

St Matthew's **MAIL**

Suggested
Donation

£1.00

News from the Parish of Kingsley, Northampton

MARCH 2021



www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Services at the Parish Church of St Matthew

Please note: Below is shown the normal pattern of our worship at St Matthew's. However, under the present covid-19 pandemic, the church is temporarily closed and we are offering a Sunday 10.15am Parish Mass and a 7.30pm Mass of the day, live streamed from our website and facebook page.

As circumstances change, please keep referring to our website for changes as they happen.

Sundays

9.00am	Mass, with homily (with traditional language)
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

9.00am and	Laying on of hands and Sacrament of Anointing is
10.15am	offered in the Lady Chapel
5.30pm	Congregational Evensong

Third Sunday in the month

5.30pm	Choral Evensong with Congregational Benediction
--------	---

Fourth and Fifth Sundays in the month

5.30pm	Congregational Evensong
--------	-------------------------

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	9.30am Mass (<i>suspended for the foreseeable future</i>)
Wednesday	9.30am Mass (<i>followed by coffee</i>)
Thursday	9.30am Mass
Friday	12 noon Mass
Saturday	9.30am Mass (Walsingham Cell Mass on second Saturday in 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)

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 March

<i>Date</i>	<i>Observance</i>	<i>Intention</i>
1	S David, B	
2	Feria	
3	Feria	Taking up some spiritual reading
4	Feria	
5	Feria	
6	Feria	
7	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	
8	Feria	
9	Feria	
10	Feria	Daily prayer and almsgiving
11	Feria	
12	Feria	
13	Feria	
14	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (MOTHERING SUNDAY)	
15	Feria	
16	Feria	
17	S Patrick, B	The devolved administrations
18	S Cyril of Jerusalem, B and Dr	
19	S Joseph, Husband of the BVM	
20	Feria	
21	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	
22	Feria	
23	Feria	
24	Feria	
25	ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	God's plan for the world's salvation
26	Feria	
27	Feria	
HOLY WEEK		
28	PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION	
29	Monday in Holy Week	
30	Tuesday in Holy Week	
31	Wednesday in Holy Week	

*NB: **Bold** denotes weekdays on which a mass is live streamed.
Provisional at the time of going to press.*

The Church prays for the community daily.

Please include these topics in your daily prayers.

March Letter from the Vicar

Our Journey through Holy Week

At St Matthew's we have always tried to keep Holy Week 'well', and have offered a full program of liturgical worship which relives the climactic events for our Lord's earthly life, and give expression to the central beliefs of the Christian faith. Along with so much else we have perhaps taken for granted that these acts of worship are 'public', open to all in person.



At the time of writing the Prime Minister is yet to set out his 'roadmap' for the gradual relaxation of lockdown restrictions. It seems likely, however, that once again we will be prevented from gathering in our spiritual home to spend time together during the most important days of the Christian year. I will be setting out just what we will be doing in due course.

Above all else, I wish to stress the importance and value of faithfully 'keeping' Holy Week wherever we are, and the benefits to each of us of doing so are unchanged, undiminished. To do so we will need more than ever to dig deep into our reserves of spiritual grit and determination. This is the vocation, the calling of all who seek to follow Jesus Christ. Only in this way can our Easter joy have depth, and be more than a short-lived belly laugh fed on over-consumption.

Our journey through Holy Week takes us straight into the dark places of human experience and the dangerous depths of the human heart. We find ourselves reflected in the faces and experience of numerous people whose stories are woven through the scriptures (and liturgies) of the season. Palm Sunday with its festal shouts and acclamation is shot through with ambiguity. This is not exactly the picture of a dashing hero on a white steed coming to the rescue by force or at least by force of personality. The crowd itself is full of fickle emotion. Why have they come? With the benefit of history, we know how the mood will change, but it is not hard to imagine even some of those cheering slinking away into the shadows when events turn unpredictable. Even more difficult is the realisation that all of us have done something similar – we have run away when standing up for Jesus is just too costly, too embarrassing or too dangerous. We are there in this crowd of pleasure seekers, of followers and observers, of lovers of a good parade and there when the detail comes in the shouts of 'Crucify!' and in the darkness of a courtyard before dawn.

We are there in the garden where Jesus is alone with a weight of responsibility as one by one his disciples drift off to sleep. We are there in the pain of decision-making and in the loneliness of vocation. And we are there sleeping on the ground as the agony of choice is played out, because our spirits are willing but ...

