

St Matthew's **MAIL**

**Suggested
Donation**

£1.00

News from the Parish of Kingsley, Northampton

SEPTEMBER 2025



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 the winter months of November to March, held in the Parish Centre)*

Morning and Evening Prayer are said publicly at 9.00am and 5.30pm daily

Monday 7.00pm Mass (on Bank Holidays at 9.30am)
(Healing Mass and Devotions on the first Monday in the month)

Tuesday Currently suspended

Wednesday 9.30am Mass

Thursday 9.30am Mass

Friday 12 noon Mass

Saturday 9.30am Mass

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

Major Feast-Days Procession and Sung Mass at 7.30pm

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

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

All aspects of the sacrament are in confidence.

Worship Calendar for September

<i>Date</i>	<i>Observance</i>	<i>Intention</i>
1	St Giles, Rel	The healing ministry
2	Feria	Our uniformed groups
3	St Gregory the Great, Pp, Dr	Those returning to their studies
4	St Cuthbert, B	Our PCC
5	Feria	The conflict and suffering of the Middle East
6	Of the BVM	Pre-school childcare provision
7	THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 18)	
8	Birth of the BVM	Planning for the future
9	Feria	Those crossing the Channel in dinghies
10	Monthly Requiem	The Faithful Departed
11	Feria	For all who hunger and thirst
12	Feria	Mental health needs and provision
13	Of OLW	The Shrine and Society
14	THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS	
15	Feria	Those struggling with the cost of living
16	Ss Cornelius, Pp, and Cyprian, B, Ms	For the persecuted
17	Feria	The impacts of global warming
18	Feria	For Ukraine
19	Feria	Crime perpetrated by children
20	Saints and Martyrs of Australasia and the Pacific	The Church's numerical growth
21	ST MATTHEW THE APOSTLE — PATRONAL FESTIVAL	
22	Feria	For those who feel lonely or alone
23	Feria	For Kingsley Primary School
24	Our Lady of Walsingham	The on-going ministry of the Shrine
25	Feria	Greater Northampton Deanery Synod
26	Feria	Strengthening our spiritual life
27	St Vincent de Paul, Pr	Those called to licensed ministry
28	DEDICATION FESTIVAL	
29	MICHAELMAS	The prayers of the heavenly host
30	S Jerome, Pr, Dr	For theological educators and students

The Church prays for the community daily.

Please include these topics in your daily prayers.

September Pastoral Letter from the Vicar

Fresh and purposeful beginnings

September always brings with it a feeling of fresh beginnings. After the (hopefully) gentler pace of summer, the rhythms of life return: children and teachers back to school, routines re-established, our uniformed groups and choir return, and the parish calendar begins to hum again with activity and anticipation.

This month, we are indeed richly blessed with opportunities to worship, to gather, and to reflect more deeply on the life of faith together. I warmly encourage you to join in as fully as you are able.

We begin on Sunday 7 September with our All-Age Mass for the Parish Family. These joyful gatherings remind us that the Church is, at heart, a family: multi-generational, diverse in experience, but united around the table of Christ. Whether young or old, new to faith or long in the journey, you belong here.

On Sunday 14, we keep Holy Cross Day, a moment to pause and gaze afresh at the mystery of the Cross. The cross is not merely an ancient instrument of death, but the sign of life, love and victory. It is the paradox at the centre of the Christian faith – ‘where life was lost there life has been restored’. Or, as St Paul wrote, “We proclaim Christ crucified... the power of God and the wisdom of God” (1 Corinthians 1.23–24). In a world that so often feels broken and burdened, we are called to take up our own crosses – not with grim resignation, but with the hope that resurrection always follows. The Cross is a place of radical transformation.

A highlight, the focal point of the month, is our Patronal Festival, the Feast of St Matthew the Apostle, on Sunday 21st, when we celebrate the apostle whose name our church bears. St Matthew reminds us that no-one is beyond the reach of God’s grace. A tax collector transformed into a gospel writer: this is the power of divine mercy at work. We will rejoice doubly that day as we welcome Aaliyah Marie Murphy-Smith as a new member into Christ’s family, the Church, through the sacrament of Baptism at the Parish Mass – a beautiful sign of new life, new calling, and God’s continuing faithfulness among us.

On Sunday 28th, we mark the 132nd Dedication Festival, giving thanks for the consecration of our church building, a place of prayer and community through generations. We honour not only the stones and mortar, the generosity of benefactors, but the living Church – the people who have offered worship, found solace, shared joy within these walls. Come and help us give thanks.

Then, as it were without pause, the following day brings the Feast of St Michael and All Angels (Michaelmas) on Monday 29th. This celebration of the heavenly host reminds us of God's unseen presence and the spiritual dimension of our lives. Angels may not always be seen, but their presence assures us that God's messengers are always near, bearing strength, protection and guidance.

So yes, it is a busy month, but it is also a blessed month. Every festival, every feast, every return, every gathering tells us something more about who God is, his purpose in and among us, and who we are called to be.

Please join us – not only to attend, but to be part of the living story of faith unfolding in our parish. And let us pray for a peaceful and purposeful September.

