

St Matthew's **MAIL**

**Suggested
Donation**

£1.00

News from the Parish of Kingsley, Northampton

MAY 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 May

<i>Date</i>	<i>Observance</i>	<i>Intention</i>
1	Ss Philip and James, Apostles	Following in the footsteps of Christ
2	S Athanasius, B, Dr	Standing up for the truth
3	THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Our Parish
4	The English Martyrs	The Ministry of Healing
5	Feria	Hope rooted in the promise of Christ
6	Feria	Living as a branch on the vine
7	Feria	The overriding law of love
8	Feria	Jesus as our 'friend'
9	Of OLW	The Shrine, Society, and our Parish Cell
10	THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Our Parish
11	Feria (Rogation Day)	Dealing with religious animosity
12	Feria	Our response to evil
13	Feria	Dealing with success and failure
14	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD	Our faith in the eternal destiny
15	Feria	Dealing with present sorrow
16	Feria	The importance of baptism
17	THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER	Our Parish
18	Feria	Our problems today in religious education
19	S Dunstan, B	The grace to speak truth to power
20	Feria	Our personal sense of mission
21	Feria	The pain of a divided Christianity
22	Feria	Love in community:
23		the sign of God's presence
23	Monthly Requiem	The Faithful Departed
24	PENTECOST (WHITSUNDAY)	The founding of The Church
25	Feria	Faith tested by trial
26	S Augustine, B	The Archbishop of Canterbury
27	S Bede, Pr, Dr	Learning from Church history
28	Feria	Our response to a request for prayers
29	Feria	Concern with externals
30	Of the BVM	For lone mothers
31	TRINITY SUNDAY	Deepening our understanding of God

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

May Pastoral Letter from the Vicar

Dear friends

A Quiet Hope in Troubled Times

As we continue in the joy of Eastertide, the Church sets before us three great feasts – Ascension, Pentecost, and Trinity Sunday – through which we are invited not only to believe more deeply, but to live more faithfully the life we have received in Christ.

The Ascension of the Lord lifts our gaze heavenward, yet not in escape from the world. In Christ, our human nature is taken into the very life of God. The wounds of the Cross are not erased, but glorified; suffering is not denied, but redeemed. For those who endure quietly, who carry burdens unseen, or who persevere in faith amidst uncertainty, this feast speaks a steady and consoling truth: that our destiny is not loss, but fulfilment – our life hidden now with Christ in God.

And yet, our Lord does not leave us to make that journey alone. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon the Church, the fire of divine love, the breath of God animating his people. The Church is born not as a human society sustained by effort, but as a living body, sustained by grace. That same Spirit is given to us still: in the sacraments, in the quiet prompting of conscience, in the strength to continue when we feel we have little left to give.

Then, in the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity, we glimpse the source and end of all things: the perfect communion of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Here is no domination, no rivalry, no distortion of truth – only co-equal, self-giving love. The life of God is not power grasped, but love shared; not confusion, but harmony; not isolation, but communion. And it is into this life that we are baptised and drawn.

Set against this vision, the realities of our world can weigh heavily upon us. We are daily confronted with accounts of conflict, suffering, and the misuse of power – in Ukraine, in Iran, and in so many places where truth is obscured, dignity diminished, and language itself pressed into the service of division or control. There are times, if I may speak plainly, when I find I cannot watch or listen to it all. There are days when, for the sake of one's own spiritual and emotional well-being, one must turn away – not out of indifference, but out of a need for preservation, for silence, for prayer.

And perhaps that, too, is a deeply Christian instinct. For we are not called to carry the whole weight of the world unaided, nor to immerse ourselves endlessly in that which diminishes hope. Rather, we are called to root ourselves again and again in the life of God, in Word and Sacrament, in prayer, in the fellowship of the Church so that we may be renewed and strengthened for the part we are given to play.