And there are other dark moments too. There are the weak-willed crowd-pleasers like Pilate, more concerned with his own reputation as a hard man than with doing the right thing. There is Judas and his zealous desire for a quick fix, for an 'end justifies the means' smashing of Roman power by force if necessary and his burning disappointment at the slow pace of change. Peter – full of swaggering confidence one minute and consumed by guilt at his own collapse the next.

There is brutality and violence – people who move under cover for dark; people who put the boot in under orders; people who obey orders above all else. This is a place of undercover operations, lanterns and whispers in the night and armies arresting an unarmed individual victim in a place and at a time when no one can see another person's face clearly. Christ's arrest and trial; the sense of powerlessness as we watch events unfold; the brutality of the cross, are all profoundly disturbing – all the more so because these events are both particular and universal. We are watching the Christ story but these events touch on deep terrors of mistaken arrest; of innocent victims; of the detention centre; of the rooms with blood on the floor; of the torture chamber, the chill of the silent scream sliding into the pit of your stomach, the stench of fear and the trickling of sweat down the back. Is it possible to find ourselves in this dark place?

However, nor should we miss the tender moments in this journey: Jesus weeping for Jerusalem and for his beloved friend Lazarus; the women anointing Jesus, the intimacy of touch and the room full of the scent of perfume; the poignancy of a last meal between friends; Jesus washing the feet of his disciples; the strangers who carry the cross, wipe the face of Jesus and provide a tomb – all powerful images of love that reaches into the forgotten places; the words of Jesus to the thief dying next to him; the promise of paradise and of wrongdoing put right. Then there is Mary – following her beloved Jesus, standing at the foot of the cross and later cradling the dead son she once carried in her womb, to whom she gave birth and whom she nurtured. The mirror images of Mary cradling her infant son and the Pietà – Mary with the dead Christ lying across her lap – remind us that the love demonstrated in the Incarnation is the same love that is demonstrated on the cross, 'For God so loved the world...' In this context, it is interesting and beneficial to remember that the Feast of the Annunciation this year occurs just a few days before Holy Week.

And after all that Holy Week can throw at us, after following closely or from afar the slow steps to the cross and the tomb, after all the tears we have shed have exhausted themselves, we are left at the end in the still quiet place of death. It is a moment captured exquisitely by J S Bach near the end of the St John Passion:

*Lie still, lie still,
O sacred limbs lie sleeping
and I will lay aside my weeping.
Lie still, lie still.
I too may rest, I may rest in peace.
The grave that was appointed you
to close the sum of suffering due
shall be my path to heaven,
from hell my full release.*

And we are asked to stand here for a while, painful and uncomfortable though it might be. We are asked to remain here in the place for forgotten dreams; of hopelessness; and of letting go of the loved one who is now dead and gone. We should not look to Easter morning too early – this place has much to teach us. For Good Friday and Holy Saturday are about the laying aside of the power to 'do' anything. It is about facing the root of the word passion – *passio* – to suffer, recognising that 'the meaning is in the waiting' to borrow a well-known phrase of R S Thomas (from his poem 'Kneeling'). Alongside those who watch at the bedsides of the dying, alongside all who descend into their private hell where we are powerless to reach them, we are called simply to wait.

Your sincere friend and parish priest,

F. Nicholas



*Keeping
a Holy Lent*

Make a difference

Monday 8 March is the day that the Church remembers Edward King, former Bishop of Lincoln, who died in 1910. On my bookshelf I have a copy of *The Spiritual Letters of Edward King* and towards the end of the book is a letter headed 'To a Working Man'. King says "The world goes ahead wonderfully – railways, telegraph, telephone, steamships and now aviation; we must hold fast by the faith..." 112 years on, we might write "The world goes ahead wonderfully – Eurostar, emails, Zoom, solar-panelled shipping, space exploration..." We could also add "...and the development of multiple Covid vaccines within a year".



We live in a wonderful and terrifying world. King could not have foreseen that the wonders of railways, steamships and aviation would play their part in causing a planet-wide climate emergency. You may have watched David Attenborough's *Perfect Planet*. Some of his observations are heartbreaking, but what can we do? Well, asking "what can we do?" is a great start.

At Diocesan Synod on 20 March, one of the items to be discussed is how we will respond to General Synod's massively challenging target of being carbon net zero by 2030. It all seems so big, doesn't it? When I was a curate, Stuart Blanch – the former Archbishop of York – took part in our training. To those of us in large parishes he said: "Just because you can't visit everyone doesn't mean that you can't visit anyone". True. The same goes for saving God's beautiful creation. Just because we can't solve the whole worldwide problem doesn't mean that we can't do anything.