Your sincere friend and parish priest,

Fr. Nicholas

Church cleaning

followed by chippy lunch

Saturday 6 September 10am

*Many hands
make light
work*



The Season of Creation

As we enter the month of September, many churches will spend some time focusing on the wonders of creation, with Harvest Festivals or other types of service. For some time now, the Church of England has named the period between 1 September and 4 October as Creationtide, or the Season of Creation, where we can give thanks to God for his gift to us in creation. It was good to witness an uplifting in the recent meeting of General Synod, where further liturgical resources were discussed.



As well as giving thanks to God, this period of time provides us with an opportunity to recommit ourselves to care for all that God has made. As a Diocese, we share in the commitment of the Church of England to become net carbon zero by 2030, an ambitious target, but one that is very important, and reminds us of the fifth Mark of Mission, 'to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth'. Maybe this is a month when you might like to think afresh about you can do to help reach the target.

I am so encouraged to hear of churches that are engaging with Eco Church and delight that we now have some 'gold churches' amongst us. What an example they are!

Amongst the resources for Creationtide on the Church of England website, I came across this beautiful passage:

*In every acorn
there is the potential for a forest;
In every apple pip
there is the potential for an orchard;
In every soul
there is the potential for your kingdom
to be established;
full of joy and peace and love.
Lord, may your kingdom come
in us and in all your creation.*

May this be our prayer

+ Debbie

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Weekday Scripture Readings for September

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



Monday	1	Ruth 2.1-13	Luke 10.25-37
Tuesday	2	Proverbs 16.1-11	Philippians 3.4b-end
Wednesday	3	Deuteronomy 11.1-21	2 Corinthians 9.6-end
Thursday	4	Ecclesiastes 2.12-25	John 16.1-15
Friday	5	Obadiah 1-10	John 19.1-16
Saturday	6	2 Kings 2.11-14	Luke 24.36-end
Monday	8	1 Samuel 17.32-50	Matthew 8.14-22
Tuesday	9	Proverbs 17.1-15	Luke 7.1-17
Wednesday	10	Jeremiah 5.20-end	2 Peter 3.8-end
Thursday	11	Daniel 2.1-23	Luke 10.1-20
Friday	12	Daniel 3.1-28	Revelation 15
Saturday	13	Isaiah 52.13 – end of 53	Ephesians 2.11-end
Monday	15	2 Samuel 7.4-17	2 Corinthians 5.1-10
Tuesday	16	Proverbs 18.10-21	Romans 14.10-end
Wednesday	17	Judges 4.1-10	Romans 1.8-17
Thursday	18	Isaiah 49.14-end	John 16.16-24
Friday	19	Job 9.1-24	Mark 15.21-32
Saturday	20	Isaiah 33.13-17	Matthew 6.19-end
Monday	22	Haggai 1	Mark 7.9-23
Tuesday	23	Proverbs 21.1-18	Mark 6.30-44
Wednesday	24	Hosea 11.1-11	1 John 4.9-end
Thursday	25	Lamentations 3.34-48	Romans 7.14-end
Friday	26	2 Kings 19.4-18	1 Thessalonians 3
Saturday	27	Deuteronomy 29.2-15	2 Timothy 3.10-end
Monday	29	Daniel 10.4-end	Revelation 5
Tuesday	30	Proverbs 8.1-11	Luke 6.39-end

Chippings from the Vicar's Work Bench

Healing Mass

The monthly mass for healing and wholeness takes place on Monday 1 September at 7.00pm in the Lady Chapel. Intercessions for the sick and suffering are offered before the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the altar as a spiritual focus. The service, which lasts approximately 30 minutes, culminates with a simple form of Benediction.

All Age Mass Baptismal welcome

Our first All Age Mass of the new academic year takes place on Sunday 7 September at 10.15am. The service will include the welcome of Zayla Anne Claire Liburd-Hawkins following her baptism on 20 July. Please remember Zayla, her parents Canstantia and Ryan, and her godparents, in your prayers.

Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham

Cell members, and all others who would like to know more about the Shrine and Society of OLW, are encouraged to attend the next Mass of the Holy House on Saturday 13 September at 9.30am in the Lady Chapel. After the mass we will be planning the admission of new members during a forthcoming Parish Mass over refreshments.

Holy Cross Day – 14 September

Each year the Church observes Holy Cross Day, sometimes called The Triumph or Exaltation of the Cross. This feast celebrates not the sorrow of the Cross, as on Good Friday, but the victory it represents. On Good Friday we stand at Calvary in solemn silence, beholding Christ's suffering and death for our salvation. On Holy Cross Day we stand on the other side of Easter, proclaiming that "by his holy Cross, he has redeemed the world." The origin of the feast lies in the early centuries of the Church, when the Cross on which Christ was crucified was discovered and venerated in Jerusalem, and later when it was returned to the city after being lost to invaders. It became a day to rejoice in the Cross as the sign of God's love, the banner of Christ's victory over sin and death, and the source of our hope.

Holy Cross Day reminds us that the Cross is not simply a past event, but a present reality. Every Mass, every prayer, every act of Christian love draws its power from the self-giving love of Christ on the Cross. To celebrate this feast is to lift high the Cross in our own lives – accepting Christ's call to take up our cross daily and follow Him.