That part is not insignificant. Indeed, it is quietly prophetic. In a world where words are often careless or manipulative, we are called to speak truthfully and graciously. Where power is misused, we are called to exercise whatever influence we have with humility and integrity. Where others are diminished, we are called to honour the dignity of every person. Where there is noise and confusion, we are called to be people of prayerful attentiveness. To live in this way is not dramatic, but it is deeply faithful. It is to bear witness, however simply, to the Kingdom of God already at work among us.

The feasts of this month do not remove us from the world as it is, but they do remind us of the world as it is called to be, and of the God who is even now at work bringing all things to their fulfilment in Christ. May we be given grace to share in that work: to live with hope, to act with charity, and, in all things, to reflect the life of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Be assured of my prayers for you all, especially for those who are carrying burdens at this time. May this month bring you strength, peace, and a deepening awareness of God's presence.

Your sincere friend and parish priest,

Fr. Nicholas



Brand New Christian

On Easter Day, 5 April, at the Parish Mass of the Resurrection we also celebrated the Baptism of Matilda Vittoria Fowles, known as Tilly.

Tilly and her mother Marianna have been worshipping with us for some time. Please remember them in your prayers.

What's in a name?

It will soon be Pentecost... or should that be Whitsunday?

Does it matter? No, it doesn't matter, it's the same, but the name helps us to think a little deeper.

Pentecost, from the Greek word for 50, is 50 days after Easter and a Jewish festival (much in common with our Harvest Festival). In Acts, the disciples (women and men) were preparing to celebrate Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended like 'tongues of fire', there was the sound of a great wind, Peter preached and thousands became Christians that day.

The small number of women and men, hiding away and afraid, became a large number of women and men, speaking about Jesus' death and resurrection.

So why did it used to be Whitsunday?

Maybe from the Old English 'White Sunday', people were often baptised then wearing white robes. Or maybe Whitsunday comes from 'Wisdom Sunday' – I love this explanation because it draws us back to the heart of the biblical account. Wisdom Sunday because the Holy Spirit is viewed as the wisdom of God who gives wisdom to Christians.

Whatever we call it, Pentecost is the birthday of the Church. We focus on God who gives wisdom and enables the church to serve their community.

My prayer this Pentecost is that we also continue that tradition of care for those who need it most and focus on becoming ever more a place of welcome for all.



The Venerable Alison Booker
Archdeacon of Oakham



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Weekday Scripture Readings for May

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

Friday	1	Job 23.1-12	John 1.43-end
Saturday	2	1 Chronicles 29.10-13	Luke 24.13-35
Monday	4	Genesis 15.1-18	Romans 4.13-end
Tuesday	5	Deuteronomy 8.1-10	Matthew 6.19-end
Wednesday	6	Hosea 13.4-14	1 Corinthians 15.50-end
Thursday	7	Exodus 3.1-15	Mark 12.18-27
Friday	8	Ezekiel 36.33-end	Romans 8.1-11
Saturday	9	Isaiah 38.9-20	Luke 24.33-end
Monday	11	Proverbs 4.1-13	Philippians 2.1-11
Tuesday	12	Isaiah 32.12-end	Romans 5.1-11
Wednesday	13	2 Samuel 23.1-5	Colossians 2.20 – 3.4
Thursday	14	2 Kings 2.1-15	Revelation 5
Friday	15	1 Samuel 16.1-13a	Matthew 7.15-27
Saturday	16	Numbers 11.16-17, 24-29	1 Corinthians 2
Monday	18	Numbers 27.15-end	1 Corinthians 3
Tuesday	19	1 Samuel 10.1-10	1 Corinthians 12.1-13
Wednesday	20	1 Kings 19.1-18	Matthew 3.13-end
Thursday	21	Ezekiel 11.14-20	Matthew 9.35 – 10.20
Friday	22	Ezekiel 36.22-28	Matthew 12.22-32
Saturday	23	Deuteronomy 16.9-15	John 15.26 – 16.15
Monday	25	Genesis 12.1-9	Romans 4.13-end
Tuesday	26	Genesis 13.1-12	Romans 12.9-end
Wednesday	27	Genesis 15	Romans 4.1-8
Thursday	28	Genesis 22.1-18	Hebrews 11.8-19
Friday	29	Isaiah 51.1-8	John 8.48-end
Saturday	30	Exodus 34.1-10	Mark 1.1-13

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

May in the Parish

May brings with it the fullness of Eastertide – a season of joy, promise, and new life – and a rich pattern of worship and parish life. We look forward to sharing it together.