Remember those words from Bishop King: "we must hold fast by the faith". In these amazing, scary, rapid and challenging days, we travel in the knowledge that our Creator and Redeemer has always walked with us and will always walk with us. Let's pray that, through this worldwide pandemic and climate emergency, God will give us the courage and the will to start where we are and make a difference.

Richard Ormston

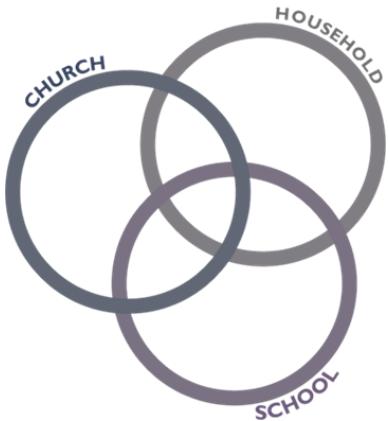
Archdeacon of Northampton

Produced by the Diocesan Office,
The Palace, Peterborough PE1 1YB
Tel: 01733 887000
Email: communications@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

The Growing Faith adventure

For the last 18 months, the Diocese of Peterborough has been one of only six ‘trailblazer’ dioceses within the Church of England to take up the Growing Faith initiative.

Growing Faith seeks to bring together the three spheres of church, school and households – in how we think and in what we do – and we have been appointed to champion the relationships between faith in these three spheres. The aim is to inspire our parishes to grow deeper in these relationships, and we are encouraging all our parishes and schools to engage with this vision.



The Gen2 Children and Youth team are leading on Growing Faith in our diocese but working closely with all diocesan teams, the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) and senior leadership.

Now, before you think “Not another project!”, think again. This is a new way of thinking about how we engage with children, young people and families. It requires a culture change in the whole Church – and indeed in our diocese – where we seek to look at everything we do, and every decision we make, through the lens of what it means for children, young people and families.

Growing Faith is underpinned by the belief that the intersections of church, household and school are the ideal places where Christ is encountered and faith is grown for children and young people. It is guided by three values:

- ◆ **Connected Communities**

Faith grows in community and each sphere has a unique role to play, but together we generate stronger and intergenerational relationships that nurture faith.

- ◆ **Spiritual Encounters**

Faith begins and is sustained by encounters with God, and is rooted when we tell the story of those encounters.

- ◆ **Imaginative Practices**

We need to find new ways of being church together in different spaces in order to meet the challenge of reaching children and young people.

Canon Pete White, our Director of Children and Youth, explains the impact of Growing Faith so far in our diocese:

"We are encouraging parishes to be aware of the ideas and to reflect on how their mission and ministry can work in the intersections. We are focusing on work with schools – working with our Mission team and the DBE on this – as well as working more closely across teams and departments.

"We're including training on Growing Faith in our lay training courses and our curate training, and asking all clergy to make contact with their local school (church or community school) to offer support and help.

"We're also producing resources to support parishes to deliver Collective Worship and Assemblies, and we've developed a partnership with the Care for the Family – Kitchen Table project to support faith at home.

"In addition, we have 13 'hub groups' bringing youth and children's workers together to support one another, share ideas and resources.

"In short, we are trying to encourage everyone to consider every decision and action through the lens of the effect on children and young people."

Please pray for our Gen2 team as they continue to lead this important vision.

Annual advertising costs for St Matthew's Mail

A5	Full page	£100.00 per annum
A6	Half page	£60.00 per annum
A7	Quarter page	£40.00 per annum
A8	Eighth of a page	£25.00 per annum

Spaces are available – please contact
Anita, Parish Administrator, at the Parish Office



Lockdown opportunities

Emma Kirby, one of our Gen2 missioners, tells us about the unexpectedly positive effects that lockdown has had on her work.

Here at St. Mary's in the parish of Weldon and Priors Hall, we have a heart for reaching out into the community. We believe that it is by making a difference in people's lives and building relationships with them that they see Jesus through our work, and want to find out more.

Whilst lockdown has temporarily stopped some of our work and groups, it has also been a great opportunity to make new contacts which we may not have been able to do as easily in normal times. We are part of the Weldon Care, Share and Support team who provide help to those who are isolating at home by getting their shopping and prescriptions, and by making meals. The vicarage has a Community Shed with donated food and household supplies for emergency care packages. By working with the team, the church has raised its profile and credibility, demonstrating its commitment to actively supporting the community. We have also been able to come alongside those who are needing support, and have initiated relationships which will continue and develop past these uncertain times.