It is important to attend this feast because it is more than a commemoration; it is an act of thanksgiving and faith. By gathering for Mass on 14 September, we honour the saving work of Christ, we strengthen our witness

to the world, and we renew our own dedication to live under the sign of his Cross. So let us rejoice in the Cross, not as a symbol of defeat, but as the throne from which our Saviour reigns and the key by which heaven's gates are opened.

Choral Evensong on 14 September

On Holy Cross Day at 4.00pm our choir and 'Pop-Up' Choir directed by Tom Moore will be singing Choral Evensong at Holy Cross Church, Pattishall (NN12 8NB). The initiative has kindly been brokered by Jonathan Stuart. I very much hope our worshipping community will make the relatively short journey to support our brothers and sisters at Pattishall who are celebrating their Patronal Festival, as well as our choir. Please note there is no evening service this day at St Matthew's.

Monthly Requiem

On Wednesday 10 September at 9.30am we give thanks for the lives of the faithful departed, not least for those we have known and loved ourselves, and pray for the repose of their eternal souls. We do so as an act of faith in the belief that offering mass with such an intention is beneficial to them and to us. If you have a departed loved one on your heart, and know what it is to be bereaved, then please do make participation at the monthly requiem a priority.

House Group

Our next scheduled gathering at the vicarage will be on Wednesday 24 September at 2.00pm. These always stimulating discussions are open to all, and you would be most welcome to join us.

Our Patronal Festival – The Feast of St Matthew the Apostle

Sunday 21 September – The Parish Mass with Holy Baptism at 10.15am, Solemn Choral Evensong and Benediction at 5.30pm

This year's Patronal Festival will as ever be a joyful celebration for our parish family. On Sunday 21 September – the Feast of St Matthew the Apostle – we gather at 10.15am for our Parish Mass, which will include the baptism of a new member of Christ's Church. This date is especially dear to us, for it is also the anniversary of the founding events of our parish – moments when the seeds of our life and worship together were first planted.

St Matthew, our patron, was a tax collector in Capernaum when Jesus called him with the simple yet life-changing words, "Follow me." Leaving behind his old life, Matthew became one of the Twelve Apostles and later the traditional author of the Gospel that bears his name. His story reminds us that no one is beyond the reach of Christ's call, and that following Him means embracing

a new way of life rooted in mercy, truth, and service. The Gospel according to St Matthew gives us the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, and the Great Commission – teachings that continue to shape the Church's mission today. As we keep his feast, we are reminded that our own parish is called to be a place where Christ is proclaimed, disciples are made, and God's kingdom is made visible in our community.

Our Patronal Festival is more than a birthday – it is an opportunity to give thanks for our past, to rejoice in the life we share today, and to renew our commitment to the work God has entrusted to us as we envision the future. With the joy of welcoming a new Christian in baptism, this will be a particularly special occasion for us all to gather. Come and join the celebration – giving thanks to God for St Matthew, for our parish, and for the call that Christ still speaks to each of us: “Follow me.”

Dedication Festival – Sunday 28 September

The Parish Mass at 10.15am, Solemn Choral Evensong at 5.30pm

This year marks the 132nd anniversary of the dedication of our parish church – an occasion to rejoice in God's goodness to us across the generations. The Dedication Festival is not the same as our Patronal Festival, which honours St Matthew, our heavenly patron. Instead, this day celebrates the consecration of our church for worship, prayer, and the sacraments, and the continuing life of the parish that gathers here.

Yet the Church is not, in its truest sense, the building – however beautiful it may be – but the community of the baptised. The stones of our spiritual home are here to shelter the living stones: the people of God, joined together in faith as the Body of Christ. While we rightly give thanks for the generosity and foresight of benefactors – our spiritual home's beauty, its history, and its witness – it is the onward progress of Christ's gathered body that we truly celebrate: a people sent out into the world to make him loved and known. On this festival we look back with gratitude, we rejoice in the fellowship we share now, and we commit ourselves afresh to the mission that began here 132 years ago and continues today in each of us. The Right Reverend John Stroyan, formally the Bishop of Warwick, and now Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Peterborough, will be presiding and preaching. So, come and be part of this special day – morning and evening – as we give thanks for God's work among us, for our church, and for the calling we share as Christ's people in this place.



Michaelmas – Monday 29 September

The Parish Mass at 7.30pm

At the turning of the seasons, as summer fades and autumn begins, the Church keeps the feast of St Michael and All Angels – often simply called Michaelmas. It is a day when we give thanks for the angels of God, both named and unseen, who serve as messengers, protectors, and worshippers before the throne of heaven. St Michael, whose name means “Who is like God?”, is remembered in Scripture as a warrior for God’s truth and a defender of the faithful. Alongside him, we honour all the heavenly host, giving thanks for their unseen work in God’s plan and their constant praise of the Almighty. Michaelmas also reminds us of the great mystery of the spiritual world – that our lives are bound up not only with what we can see and touch, but also with the realities of God’s kingdom, where Christ reigns and all creation joins in his worship.