All Age Mass – Sunday 3 May

Our next All Age Mass will be on Sunday 3 May, the Fifth Sunday of Easter. We are delighted to welcome our uniformed organisations, along with parishioners of all ages, as we gather in this joyful season.

The Gospel (John 14.1–14) gives us those well-loved words of Jesus: “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” Spoken at the Last Supper, they are now addressed to us. Together we shall reflect on faith in times of uncertainty, on Christ as our sure way, and on the promise of an eternal home.

May Bank Holidays

In keeping with our longstanding custom, Mass on the Bank Holiday Mondays in May will be celebrated at 9.30am in the Lady Chapel.

Please note that there will be no midday Mass on Thursday 7 May, as both Fr Nicholases will be attending a College of Canons meeting in Peterborough. Unlike the Risen Lord, they regret that they cannot be in more than one place at once! Our apologies for any inconvenience.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Sunday 10 May

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (preceded by the Meeting of Parishioners) will take place during the Parish Mass on Sunday 10 May. This is an important moment in our common life: a chance to reflect, give thanks, and look ahead. It is also when we elect churchwardens and members of the PCC. There are several vacancies this year, and we would warmly encourage some ‘new blood’ to consider serving (communicant members of the Church of England are eligible). Please do make every effort to be present.

Guild of the Servants of the Sanctuary – Tuesday 12 May

Members of the local chapter of the Guild of the Servants of the Sanctuary will gather at St Matthew's on Tuesday 12 May for an evening liturgy. Details of the start time will appear in the weekly notices. All are very welcome to attend.

Ascension Day – Thursday 14 May

The Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, celebrated forty days after Easter, marks Christ's return to the Father and his exaltation in glory. Far from being a farewell, it is a promise: that where he has gone, we are called to follow.

There will be a Parish Mass at 7.30pm. As this is a Principal Feast of the Church, do please make every effort to attend. (The usual midday Mass is cancelled.)

Ordination on Ascension Day

Also on Ascension Day, the Revd Nicolas Boisson, Assistant Curate at All Saints', Northampton, will be ordained to the priesthood by the Bishop of Richborough, the Rt Revd Luke Irvine-Capel.

Please keep Fr Nicolas, his family, and the people of All Saints in your prayers on this joyful and significant day.

Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham – 18 – 22 May

Please remember in your prayers those who will be making our parish pilgrimage to Walsingham – often called “England’s Nazareth” – from Monday 18 May to Friday 22 May.

Mass on Monday will be at 9.30am, followed by the blessing and sending of pilgrims. Please note that the evening Mass that day, and Masses on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, are cancelled.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham has, for centuries, been a place of prayer, healing, and renewal. The Society of Our Lady of Walsingham supports devotion to Our Lady, encourages pilgrimage, and calls its members to a life of prayer, sacrament, and holiness – including the daily saying of the Angelus. A lamp burns constantly in the Holy House for members, who are remembered in prayer each day. If you would like to know more about the Society, please speak with Fr Nicholas or Dave Wilson.

Monthly Requiem – Saturday 23 May

Our monthly Requiem Mass will be offered on Saturday 23 May at 9.30am in the Lady Chapel.

From the earliest days, Christians have prayed for the departed, entrusting them to God’s mercy and love. In the Requiem Mass, we bring before God those we have loved and lost – especially those recently bereaved and those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

In Christ’s death and resurrection, death is no longer the end but the gateway to eternal life. This quiet and prayerful liturgy offers space for remembrance, grief, and hope, as we commend the departed to God’s eternal care and are ourselves strengthened in faith.

