

The Parish Church of St Matthew  
Northampton

# The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Proper 10 Year A



*The Sower*

## The Parish Mass

with the healing ministries

Sunday 12 July 2026

10.15 am

## Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church



**Safeguarding** St Matthew's is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

If you have any safeguarding concern, or are worried about the safety or wellbeing of a child, young person, or adult, please speak to the Parish Safeguarding Officer, a member of the clergy, or a churchwarden.

Parish Safeguarding Officer

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Diocese of Peterborough Safeguarding Team

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If someone is in immediate danger or needs urgent medical attention, please call 999.

**Live Streaming and Recording** Please note that some services are live-streamed or recorded. Filming is limited as far as reasonably possible to those leading or assisting with the service, including clergy, readers/intercessors, musicians, choir members, and servers. Holy Communion is not filmed.

If you would prefer not to appear online, please sit in one of the side aisles or speak to a welcomer or churchwarden, who will be happy to help you find seating outside the filmed area.

Where appropriate, consent is obtained for individuals who are intentionally featured in livestreams, recordings, photographs, or other church media. Please speak to a churchwarden or welcomer if you would like further information about livestreaming arrangements.

**Toilet and Baby Changing Facilities** Toilet and baby changing facilities are available at the base of the church tower. A small servery is also available.

**For Younger Children** In the north aisle (nearest to Collingwood Road), a carpeted children's area with age-appropriate Christian resources is available. Please feel free to make use of these facilities during the service.



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## Collection – ‘Building a Generous Church’



### Our response to God’s generosity

*We believe in a generous God, who longs for us to share his generosity with others. A generous life is therefore a hallmark of our faith and a testament to it, as the more generous we are, the more we reflect the generous God we believe in. Generosity is, therefore, at the heart of our faith, and our own generosity is a sure sign of our faith in action. Generosity is a spiritual gift, and we need to encourage people to seek this gift as they grow in their faith. The ministry and mission of St Matthew’s is largely funded through the incredible generosity of those who give to it.*

\* \* \* \* \*

We invite you to make a monetary offering towards the ministry and mission of St Matthew’s Church. You may do so using any of the following methods:

**Cash, cheques, stewardship envelopes** - using the receptacle provided at the back of church. If you are a taxpayer please use the envelopes in the chairs, and fill out the details in order that our parish may also benefit from the Gift Aid (an extra 25p for every pound given) associated with your giving.

**Contactless giving** - using the terminal provided. Just press the button for the amount you wish to give - £5, £10, or £20, and then hold your bank card over the reader.

**Giving on your smart phone** - using the QR code printed below. It gives you the option of any amount, Gift Aid, and making a regular payment.

**Giving online** - click the donate button on the parish website or Facebook page and follow the instructions.

Your generosity is gratefully received. Thank you.



**Good morning** and a very warm welcome to St Matthew's on this Sixth Sunday after Trinity. Whether you are a member of our regular congregation, visiting from another church, joining us for the first time, or worshipping with us online, we are delighted that you are here.

Today's Gospel gives us the familiar and challenging parable of the Sower. We shall hear how the same seed is scattered generously and abundantly, yet produces very different results according to the ground on which it falls. Jesus tells us that the seed is the word of God and the soil is the human heart.

As we gather for worship this morning, perhaps each of us might quietly ask the Lord to prepare the soil of our hearts: to soften what has become hard, deepen what is shallow, clear away whatever chokes his life within us, and make us fruitful in his service.

Our first reading from Isaiah reminds us that God's word never returns empty. Just as the rain waters the earth and brings forth growth, so God's grace is at work among us, often in ways unseen, bringing life, healing, and renewal.

After the service, refreshments will be served in church, and everyone is warmly invited to stay for fellowship.

Now, as we prepare to celebrate these holy mysteries, let us enter into a few moments of quiet prayer, asking God to make our hearts ready to receive his word and his presence among us.

*It is our custom to spend some time in quiet preparation before the liturgy begins and to save further conversation until we meet socially for refreshments after Mass. The following prayer may be found helpful:*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
prepare the soil of our hearts to receive the seed of your word.  
By your Holy Spirit, help us to hear, believe, and obey,  
that our lives may bear fruit to the glory of your name.