This will be a joyful and solemn occasion, drawing us into the worship of heaven and earth together. All are warmly invited to come and take part in this act of thanksgiving and praise. “Bless the Lord, all you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding.” Psalm 103.20

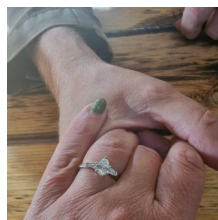
Exciting News!



Congratulations to Anita (our Parish Administrator in the Office) and Matt, who have recently announced their Engagement.

They’ve known each other for about 11 years and have lived together for 7 – Anita moved to this area to live with Matt, searched for work locally and took up her position at St Matthew’s a few months afterwards.

The ring is platinum with a lab grown (more ethical than mined!) teardrop diamond.



They are planning to get married in a couple of years or so.

Almost there...



Avid readers of the weekly pewsheets will hopefully know by now that **Saturday 13 September**, amongst other things happening at St Matthew's that day, is **Ride+Stride for Churches**.

It's the day when churches and chapels around the county are throwing their doors open to visitors. It's also an opportunity to raise a bit of cash, for St Matthew's but more importantly for the places of worship that desperately need maintenance, more than their congregations can cover. But if you're not up to walking or cycling, 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!

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 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 £380, half of which came back to St Matthew's – funds raised are divided equally between the Trust and the individually sponsored church.

So there are still two ways you can join in:

- ❖ You can **walk** or **cycle** on a route of Northampton churches taking part – and enjoy a fun and sociable day and see interesting places of worship that may not normally be open except for services.
- ❖ You can **sponsor** us with money – please do! Note that we donate 'en masse' for the riders/striders/recorders – all help equally.

Thankfully I do have the volunteers to **steward** St Matthew's (we'll be open between 10.00am and 2.00pm) and we will be welcoming and recording others visiting our church.

There's still time to help!

Register your interest in walking/cycling 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 whether you would like to gift aid – which will go to NHCT.

Thank you in anticipation!

On the Bookshelf

Dorrie Parker

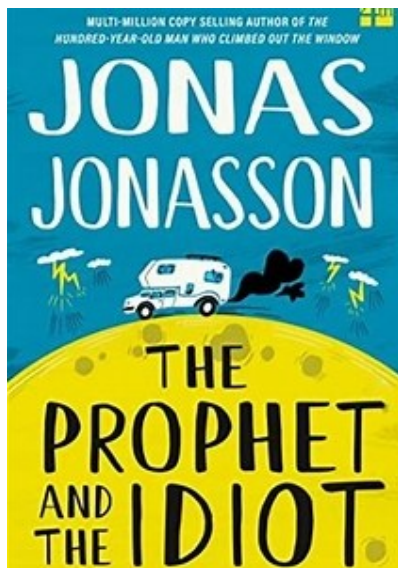
Have you read any of **Jonas Jonasson**'s novels? I've read all his previous five but it's been a few years since his last one, so I was delighted to recently spot his latest while browsing in a bookshop.

This one did not disappoint either. If you're looking for something quirky and entertaining (as I normally am) this will fit the bill. ***The Prophet and The Idiot***, like Jonasson's other books, is a very involved, multi-layered story, and randomly features well-known personalities popping up in minor roles – this time it's Barack Obama and Ban Ki-moon who unwittingly get involved in the story. This Swedish author is very creative, and you cannot wait to see what's going to happen next...

Set in 2011, the main protagonist is Johan, a kind and well-meaning young man. His father has deserted the family to live with his boyfriend, his mother has recently died, and his not so well-meaning older brother Fredrik, who has treated Johan badly since childhood, has now robbed him of his inheritance, is about to move to Rome as a would-be diplomat, and throws Johan out into the world to fend for himself with just a camper van that he doesn't even know how to drive.

Johan is not very bright, but he has an amazing talent; he is a very creative and excellent cook. And he is eternally optimistic. He encounters Petra, a pessimistic self-taught astrophysicist who has calculated that the world will end on 21 September at about 9.20pm – in just twelve days' time.

After hearing her story, he convinces Petra to use these last few days in resolving a situation that has festered away at her for years. They befriend another character, Agnes, a cynical 75-year-old widow who earns her money on social media posing as a young influencer. Petra and Agnes have a plan in mind for Johan to finally confront his brother and claim what is rightfully his. And so begins a madcap adventure across Europe to Rome... and beyond.



THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM



WALSINGHAM FESTIVAL PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL

SATURDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2025

12.00 NOON SOLEMN MASS

Principal Celebrant: The Right Revd Luke Irvine-Capel,
Bishop of Richborough

2.30 PM SPRINKLING, HEALING LITURGY,
PROCESSION AND BENEDICTION

Preacher: The Very Revd Chris Dalliston,
Dean of Peterborough



www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk



The Solemnity of Our Lady of Walsingham

It is with great joy that the Shrine welcomes the news that the only Feast of Our Lady proper to England, Our Lady of Walsingham, is no longer simply an obligatory Memorial but now a Feast Day, following a decree by the Vatican. This Shrine, which was once the focus of Pilgrimage in a land called 'Our Lady's Dowry', is now restored to the prominence it enjoyed for so long. We hope that this will encourage many more pilgrims to come and visit the Shrine where we pray daily for the Conversion of England to the Faith and to experience here a change which transforms their lives.