Pentecost and Trinity Sunday – 24 and 31 May

Pentecost, the “great fiftieth day” of Easter, falls on Sunday 24 May. On this day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church – God’s life and power at work within us, renewing and sending us out in mission.

There will be a procession at the 10.15am Parish Mass, and Solemn Congregational Evensong at 5.30pm. As it is half-term, the choir will not be singing that day.

The following Sunday, 31 May, is Trinity Sunday, when we rejoice in the mystery of one God in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: a mystery not to be solved, but to be worshipped. The choir will return, and we shall mark the day with Solemn Choral Evensong at 5.30pm.

Please note that Fr Nicholas will be off duty during the intervening weekdays.



Children at Work!

Here's a photo of the daffodil painting in front of the Madonna which formed the Prayer interaction on Mothering Sunday. It was created by Rachael Drouet and her Junior Church children.

The flowers used to decorate the stripped-down Christmas Tree cross in the porch (pictured in the next article) were made by Junior Church on Palm Sunday. Rachael organised it and both children and adults got involved in creating the flowers. Junior Church children also decorated plant pots and planted pansies/violas – these were placed on the window ledges along with the candles to brighten up the church ready for Easter Day.

From Cross to Resurrection: The Story Continues

At the beginning of Lent, Fr Nicholas invited us to see our Christmas tree in a new and deeper way – not simply as a seasonal decoration, but as part of a single unfolding story of faith. As he wrote, the tree that once stood adorned in light and joy was stripped back and reshaped into a cross, reminding us that Christmas and Good Friday are not separate moments, but one continuous act of God's love.

Throughout Lent, that cross stood in church as a focus for prayer and reflection – familiar wood, now carrying a different and more challenging meaning.

At Easter, however, the story did not end there.

The same cross was transformed once again, this time through the creativity and care of the children of the parish, who decorated it with flowers and colour. Now placed in the porch and draped with cloth, it has become a sign not only of sacrifice, but of resurrection and new life.

In this simple yet powerful journey – from Christmas tree, to Lenten cross, to Easter symbol of life – a we see the whole arc of the Christian story held together in one piece of wood. What was once stripped bare is now made beautiful again, echoing the promise that life, not death, has the final word.

The photographs that accompany this article capture this transformation, and the shared work of our parish community in bringing it to life.



Easter at St Matthew's

Jean Duncan

This year for the first time in a number of years I have had the privilege of being able to join in with the amazing celebrations we have had at St Matthew's during Holy Week. We were given opportunities to join in one, or all of the services from Wednesday (Tenebrae), Thursday (Maundy Thursday), Friday (Good Friday), Saturday (Easter Vigil), and then Sunday (Easter Day) to celebrate the Risen Christ.

During these services we were able to experience beautiful music and familiar readings and hymns which we hear and sing each Easter and in which we find comfort and joy. The Passion story stirs many emotions and the glorious Easter Day story fills us with happiness and hope for the future.

Prior to this we had hosted the Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent, services which we shared with our friends from St Gregory's Church. If you have never followed the story of Jesus' arrest through to his crucifixion in a church with a group of people – some familiar faces and others visitors – you have missed quite an opportunity. The scenes depicting this story so graphically portrayed in these plaques are wonderful focal points. I think I see something different in them each time I look. A real focus for prayerful reflection; I don't think we as a congregation value them enough. When you have a moment just choose one and really study it. Each time I see the nails being hammered into Jesus' hands I have a real sense of wanting to take the hammer away because it looks as though I could (Station XI).



All these services could not take place without a great deal of preparation and help, so I finish by adding my sincere thanks to all those involved, whether it was by providing the amazing music, the telling of the challenging stories of Holy Week, or by arranging the flowers, or by cleaning the church until it shone, or providing the refreshments. (The 'goody bags' with our coffee on Saturday morning were a delightful surprise Mandy!) And to all those who make our church available to us by arriving early to unlock or staying late to lock up – to you all a big THANK YOU.

