of you will notice something unfamiliar in our nave sanctuary. The Christmas tree that stood at the West End in front of the baptistry, among us in joy and light, did not simply disappear once the season ended. Instead, it has been stripped of its lights and branches, and in Lent its remaining stem has been repurposed to create a cross and placed before us as a focus for prayer and reflection.

This may feel surprising. Why carry a Christmas symbol into Lent? Why not dispose of it and bring out a cross as usual? The answer is simple, but profound: this practice teaches us that Christmas and Good Friday are not two separate stories, but one continuous act of God's love.

The Tree at Christmas: A Sign of Life

The Christmas tree is not mentioned in the Bible, but its symbolism is deeply biblical. In scripture, trees often stand for life, blessing, and God's sustaining presence. The Tree of Life appears in the garden of Eden and again at the end of the Bible, in the book of Revelation, where it bears fruit for the healing of the nations.

An evergreen tree, living and green even in the depths of winter, quietly proclaims hope: life persists, light shines in darkness, and death does not have the final word. That is why the tree fits Christmas so naturally. It stands alongside the crib as a sign that the child born among us is not merely a baby, but the source of life itself. At Christmas, the tree is adorned, lit, and celebrated. It reflects joy, abundance, and glory.

Stripping the Tree: A Lenten Movement

Lent asks something different of us. As we move from Christmas into Lent, the tree is stripped of its decorations and branches. What was once beautiful and full is made bare. This mirrors the spiritual movement of Lent itself. Lent is a season of truth-telling: removing distractions, comforts, and illusions so that we can see clearly. It echoes the words spoken on Ash Wednesday: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

The stripping of the tree reflects the Christian belief that Christ did not cling to glory, but emptied himself. The Apostle Paul writes that Jesus "made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant." The movement from decorated tree to bare wood visually enacts this self-giving humility. What remains is not decorative. It is honest.

The Cross: The Same Wood, a Deeper Truth

In Lent, the stripped stem of the tree is shaped into a cross. This is where the practice becomes most clearly theological. The same tree that proclaimed life at Christmas now proclaims suffering and sacrifice. We are reminded that the child laid in the manger was born into a world that would reject him, and that the Incarnation – God taking flesh – was always moving toward the Cross.

The New Testament itself uses tree-language for the cross. Saint Peter writes that Christ “bore our sins in his body on the tree.” The cross is not an interruption to the Christmas story; it is its consequence. By using the same tree, we are taught something important: God redeems the world not by discarding it, but by entering into it fully. The material of our celebration becomes the material of our repentance. Joy is not denied; it is deepened.

A Cross with a Memory

This cross carries memory. We know where it came from. When we pray before it during Lent, we do so with Christmas still faintly echoing in our hearts. This prevents Lent from becoming bleak or despairing. The cross we contemplate is already connected to life, light, and promise. At the same time, it prevents Christmas from becoming sentimental. We cannot look at the crib without knowing where the story leads.

Hope Beyond the Cross

Even here, hope is not absent. The cross is still made of wood that once lived. The Christian story does not end with bareness and death. Easter will come, and the Church will once again proclaim resurrection and new life.

In this single object – the tree that becomes a cross – we are invited to walk the whole journey of faith: from life, through death, into life transformed. This practice is not about novelty. It is about learning to see more deeply. It is, quite literally, a sermon made of wood – one that unfolds slowly, inviting us not just to observe the story of salvation, but to inhabit it.



Palm Crosses required.

The ash used on Ash Wednesday is created by burning previous years Palm Crosses.



In order to do that we need you to return yours before Monday 16 February please. There is a box in church for them.

We need as many as possible, a lot of crosses make very little ash.

Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

ECCLESIASTES 3:20

Have a look in your cupboards and behind your bookshelves to see if you have any from previous years. A palm cross amnesty has been declared.

RESERVE A TABLE

ITALIAN CUISINE

ITALIAN CUISINE

NOW OPEN



LA TIELLA

Monday 15:00 - 23:00

Tuesday Closed

Wednesday to Sunday 15:00 - 23:00



The Parish Church of St Matthew

Sunday 1 February

10.15am

All Age Mass
for the Parish Family



The Parish Church of St Matthew

Monday 2 February

CANDLEMAS

The Presentation of
Christ in the Temple

7.30pm The Parish Mass



The Parish Church of St Matthew

Sunday 15 February

**SUNDAY NEXT
BEFORE LENT**

10.15am

The Parish Mass

5.30pm

Service of
Preparation
for Lent



The Parish Church of St Matthew

18 February

**ASH
WEDNESDAY**



7.30pm

The Parish Mass
with Imposition of Ashes

32nd St Matthew's Multi-Aged Girlguiding

Mandy Ludlow

As I write this article we have not yet met in 2026, as our first week back was cancelled; some of the girls had not gone back to school, the weather forecast was for snow and ice, and following a poll sent to parents, it was decided not to meet.

This is the time of year when we reflect on the previous year. We have seen leaders move on to pastures new, at the same time welcoming in new leaders Georgina, Sienna, Jess and Poojah. The same with girls, we have had girls move from Rainbows to Brownies, Brownies to Guides and Guides to Rangers, whilst others have had to leave as they pursue other interests – football, swimming, or dancing.

We have been out and about bowling, days out at Jubilee (our campsite), fun on the water and enjoying outdoor activities. There have been parties at Christmas and to celebrate VE Day where the girls came dressed up, enjoying party food which of course included jelly and ice cream.

One of the highlights was when our team of Brownies won the Catherine Huckell trophy.

Something that has changed is having to cancel meetings due to the weather – with the sun and heat set to be above 35° it was agreed that we should not meet. There was also the swarm of bees that prevented us meeting.