Wednesday 24th September 2025

12 noon Solemn Mass, Shrine Church (live-stream)

with The Revd Preb. Mark McIntrye



Friends of St Matthew's Music
SATURDAYS AT 4



Saturday 27th September 2025 at 4:00pm

Elle Stevens and Jonathan Stuart (Vocal duo)

Tickets £10

FSMM Subscribers £8

Under 18s FREE

The Significance of Trees in Christianity

Gary Drinkwater

Trees stand as silent witnesses throughout the biblical narrative, their roots entwined with the stories of creation, redemption, and promise. Christianity, with its rich tapestry of symbols and parables, finds in trees a powerful emblem of life, faith, and divine connection. This article explores the profound significance of trees in Christian tradition, scripture, and spirituality, revealing how these living pillars have shaped the imagination and theology of believers for centuries.

The Bible, Christianity's foundational text, begins and ends with trees. In Genesis, the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil stand at the heart of Eden, representing both divine provision and human choice. In the final book, Revelation, the Tree of Life reappears as the symbol of eternal healing and restoration. Trees thus bookend the Christian story, shaping its themes of creation, fall, and redemption.

Trees have long been symbols of growth, endurance, and connection to the divine. Their roots suggest stability and ancestry, their branches reach toward the heavens, and their leaves provide shelter and healing. Christianity draws upon these images to express spiritual truths and guide believers in their faith journey.

Numerous biblical stories unfold beneath trees, which become sites of divine encounter, covenant, and transformation. Abraham meets God under the oaks of Mamre; Deborah dispenses wisdom beneath a palm tree; Zacchaeus climbs a sycamore to glimpse Jesus. These moments underscore the idea that trees are not merely background scenery, but sacred places where the divine and human intersect.

One of Christianity's most powerful symbols is the cross, often poetically called "the tree." The crucifixion of Jesus transforms a symbol of death and shame into one of redemption and new life. Early Christian writers saw parallels between the Tree of Life in Eden and the cross of Christ, suggesting that the lost paradise is regained through Christ's sacrifice.

Beyond scripture, trees are woven into Christian worship, architecture, and art. Church buildings are sometimes referred to as "living trees" whose columns evoke trunks reaching upward. Stained glass windows depict biblical trees; hymns and prayers invoke their imagery.

Christianity also regards trees as reminders of humanity's responsibility to care for creation. The Genesis mandate to "till and keep" the earth extends to all living things, and trees, with their ecological importance, become symbols of the stewardship entrusted to humankind.

Trees in Christianity stand as living metaphors – rooted in scripture, tradition, and daily life. They mark moments of encounter, covenant, and transformation. From the first tree in Eden to the cross of Christ and the healing trees of Revelation, they reflect the rhythms of creation, the drama of redemption, and the promise of restoration. Their branches stretch across centuries, inviting each generation to find shade, fruit, and meaning beneath their leaves. In the presence of trees, Christians are reminded not only of the story of faith, but of their place within creation – called to grow, shelter, and bear fruit for the healing of the world.



Above - Magnolia tree planted by the first vicar Canon John Rowden Hussey's wife Lilian in the 1930s.

Below - Cedar tree planted by Father Sydney Gould Curate in the 1960s



Above - planted in 2023 by members of the congregation as part of the Queen's Green Canopy to celebrate the Platinum jubilee of the late Elizabeth II

The Parish Church of St Matthew

Sunday 7 September

10.15am

All Age Mass
for the Parish Family



The Parish Church of St Matthew

Sunday 14 September HOLY CROSS DAY

10.15am

The Parish Mass



The Parish Church of St Matthew

Sunday 21 September St MATTHEW, Apostle Patronal Festival



10.15am

The Parish Mass

5.30pm

Solemn Choral Evensong
and Benediction

The Parish Church of St Matthew

Sunday 28 September 132nd FESTIVAL of DEDICATION

10.15am

The Parish Mass

5.30pm

Solemn Choral Evensong



The Parish Church of St Matthew

Monday 29 September MICHAELMAS



The Parish Church of St Matthew

Sunday 5 October Harvest Thanksgiving

10.15am
All Age Mass
for the Parish Family



Sound Celebration!

On Saturday 20 September, we welcome the Jinx Singers (Barbershop Quartet) to St Matthew's to give an evening concert. This performance is planned to start our Patronal Festival celebrations for the weekend. It is also a fundraiser for The Friends of St Matthew's Music.

The concert, featuring close harmony and solo arrangements of songs from musical theatre, pop, jazz and opera will take place in church, starting at 7pm. Refreshments will be served at the interval. Tickets costing £10 will be available on the door, through the Jinx Singers website (jinxsingers.co.uk), and on the St Matthew's Eventbrite page. Early booking is recommended as this group is becoming well known in the area and is popular. We hope to see you there for a relaxed evening of great entertainment.

Tom Moore

SOUND CELEBRATION!

SOUND CELEBRATION!