It was a wonderful and joyous Eastertide. Don't miss out next year!

St Matthew's Ladies Group

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

Meetings in May

- 11 May Tracey Whitehead – *The Beehive Hortihub*
(There will be items for sale)
- 25 May Bank Holiday – no meeting

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

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

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

Number **88**, held by **Pauline Swansborough**



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

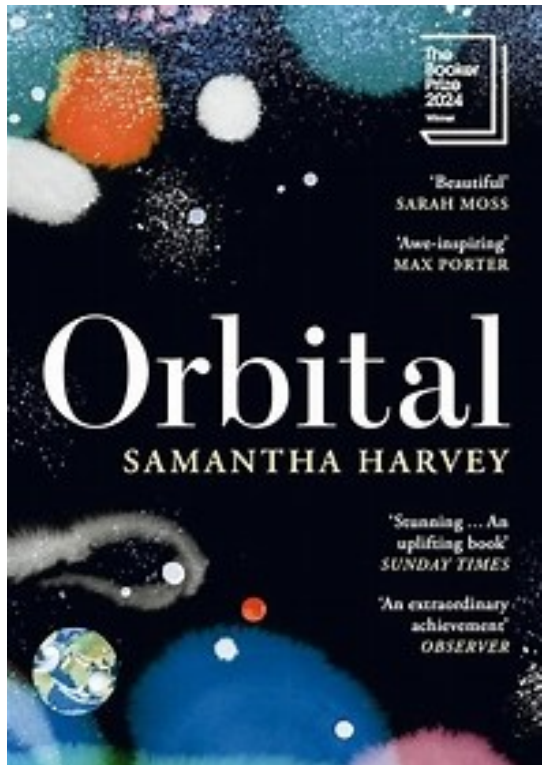
Journey into Space

Jean Duncan

As I have been writing about the Easter celebrations I have been also following the amazing journey of Artemis II in its journey into space. A spaceship rocketing into parts of the universe never entered before and then seeing the moon from a totally different viewpoint by going round the back and seeing the far side of the moon and being able to share that view with us on earth! Just astonishing, amazing and any other descriptive word you can think of. At this moment [of writing] the rocket will be making its way back to earth so we pray all will be well.

I have no desire to go into space; I would be terrified of blasting off and reaching impossible speeds. The views no doubt would be wonderful, but I would probably have my eyes closed. But I am fascinated by it. Those who make these space journeys, and even land on the moon, have my utmost admiration. They are very brave and exceptionally talented people.

I have been able to share in my imagination such a journey through the descriptions by author Samantha Harvey in her book ***Orbital***. I do recommend it to you. It is a fiction book and the author herself has never been to space, but the way the journey round the earth is portrayed certainly caught my imagination. It is an easy, compelling read and I was drawn into the journey as she described experiencing the rising and setting of the sun several times per day, as the rocket hurtled over Sydney, Honk Kong etc. Do read it before it becomes out of date, taken over by the current space expedition, and I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.



That Marilyn Moment!

Young or old, the girls at St Matthew's do seem to enjoy their moment over the grilles at the front of the church...



This is Tilly taken on Easter Sunday before the Service when she was baptised, and the late Mary Wallis as Father Christmas's helper at a Christmas Fayre.

Next month's magazine

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

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

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

Deadline for the JUNE magazine is SUNDAY 17 MAY

Editor: Dorrie Parker

Layout and production: Gary Drinkwater

32nd St Matthew's Multi-Aged Girlguiding

Mandy Ludlow

March was a busy and enjoyable month for the girls of 32nd St Matthew's Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. As always, we were eager to make sure everyone could take part, regardless of their background or transport options. Our coaches ensured that no one was left behind, and every girl had the opportunity to join in with the fun.