## Settings

The Salisbury Service (Gloria)

*Grayston Ives b. 1948*

Communion Service in G

*Francis Jackson 1917-2022*

# Order of Service

## ¶ The Gathering

§ *At the sound of the bell, **all stand***

## Hymn

§ *The procession enters*

*All*                    **O GOD of earth and altar,  
                          Bow down and hear our cry,  
Our earthly rulers falter,  
                          Our people drift and die;  
The walls of gold entomb us,  
                          The swords of scorn divide,  
Take not thy thunder from us,  
                          But take away our pride.**

**From all that terror teaches,  
                          From lies on tongue and pen,  
From all the easy speeches  
                          That comfort cruel men,  
From sale and profanation  
                          Of honour and the sword,  
From sleep and from damnation,  
                          Deliver us, good Lord!**

**Tie in a living tether  
                          The prince and priest and thrall,  
Bind all our lives together,  
                          Smite us and save us all;  
In ire and exultation  
                          Aflame with faith, and free,  
Lift up a living nation,  
                          A single sword to thee.**

Words Gilbert Keith Chesterton 1874-1936

Music King's Lynn  
English melody collected and arranged by  
Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958

† In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
*All*      **Amen.**

## The Greeting

Welcome in the name of Christ.  
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you  
*All*      **and also with you.**

*The service is introduced*

## Invitation to Confession

The seed of God's word bears fruit only when it finds a receptive heart.  
Let us confess our sins,  
asking the Lord to soften what is hard,  
clear away all that hinders his grace,  
and make us fruitful in his service.

*Silence is kept*

## Confession

*All*      **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you,  
through our own fault,  
in thought, and word, and deed,  
and in what we have left undone.  
We are heartily sorry,  
and repent of all our sins.  
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

## Kyries

Lord Jesus, you are the living Word,  
sown in the world to bring life and salvation:  
Lord, have mercy.

*All*      **Lord, have mercy.**

You patiently cultivate our hearts  
that they may bear the fruit of holiness:  
Christ, have mercy.

*All*      **Christ, have mercy.**

Through your Holy Spirit you strengthen us to persevere  
and abound in every good work:  
Lord, have mercy.

*All*      **Lord, have mercy.**

## Absolution

May the God of love bring you back to himself,  
forgive † you your sins  
and assure you of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*      **Amen.**

## Gloria in Excelsis

*All*      **Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you,  
we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## The Collect

Let us pray.

Merciful God,  
you have prepared for those who love you  
such good things as pass our understanding:  
pour into our hearts such love toward you  
that we, loving you in all things and above all things,  
may obtain your promises,  
which exceed all that we can desire;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*All*      **Amen.**

§ *Sit*

## ¶ The Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

*Reader*      A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah.

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,

making it bring forth and sprout,  
 giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
 it shall not return to me empty,  
 but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
 and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.  
 For you shall go out in joy,  
 and be led back in peace;  
 the mountains and the hills before you  
 shall burst into song,  
 and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
 instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
 and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,  
 for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Isaiah 55.10-13

This is the word of the Lord.

All

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

Response

Stephen Moore

Hap - py are they whom you choose to dwell in your courts.

Choir

You visit the earth and water it;  
 You make it very plenteous.  
 The river of God is full of water;  
 you prepare grain for your people,  
 for so you provide for the earth. **Response**

You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;  
 you soften the ground with showers and bless its increase.  
 You crown the year with your goodness,  
 and your paths overflow with plenty. **Response**

May the pastures of the wilderness flow with goodness  
 and the hills be girded with joy.  
 May the meadows be clothed with flocks of sheep  
 and the valleys stand so thick with corn  
 that they shall laugh and sing. **Response**

Psalm 65.8-13

## Holy Gospel

§ Stand

### Acclamation

1. *Choir only*  
 2. *Choir and Congregation*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Choir* May the Father of glory enlighten the eyes of our heart:  
 so that we may know the hope to which he has called us.

*All* **Alleluia.**

§ We turn to face the Book of the Gospels

*All* The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

*All* Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Jesus sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!'

‘Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.’

Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All

Praise to you, O Christ.