JOIN THE JINX SINGERS FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE CONCERT OF ECLECTIC MUSIC. EXPERIENCE CLOSE HARMONY ACAPELLA, PLUS HITS FROM MUSICAL THEATRE, POP, JAZZ AND OPERA. ANDY, LARA, LYN, AND KEITH WILL BE JOINED BY ANDY SALTER ON PIANO, TO PERFORM DUETS AND SOLOS THROUGHOUT AN EXCITING PROGRAMME OF MUSIC!

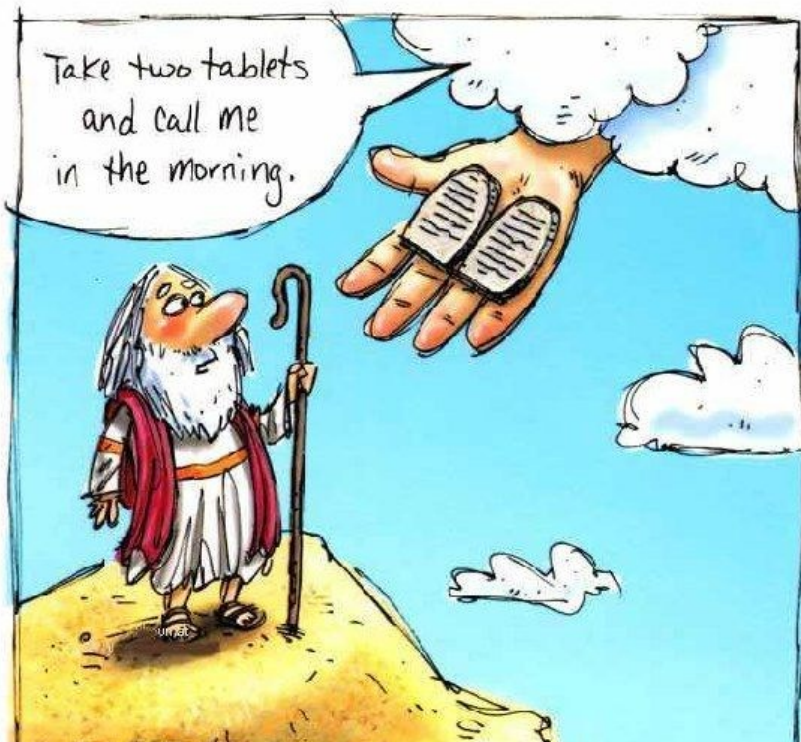
SOUNDCELEBRATIONTICKETS - £10 (UNDER 18S FREE)



7PM, SAT 20TH SEPT - ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH, KINGSLEY
2PM, SAT 18TH OCT - ST. MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH, STOKE BRUERNE

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR MAILING LIST FOR TICKET UPDATES, NEW PROJECTS AND FUTURE PERFORMANCES.
TICKETS FOR THESE SHOWS WILL BE ANNOUNCED THERE FIRST – DON'T MISS OUT!

JINXSINGERS.CO.UK



"Can we make it the ten suggestions?"

32nd St Matthew's Multi-Aged Girlguiding

Mandy Ludlow

Awards, awards, awards! On 3 July the leaders attended the County Awards and Recognition evening at Sedgebrook Hall. During the evening Bethany and Yasmin were presented with their 10-year long service award, Paula received her 20-year award, her daughter Emily had gained her 'Going Away With' qualification and I received the County Certificate of Recognition and Thanks for my work with Girlguiding Northamptonshire, having been nominated by another leader within the Division.

On our last night before the long summer vacation we held a Promise and Presentation evening, inviting parents along. We had three Brownies making their Promise, before we started to give out various badges and awards. Starting with Rainbows, there were six who were presented with their Bronze Award, and girls also received interest badges for Family Tree and Drawing.

Next came the Brownies, with six girls receiving their Silver Award and nine their Bronze. Interest badges for languages, baking and performing were also achieved. The Brownie of the term cup went to Isabelle.

Many of the congregation at St Matthew's will remember Iris Clarke. Iris had been Brown Owl before I joined the St Matthew's team some 45 years ago. Iris always kept in touch and supported us, coming in on a Monday evening before attending the St Matthew's Ladies Group, chatting to the girls and generally seeing what we were up to. When Iris passed away the Ladies Group donated a silver cup to us which was named 'The Iris Clark Award for Brownie Commitment' – this year the cup was presented to Ellen. Ellen joined us in September 2023, has taken part in all but a couple of our extra activities, been in the winning team at a recent Brownie competition, taken on the role of being a Sixer, carried our flag at the All Age Service, and in the last academic year has had an almost 100% attendance, only missing two Mondays. All in all showing great commitment.

Northamptonshire County is due to have a new County Commissioner in November, and in the middle of July I received a telephone call from Midlands Region Chief Commissioner to advise I had been nominated for the role and could I attend an interview the following week. On 20 July I made my way to Ashby de la Zouch where the region office is, for the interview. At the end all I knew was that there were a number of candidates being interviewed and I would hear by the end of the next week. Just before 5pm on the same day I was telephoned to say that they would like to offer me the position! What does this mean? As from 1 November I will be

Northamptonshire County Commissioner. Being County Commissioner for Northamptonshire Girlguiding is a real privilege – in this role, I get to support our amazing volunteers and fantastic girls, helping them try new things, find confidence, and make great friends along the way. Guiding is a wonderful way to help girls grow, discover their strengths, and learn how they can make a difference both in Northamptonshire and beyond! My own Guiding journey started as a Brownie in September 1967 at 16a Northampton, Mount Pleasant, and I have never left!