Bowling Night

For our final meeting of the term, we boarded the coach at 5.30 in the evening and travelled to the Hollywood Bowl in Wellingborough. On a quiet Monday evening, the bowling centre was nearly empty, giving us plenty of space to play. The girls enjoyed two games, encouraging each other and celebrating their strikes and spares.



The units provided snack bags for every girl, containing a drink, crisps, and biscuits, which were welcomed after all the excitement. When we returned to the Parish Centre around 8.30pm, each girl was delighted to receive an Easter goody bag. These included a chocolate egg, stickers, sweets, and a special pen with an Easter bunny on top, complete with four coloured inks, which proved very popular – who doesn't love a pen.

Many of the girls remarked on how much they enjoyed spending time together outside their usual meetings, and the bowling trip was a chance for everyone to relax and have fun in a new setting. We look forward to planning more outings where everyone can participate, thanks to our reliable coach transport.

Leaders' Planning Evening

Our leaders gathered at Georgina's house for a productive planning session. Alongside pizza and desserts, we discussed upcoming activities and how to help three Brownies and a Rainbow achieve their Gold Award. With lighter evenings and hopefully some good weather ahead, we are also hoping to work towards the Eco Award, encouraging everyone to think about nature and sustainability. The planning evening gave us the chance to share new ideas and make sure our programme offers something for everyone.

Holy Saturday Café Guides

On Holy Saturday, Café Guides provided refreshments for parishioners cleaning the church. To make things easier for everyone, goody bags were thoughtfully assembled with a sliced hot cross bun, jam, butter, and a few chocolate treats. This meant each person could enjoy their snack in their own time, whether fasting or simply preferring different toppings.



It is these small acts of kindness and teamwork that make our group special. Whether supporting those who help keep the church clean, or making sure every girl receives a snack bag and Easter treat, we are proud of our spirit of inclusion and support.

Spring
CAFÉ GUIDES
SUNDAY 3RD MAY 2026
11.15AM - 12.30PM
ST MATTHEW'S PARISH CENTRE
27A THE DRIVE, NORTHAMPTON NN1 4RY

SERVING HOME COOKED FOOD - JACKET
POTATOES, BACON ROLLS AND SAUSAGE
BAPS
HOME MADE CAKES

FRESH FILTER COFFEE ALONG WITH LATTE'S
AND CAPPUCCINO, A WIDE SELECTION OF
TEAS, YUMMY HOT CHOCOLATE TOO

OUR LUNCHTIME SPECIALS AVAILABLE TOO

Café Guides Recipe for May

I started to think about this on the warmest day of April – just right for sitting out in the garden for lunch.



Potted Smoked Fish with Prawns

Ingredients

- 225gm/6oz smoked haddock
- 225gm/6oz smoked mackerel
- 4 tblsp Greek-style yogurt
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 2 tblsp parsley, finely chopped
- 150g/6oz peeled prawns, defrosted if frozen
- 50g/2oz butter
- Bay leaves or lemon wedges to serve

Method

1. Poach the smoked haddock in a shallow pan with just enough water to cover. To check that it is cooked, test it with a fork – it should flake easily. Drain well, allow it to cool, then flake the fish removing any skin or bones.
2. Remove the skin from and any bones from the smoked mackerel. Put the fish into a mixing bowl and flake with a fork. Add the smoked haddock, yogurt, lemon juice and most of the parsley.
3. Divide the mixture between 6 individual ramekins. Top with the prawns, piling into the middle.
4. Melt the butter then drizzle over the prawns. Add the bay leaves or lemon slice to each pot and scatter with the remaining parsley. Chill until ready to serve, then use to spread generously on to brown bread and butter.

The above is perfect for spreading on Irish Soda Bread, the below is a bonus recipe and is the same as the Guides made for International Thinking Day – enjoy!