We have supported the Church Summer Fete and Christmas Fayre with Café Guides. On Holy Saturday we supplied and organised the refreshments for those sprucing up the Church.

Each time we set up Café Guides we think of something we can do better. 2025 saw us receive a 5* hygiene rating from West Northamptonshire Council; it took a lot of work, training, and commitment on behalf of the leaders, but we passed our inspection.

So, what for 2026? We have some trips and outings in the pipeline; there are girls who we hope will achieve their Gold Award before moving on to the next section. In the autumn of 2025 new interest badges for the girls were introduced and we look forward to doing more of these. Café Guides will continue; we have some ideas in the pipeline which we hope will come to fruition.

Café Guides Recipe for February

Marry Me Chicken

When I saw this recipe, it made me smile. With Valentines Day around the corner, win someone over with this creamy chicken casserole. It's a great family meal served with mash, or new potatoes, and green beans.



Ingredients

- 30g plain flour
- 4 chicken breasts
- 125g sundried tomatoes in oil,
- drained and roughly chopped, 3 tbsp oil reserved
- 1 red onion finely chopped
- 3 garlic cloves crushed or finely grated
- ½-1tsp chilli flakes (to taste)
- 2-3 thyme or oregano sprigs, or 1tsp mixed dried herbs
- 150ml double cream
- 250ml chicken stock
- 35g parmesan, grated
- 8-10 basil leaves torn, to serve
- lemon wedges to serve (optional)

Method

1. Put the flour on a plate and season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Coat the chicken in the flour.
2. Heat 2 tbsp of the sundried tomato oil in a large, lidded frying pan over a medium heat and fry the chicken for 8-10 mins until golden all over but not cooked through. Set the chicken aside on a plate.
3. Drizzle the remaining 1 tbsp sundried tomato oil into the pan and reduce the heat to medium-low. Fry the onion for 8-10 mins until softened but not golden. Stir in the garlic and cook for another minute before adding the sundried tomatoes, chilli and thyme or oregano, stirring well.
4. Add the chicken back to the pan, then pour over the cream and chicken stock, and season well. Put the lid on the pan and cook on medium-low for about 20 mins, turning the chicken halfway through until it is cooked through and the sauce has thickened a little. Stir in the parmesan, then serve with a scattering of basil leaves and lemon wedges on the side for squeezing over, if you like.

WINTER CAFEGUIDES

SUNDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2026

11.15AM - 12.30PM

ST MATTHEW'S PARISH CENTRE

27A THE DRIVE, NN1 4RY

JACKET POTATOES, BACON
ROLLS, SAUSAGE BAPS, A
SELECTION OF TEAS AND
FRESHLY BREWED COFFEE,
LATTE AND CAPPUCCINO, AS
WELL AS YUMMY HOT
CHOCOLATE - PLUS OUR
LUNCHTIME SPECIALS



WWW.32STMATTHEWSGUIDING.CO.UK



Caption Competition Result

Many thanks to Nick Bailey, Carol Duff and Jonathan Starmer who sent in entries, all excellent! I must admit when I first saw the photo I thought it was a Frankenstein mask (and someone else thought Herman Munster) but all the entries were on the ball – it's an Elvis mask!

Here are all the entries:

- 1 Pew Suede Shoes
- 2 Rock Around The Flock
- 3 Psalm Guys Have All The Luck
- 4 Pray On Down
- 5 Aisle Be Your Baby Tonight
- 6 Elvis has NOT left the building
- 7 When Fr Nicholas was caught 'Crying in the Chapel' the congregation were 'All Shook Up'

And the winner chosen anonymously by our trusty Churchwarden Dave Wilson, is...

Number 2, Rock Around The Flock, sent in by Nick Bailey. Well done Nick! Sorry there's no actual prize, just the kudos of winning.



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 February

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 9 February | Red Wrapped Gift Event (£1.00 per gift) with
Graham Kinnersley – <i>Musical Entertainment</i> |
| 23 February | Lorraine Lewis – <i>The Lewis Foundation</i> |

The full Spring/Summer 2026 programme is on our website:

Click on the 3-bar menu, go to News & Events
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 MARCH magazine is SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY

Editor: Dorrie Parker

Layout and production: Gary Drinkwater

90th
Anniversary



NORTHAMPTON BACH CHOIR

MESSIAH

HANDEL

28

SATURDAY
MARCH 2026

7.00pm Doors open 6.30pm

St Matthew's Church
Kettering Road, Northampton, NN1 4RY

Conductor - Simon Toyne | Northampton Bach Choir | Eboracum Baroque



Soloists: REBECCA BOTTONE soprano MILLIE ROYLE soprano
LAURA TOOMEY contralto THOMAS HAWKEY-SOAR tenor
WILLIAM SWINNERTON baritone



Tickets: £10 - £20 Early bird discount available until 28.2.26

Bookings: Scan QR or visit www.trybooking.com/uk/FSCW

Tickets on the door - cash or card Fees apply Complementary programme

www.northamptonbachchoir.org.uk

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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

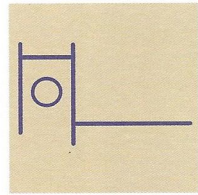
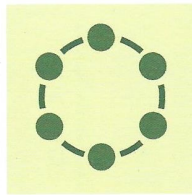
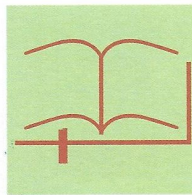
The Scheme is the most tax efficient way of contributing to the church because contributions may be eligible for Gift Aid (raising your donation by 25% at no cost to either you or St Matthew's).

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>



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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	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 Starmer
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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