Café Guides Recipe for September

Light and Savoury Treats from the Allotment or Garden

Two for the price of one... At this time of year tomatoes and courgettes are in abundance, especially if you have an allotment. The following two recipes are suitable for a light lunch or supper, or even as a starter, and are vegetarian. They can also be amended for vegans (see below).

Courgette and Feta Fritters

Ingredients

- 2 large courgettes (about 500g), coarsely grated
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 100g feta cheese, crumbled
- 2 spring onions, finely sliced
- 2 large eggs
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano (or 1 tablespoon fresh, finely chopped)
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh mint (or parsley, if preferred)
- 60g plain flour
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- Black pepper, freshly ground, to taste
- Olive oil, for shallow frying

Optional Additions

- Zest of 1 lemon, for brightness
- Chilli flakes, for gentle heat
- Handful of grated parmesan or pecorino, for extra richness

Method

1. Preparing the Courgettes: Grate the courgettes using the coarse side of a box grater. Toss the grated courgette with the salt and place it in a colander set over the sink. Leave for 15–20 minutes; the salt will draw out excess water, which prevents soggy fritters. After resting, use clean hands to squeeze handfuls of courgette, removing as much liquid as possible. For an extra step, wrap the courgette in a clean tea towel and twist to extract every last drop. The drier your courgette, the crisper your fritters will be.

2. Making the Batter: In a large mixing bowl, combine the well-drained courgette, feta, spring onions, eggs, garlic, oregano, and mint. Mix gently to distribute the ingredients without breaking up the feta too finely – you want little pockets of cheese in the finished fritters.

Sprinkle the flour and baking powder over the mixture, and season generously with black pepper. Fold everything together until just combined. The mixture should hold together; if it feels too wet, add a touch more flour. If too dry, a splash of milk or another egg will help bind it.

3. Cooking the Fritters: Pour about 1 cm of olive oil into a large, non-stick frying pan and set over a medium-high heat. When the oil shimmers (but isn't smoking), spoon heaped tablespoons of batter into the pan, flattening gently with the back of the spoon to form small rounds. Don't overcrowd the pan; work in batches if necessary.

Fry for 2–3 minutes on each side, until golden and crisp. Transfer the cooked fritters to a plate lined with kitchen paper to drain off excess oil. Keep warm in a low oven (gas mark 1 /275°F /135°C /125°C fan) while you cook the rest.

4. Serving Suggestions: Serve the fritters hot, warm, or at room temperature. They're lovely with a dollop of Greek yoghurt or tzatziki, a wedge of lemon, and a peppery salad of rocket, tomatoes, and cucumber. For a more substantial meal, nestle them in pitta bread with shredded lettuce and a swirl of hummus.

These Fritters are best eaten fresh, but they can be stored in the fridge for up to three days. Arrange them in a single layer on a plate, separated with baking paper, and cover tightly. To reheat, place on a baking tray and warm through in a moderate oven (gas mark 4/ 350°F/ 180°/160°C Fan) for 10 minutes, or in a dry frying pan for a minute each side.

Variations and Twists

- Add sweetcorn: For extra sweetness and texture, stir a handful of corn kernels into the batter.
- Go gluten-free: Substitute the plain flour with a gluten-free blend or chickpea flour.
- Make it vegan: Swap the feta for a dairy-free cheese and use a flax egg (1 tablespoon ground flaxseed mixed with 3 tablespoons water) instead of chicken eggs.
- Spice it up: Add a pinch of cumin or smoked paprika for warmth and depth.



Fresh Tomato Bruschetta

Ingredients

- 1 crusty baguette or rustic Italian bread
- 4–5 ripe tomatoes, preferably home-grown, any mix you have, diced
- 2–3 cloves of garlic
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil (plus more for brushing)
- 1 handful fresh basil leaves, chopped or torn
- Salt, to taste
- Freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- Balsamic glaze (optional, for drizzling)

Method

1. Prepare the Tomato Topping: Begin by selecting the ripest, juiciest tomatoes you can find. The quality of the tomatoes will make or break your bruschetta. Dice the tomatoes into small pieces and transfer them to a bowl. Sprinkle a little salt over the tomatoes and let them sit for about 10 minutes. This helps draw out excess moisture and intensifies their flavour.

While the tomatoes are resting, finely chop the fresh basil leaves. Add the basil to the tomatoes, along with 2 tablespoons of extra-virgin olive oil and a generous pinch of black pepper. Toss everything together gently and taste for seasoning. Adjust the salt or add a little more olive oil if desired. Set aside to allow the flavours to mingle.

2. Toast the Bread: Preheat your grill. Slice the baguette or Italian bread into 1–2 cm thick rounds or diagonal slices. Brush each slice lightly with olive oil on both sides.