Easy Soda Bread

Ingredients

- 170g/6oz wholemeal flour
- 170g/6oz plain flour, plus extra for dusting
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda

- 290ml/10fl oz buttermilk

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200C/180C Fan/Gas 6.
2. Tip the flours, salt and bicarbonate of soda into a large bowl and stir. Make a well in the centre and pour in the buttermilk, mixing quickly with a large fork to form a soft dough. (Depending upon the absorbency of the flour, you may need to add a little milk if the dough seems too stiff but it should not be too wet or sticky.)
3. Turn onto a lightly floured surface and knead briefly. Form into a round and flatten the dough slightly before placing on a lightly floured baking sheet.
4. Cut a cross on the top and bake for about 30 minutes or until the loaf sounds hollow when tapped. Cool on a wire rack.

Taking a Break...

Some of the 'workers' taking a well-earned tea break at the church cleaning on Holy Saturday!



Safeguarding: Everyone's Responsibility

Ben Drouet, Parish Safeguarding Officer

As some of you will know, I have recently taken on the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer, having previously served as Deputy Safeguarding Officer. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue serving the parish in this way, and I wanted to use this article to say something about safeguarding and why it matters so much in the life of the Church.

I would also like to pay tribute to Sarah Oughton, who served faithfully as Parish Safeguarding Officer before me. Sarah gave a great deal of time, care and commitment to this important work, often in ways that were not especially visible, and the parish has benefited greatly from her service. I am very grateful for all she has done.

Safeguarding is not something separate from worship, fellowship and ministry. It is part of how we care for one another well. A safe church is one where children, young people and vulnerable adults are protected, where concerns are taken seriously, and where everyone knows that they matter. As Scripture reminds us, we are called to “speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves” (Proverbs 31:8), and safeguarding is one of the practical ways we live out that calling in the life of the Church.

At its heart, safeguarding is about creating a culture of care, respect and attentiveness. It is about helping to ensure that church is a place where people can belong, serve and worship safely and confidently. It is also about being honest and realistic. However much we may prefer to think that serious problems happen elsewhere, safeguarding begins with the recognition that harm or abuse could happen here too. That is not said to cause alarm or suspicion, but because no community is automatically immune from risk. Taking safeguarding seriously is part of being a trustworthy and responsible church.

For that reason, safeguarding is not an optional extra. It is a normal and necessary part of church life. It is also important to be clear that different roles in church require different levels of safeguarding training and different levels of DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks, depending on the nature of the role and the responsibilities involved. People taking on these roles should expect this as a normal part of serving. These requirements are not there to create obstacles or to imply mistrust. They are there because

the Church has a duty to do all it reasonably can to create a safer environment for everyone.

It is important to say plainly that where safeguarding training and DBS checks are required, they are mandatory. They are not optional, nor are they something to be done only if convenient. This applies whether someone is paid or a volunteer. Safeguarding is part of serving well, and these requirements are part of that commitment.

I have already begun contacting those whose roles require safeguarding training and/or a DBS check, and I will continue doing so over the coming weeks and months, so please do not be surprised if you hear from me. This is simply part of making sure that the parish is doing what it should, and that people are properly supported in meeting the requirements of their role.

It is also important to remember that safeguarding training and DBS checks are not one-off matters. They need to be renewed every three years, so it is important that we keep them up to date rather than seeing them as something done once and then forgotten about. For those who hold an enhanced DBS certificate, signing up to the DBS Update Service is also a very good idea, as it can make future checking more straightforward.

Some people may understandably feel that training or DBS checks are just formalities, or may be unsure about what is involved. In practice, the training is helpful, accessible and relevant. It gives us the knowledge and confidence to recognise concerns, respond appropriately, and understand our shared responsibilities. DBS checks are also a standard part of safer recruitment and safer working, helping to ensure that the right safeguards are in place.

As a parish, I hope we can continue to make safeguarding visible, understood and taken seriously by everyone. That means not only meeting the necessary requirements, but also building a culture where safeguarding is spoken about naturally and openly. Good safeguarding is not about assuming the worst about people. It is about loving our neighbour well, protecting the vulnerable, supporting those who serve, and helping to ensure that our church is a safe and welcoming place for all.