## Homily

§ Sit

## The Nicene Creed

§ Stand

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

*All may bow*     **For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## Prayers of the Faithful

*Priest*     Let us pray that the word of God may take root in our hearts and bear fruit in our lives.

§ *Kneel*

*The response to each petition*

*Intercessor*     Lord of the harvest,  
*All*                 **make us fruitful in your service.**

*After the final petition*

*Priest* Lord, grant that what we have said with our lips,  
we may believe with our hearts,  
and practise with our lives.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

§ *Stand*

## ¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### Sign of Peace

You shall go out in joy and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

*All* The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer each other a sign of Christ's peace.

### The Offertory

§ *The bread and wine are brought forward and given to the presiding priest.  
The altar is prepared.*

### Hymn

§ *A monetary collection is taken. Please give as you are able. Your generosity is  
much appreciated. Thank you.*

*All* **GOD'S glory fills the universe,  
The heavens proclaim his power;  
But small and weak the Word made flesh,  
And dark and brief his hour!  
The myst'ry sought through ages past  
Is born with human face;  
The treasure of eternal love  
Dwells with the human race.**

**His words and signs of healing power  
Are wonders to the poor;  
Blind eyes, cold hearts, protest and scheme  
Till love stands judged by law.  
Let peace and mercy weep apart,  
And justice, truth, take flight  
When God's own Word to silence falls  
And darkness veils the light.**

**Uplifted on the cross, Christ bears  
Our shame in his disgrace,  
His outstretched arms enfold us all,  
And heaven and earth embrace.  
For love will know the darkest depths,  
And taste our bitterest pain  
To prove himself their vanquisher,  
And spring from buried grain.**

**The Lord ascends, and death bows down  
To his triumphant name.  
The Spirit stirs our sleeping faith  
In wind and tongue of flame.  
Christ strengthens us, calls us to live  
As children of the day,  
To shine where shadows still oppress,  
To walk his risen way.**

Words Colin Peter Thompson b. 1945

Music St Matthew  
William Croft 1678-1727

## Invitation to Prayer

Pray, my brothers and sisters,  
that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father.

*All* **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

## Prayer over the Gifts

Lord God,  
as the earth receives the seed  
and by your blessing brings forth an abundant harvest,  
so receive these gifts of bread and wine.  
By the working of your Holy Spirit,  
make them for us the Body and Blood of your Son,  
and make us a people who hear your word,  
hold it fast with faithful hearts,  
and bear fruit for the life of the world;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

*All* The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

*All* Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

*All* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

From sunrise to sunset this day is holy,  
for Christ has risen from the tomb  
and scattered the darkness of death with light that will not fade.  
This day the risen Lord walks with your gathered people,  
unfolds for us your word,  
and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread.  
And though the night will overtake this day  
you summon us to live in endless light,  
the never-ceasing sabbath of the Lord.

And so, with choirs of angels and with all the heavenly host,  
we proclaim your glory  
and join their unending song of praise:

*Choir* Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,  
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

Christ is the bread of life:

*All*

The musical score is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G, a quarter note A, and a quarter note B. The lyrics 'When we eat this bread and drink this cup,' are written below the notes. The dynamic marking *mf* is placed above the first measure. The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes C, D, E, F#, G, A, B, C. The lyrics 'we pro-claim your death, Lord Je - sus, un - til you come in glo - ry.' are written below. The dynamic marking *cresc.* is placed above the first measure, and *f* is placed above the final measure. The piece ends with a double bar line.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world,  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of Mary the Virgin Mother of God,  
St Matthew and all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

All



A- men.

*The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung*

§ *Kneel*

## The Lord's Prayer

God has sown the seed of his word within us  
and nourishes us with the bread of heaven.  
As his beloved children,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour Christ has taught us:

All

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ:  
*All*     **We being many are one body,  
for we all share in the one bread.**  
Into one body we were all baptized,  
*All*     **and one Spirit was given us all to drink.**

## Agnus Dei

*Choir*    O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

          O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

          O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
grant us thy peace.

## Invitation to Communion

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.  
*All*     **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

## Giving of Communion

The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; at your altars, O Lord of host, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, they will always be praising you.