Grill the bread slices for 2–3 minutes per side, or until they are golden brown and crisp at the edges but still tender in the centre. Keep a watchful eye on the bread as it can go from perfect to burnt in seconds.

3. Add the Garlic: Once the bread is toasted and still warm, peel a garlic clove and cut it in half. Rub the cut side of the garlic gently across the surface of each bread slice. The warmth and rough texture of the bread will help infuse it with the aromatic essence of garlic, imparting just the right amount of flavour without overpowering the delicate tomatoes.

4. Assemble the Bruschetta: Spoon a generous portion of the marinated tomato mixture onto each slice of garlicky toast. If desired, finish with a drizzle of balsamic glaze for a hint of sweetness and extra depth.



Harvest Collection for the Local Food Bank

Join Us in Sharing the Harvest!

Give Thanks — Give Back

As the season of abundance arrives, let's come together as a community to ensure everyone has enough on their table. This Harvest, we invite you to join our collection drive in support of the local food bank.

What We're Collecting

- Tinned Goods: Vegetables, beans, soup, fruit, fish, meat, and more (please check expiry dates)
- Packet Foods: Pasta, rice, noodles, cereals, biscuits, tea, coffee, long-life milk, long-life fruit juices, microwaveable puddings, pasta sauces, snack bars, cereals, custard, vegetarian options, baby foods and other non-perishables (please check expiry dates)
- Toiletries, shower gel, shampoo, feminine hygiene products, toilet rolls

How You Can Help

- Gather unopened, in-date tinned or packet foods from your home
- Encourage friends, family, and neighbours to join in
- Bring your donations to the collection point at the back of Church by **SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER**

Why It Matters

Every tin or packet you give helps local families facing hardship. Together, our small acts of kindness can make a big difference.

Spread the Word!

Let's make this Harvest a time of generosity and hope. Please share this message and help us fill every basket, so no one in our community goes hungry.

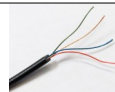
Thank you for your support!



Any Old Copper?

St Matthew's Scout Group are now raising funds for new tents.

We are doing this by collecting copper from old electrical flex such as kettle leads, computer cables, mains cable, anything that has copper running through it. Also old copper piping.



If an old electrical appliance breaks down, safely cut off the flex (unplug from the mains first!).

If you can remember 10 years ago, we did this with your generous help and raised enough money for our current tents which are now showing their age after numerous memorable camps.

We shall have a yellow container on the stage for any donations.

Thank you!

Mr Badger

**36th Northampton (St. Matthew's)
Scout 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 OCTOBER magazine is SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

Editor: Dorrie Parker

Layout and production: Gary Drinkwater

Olde England Public House

199 Kettering Road |
Northampton NN1 4BP
01604 619285



NEW OPENING TIMES

Monday:	Closed	
Tuesday:	5.00pm – 11.00pm	
Wednesday:	5.00pm – 11.00pm	Food Served
Thursday:	5.00pm – 12.00am	
Friday:	4.00pm – 12.00am	5.00pm – 9.00pm
Saturday:	3.00pm – 12.00am	5.00pm – 9.00pm
Sunday:	Noon – 11.00pm	1.00pm – 5.00pm

Friends of St Matthew's Music 100+ Club

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

Number **17**, held by **Tanya Hayes**



You too could win the **single prize of £50** in our monthly draw if you had a number! For just £3.00 a month you'd be in with a chance, whilst also helping pay for our Director of Music's salary.

For full details and a form, please email jonathan.starmer@yahoo.com

Jonathan Starmer



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

Parish Giving Scheme

The Parish Giving Scheme exists to allow members of the St Matthew's community to support the life and work of the Parish, and the upkeep of our church, through regular giving. It provides our principal source of income and helps us meet our main financial commitments, including our contribution towards the Diocesan Common Fund (the 'Parish Share') and the costs of our employees.



THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST MATTHEW • NORTHAMPTON

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

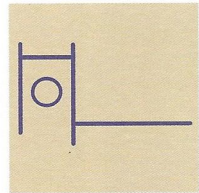
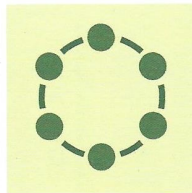
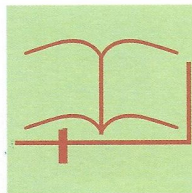
There are two methods of payment available: by a banker's direct debit or by weekly-numbered envelopes via the collection plate. The amount that you give is entirely confidential and is known only to the lay people who administer the Scheme.

If you are interested in learning more or in joining the Scheme, please speak to our Stewardship Recorder Polly Matthews. She can be contacted via the Parish Office or as below.

Polly Matthews

<office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk>

Tel. 01604 846074



TM

PARISH GIVING SCHEME

Parish Office

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

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

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

Ministry Team

Parish Priest	The Revd Canon Nicholas Setterfield vicar@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
Assistant Priest	The Revd Canon Nicholas Gandy OGS OGS@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
Honorary Assistant Priest	The Revd Canon Peter Garlick

Parish Officers

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

St Matthew's Trust

Ben Drouet
chairman@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Particular Responsibility

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

Music Department

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

Walsingham Cell

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