Thank you in advance to everyone who engages positively with training, DBS processes and safer practice. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and it is one of the ways we put our faith into action in practical and compassionate ways.

Need advice or want to raise a concern?

If you have a safeguarding concern, or would like advice, you can contact the Parish Safeguarding Officer via the safeguarding page on the parish website or speak to Ben Drouet in person. Messages sent through the website are monitored daily. You may also contact the Diocese of Peterborough Safeguarding Team directly if you would prefer not to speak to someone at parish level first.

Diocese of Peterborough Safeguarding Team

Email: safeguarding@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Direct lines: 01733 887040 / 01733 887039

Independent support

Safe Spaces: 0300 303 1056

Email: safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk



If someone is in immediate danger, call 999.

Christian Aid Week 2026

Girlie Franklin

While praising God for his bounty this spring, we must unite to support our global neighbours who are locked in a painful battle against poverty. In Nairobi's informal settlement, most parents wake knowing that if they don't earn money today, their family will go hungry tonight. With our gifts, we can offer aspiring farmers the tools and training to cultivate crops.

This year, we will have only one event, which will be a coffee morning on **Saturday 23 May**. This will take place in the garden room in the **Parish Centre from 10.00-12.00**.

The red envelopes will be given out in church on **Sunday 10 May**. Please return to the Parish Office or give it to me by **Sunday 31 May**.

Please support this worthy cause if you possibly can.

Thank you
Girlie



The Parish Church of St Matthew

Sunday 3 May

10.15am

All Age Mass
for the Parish Family



5.30pm
Choral Evensong

The Parish Church of St Matthew

Thursday 14 May

**ASCENSION
OF THE LORD**

7.30pm The Parish Mass



The Parish Church of St Matthew

Sunday 24 May

PENTECOST

10.15am

The Parish Mass

5.30pm

Solemn Congregational Evensong



The Parish Church of St Matthew

Sunday 31 May

TRINITY SUNDAY

10.15am

The Parish Mass

5.30pm

Solemn Choral Evensong



The passenger tapped the taxi driver on the shoulder to ask him something. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, mounted the pavement and stopped inches short of a shop window. For a second everything was quiet in the taxi then the driver said: "Don't ever do that again, you scared me half to death!"



The passenger apologised and said he hadn't realised a little tap would scare him so much. The driver replied "You're right, I'm sorry, it's not your fault... Today is my first day as a taxi driver. I've been driving a hearse for the last 25 years."



RESERVE A TABLE

ITALIAN CUISINE

NOW OPEN

LA TIELLA

Monday 15:00 - 23:00

Tuesday Closed

Wednesday to Sunday 15:00 - 23:00



DECEMBER 18TH
ST MATTHEWS



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GEORGE MICHAEL
RETURN FOR A DEEPLY
PERSONAL TOUR"



THE GEORGE MICHAEL SINGERS

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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.

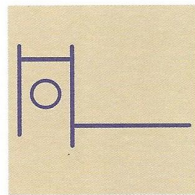
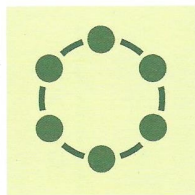
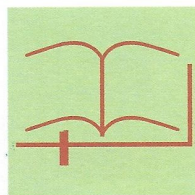
The Scheme is the most tax efficient way of contributing to the church because contributions may be eligible for Gift Aid (raising your donation by 25% at no cost to either you or St Matthew's).

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>



PARISHGIVINGScheme

Parish Office

27A The Drive, Kingsley, Northampton NN1 4RY (*within the Parish Centre*)

Telephone: 01604 791251 Email: office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Anita Speake Office opening hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 9.30am till 12.30pm, 1.00pm till 4.00pm; Wednesdays CLOSED

Ministry Team

Parish Priest	The Revd Canon Nicholas Setterfield vicar@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk	Tel: 01604 604412
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

David Waller trust@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
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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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