§ *Baptised persons who are communicant members of other Churches are warmly invited to receive Holy Communion.*

*Alternatively, if you wish to receive a blessing, please bring this booklet with you as a sign. Thank you.*

## Spiritual Communion – *for those at home*

### Act of Reception

*All* In union, blessed Jesus,  
with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church  
where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day,

*(and remembering particularly my own parish ...)*

I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving,  
for creation and all the blessings of this life,  
for the redemption won for us by your life, death,  
and resurrection,  
for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

*(and particularly for the blessings given me ...)*

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament,  
and, since I cannot at this time receive communion,  
I pray you to come into my heart.  
I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart,  
my soul, and my mind.  
Let nothing separate me from you;  
let me serve you in this life until, by your grace,  
I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace.  
Amen.

# Ministry of Healing

*Having been to the communion rail, those who wish may come to the Lady Chapel for prayer, anointing, and the laying on of hands. Whether we seek healing for body, mind, or spirit, for ourselves or for those we love, we come trusting in the compassion and faithfulness of Christ.*

## Motet

View me, Lord

*Richard Lloyd 1933-2021*

## Hymn

*All*

**O JESU, King most wonderful,  
Thou conqueror renowned,  
Thou sweetness most ineffable,  
In whom all joys are found!**

**When once thou visitest the heart,  
Then truth begins to shine;  
Then earthly vanities depart;  
Then kindles love divine.**

**O Jesu, light of all below,  
Thou font of life and fire,  
Surpassing all the joys we know,  
And all we can desire:**

**May every heart confess thy name,  
And ever thee adore;  
And, seeking thee, itself inflame  
To seek thee more and more.**

**Thee may our tongues for ever bless,  
Thee may we love alone;  
And ever on our lives express  
The image of thine own.**

Words Latin, c12th cent  
tr Edward Caswall 1814-1878

Music Beulah  
George Mursell Garrett 1834-1894

§ *All sit for a period of silent reflection and thanksgiving*

## Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *Stand*

God of our pilgrimage,  
you have led us to the living water:  
refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

**We thank you, Lord,  
that you have fed us in this sacrament,  
united us with Christ,  
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet  
prepared for all peoples.  
Amen.**

## Hymn

*All* **GO forth for God; go forth to the world in peace;  
Be of good courage, armed with heavenly grace,  
In God's good Spirit daily to increase,  
Till in his kingdom we behold his face.**

**Go forth for God; go forth to the world in strength;  
Hold fast the good, be urgent for the right,  
Render to no one evil; Christ at length  
Shall overcome all darkness with his light.**

**Go forth for God; go forth to the world in love;  
Strengthen the faint, give courage to the weak,  
Help the afflicted; richly from above  
His love supplies the grace and power we seek.**

**Go forth for God; go forth to the world in joy  
To serve his people every day and hour,  
And serving Christ, his every gift employ,  
Rejoicing in the Holy Spirit's power.**

**Sing praise to him who brought us in the way;  
Sing praise to him who bought us with his blood;  
Sing praise to him who sanctifies each day;  
Sing praise to him who reigns one Lord and God.**

Words John Raphael Peacey 1896-1971  
and the Editors of *The New English Hymnal*, 1986

Music Magda  
Ralph Vaughan Williams

## Notices for the Community

§ Sit

## ¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

*All* The Lord be with you.  
**and also with you.**

## Solemn Blessing

*All* May the word of God be a lamp for your steps  
and a light upon your path.  
**Amen.**

*All* May the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home in you.  
**Amen.**

*All* May you remember that whatever we suffer in this life  
can never be compared to the glory that awaits us in the next.  
**Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son †, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

## The Dismissal

The Mass is ended, go in peace.

All **Thanks be to God.**

## Organ Voluntary

Thema met variaties

*Hendrik Andriessen 1892-1981*

- § *Please remain standing until the procession has departed*
- § *Those leaving immediately are asked to be aware of those who wish to listen to the organ voluntary*
- § *Refreshments are served in church, please do join us*
- § *If you are a newcomer to the parish or area please introduce yourself to one of the clergy or speak to a member of our Welcome Team.*

This evening at 5.30 pm

## Congregational Evensong

Our thanks are due to Anonymous Donor 10  
who has generously financed  
the production of this week's service booklet.

**Please take this booklet home  
as an aid to prayer and reflection during the week,  
and then re-cycle it.**

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