Through this intergenerational work, the community, in turn, supported us with our Christmas programme. Children and families naturally take part in outreach activities when the whole community is involved. As a Children and Families Mission Enabler, I see this as a stepping stone towards future opportunities for exploring faith.



In the rain 5 October

Weekday Scripture Readings for March

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	1st	1 Chronicles 21.1-17	1 John 2.1-8
Tuesday	2nd	Zechariah 3	2 Peter 2.1-10a
Wednesday	3rd	Job 1.1-22	Luke 21.34 – 22.6
Thursday	4th	2 Chronicles 29.1-11	Mark 11.15-19
Friday	5th	Exodus 19.1-9a	1 Peter 1.1-9
Saturday	6th	Exodus 19.9b-19	Acts 7.44-50
Monday	8th	Joshua 4.1-13	Luke 9.1-11
Tuesday	9th	Exodus 15.22-27	Hebrews 10.32-end
Wednesday	10th	Genesis 9.8-17	1 Peter 3.18-end
Thursday	11th	Daniel 12.5-end	Mark 13.21-end
Friday	12th	Numbers 20.1-13	1 Corinthians 10.23-end
Saturday	13th	Isaiah 43.14-end	Hebrews 3.1-15
Monday	15th	2 Kings 24.18 – 25.7	1 Corinthians 15.20-34
Tuesday	16th	Jeremiah 13.12-19	Acts 13.26-35
Wednesday	17th	Jeremiah 13.20-27	1 Peter 1.17 – 2.3
Thursday	18th	Jeremiah 22.11-19	Luke 11.37-52
Friday	19th	Genesis 50.22-end	Matthew 2.13-end
Saturday	20th	Ezra 1	2 Corinthians 1.12-19
Monday	22nd	Joel 2.12-17	2 John
Tuesday	23rd	Isaiah 58.1-14	Mark 10.32-45
Wednesday	24th	Genesis 3.8-15	Galatians 4.1-5
Thursday	25th	Isaiah 52.1-12	Hebrews 2.5-end
Friday	26th	Lamentations 5.1-3, 19-22	John 12.20-26
Saturday	27th	Job 17.6-end	John 12.27-36
Monday	29th	Lamentations 2.8-19	Colossians 1.18-23
Tuesday	30th	Lamentations 3.40-51	Galatians 6.11-end
Wednesday	31st	Isaiah 63.1-9	Revelation 14.18 – 15.4

One day in December – The Advent Story

Sandra Rivett

I love the story of Advent and as we haven't been able to meet in Church for a while with the Covid restrictions, the children's Advent service was cancelled and I was disappointed.

But there was something happening in the park. Abington Park church, St Peter & St Paul's, was doing the Advent story. Unfortunately, I had no little people to go with so I decided to go alone, but then Henry offered to come along and we arranged to meet his friend Holly.

It was kind of like Stations of the Cross with the story being told bit by bit on signs which had been set up in the Churchyard.

We all know the story so well but it was lovely to follow the trail. There was a picture and a short bit of the story on each sign. Also a star with a letter in it. So you had a pen and paper and jotted down the letter each time.

At the end there was of course the Nativity scene and then you had to work out the mystery sentence which was 'Jesus Christ Christmas Star'. 24 letters, in 24 stars, on 24 boards. It was thoroughly enjoyable, well recommended, and would definitely do it next year if it happens, and hopefully I will then be able to go with some young friends or take along my Beavers. They would love it. Also, at the end, your prize was a Salt Dough Star to hang on your own Christmas tree. Someone had been very busy. So I took one and Henry took one for Holly. We ended our trip with an expensive but delicious hot chocolate (with cream of course) and marshmallows from the Cafe in the Park. Just one day in December to get us thinking of Christmas.





that Slimming World feeling!

Sharon-07507 660712

Tuesday 9.15&11.15am
St Matthews, Kingsley
NN1 4RY

Thursday 9.30&11.30am
Moulton Guide Hall,
NN3 7SZ

Chauneille-07894 314814

Monday 7pm
Saturday 8&10am
Salvation Army, Weston Favell
NN3 8EZ

Thursday 5&7pm
Church Rooms St Michaels
& All Angels, NN1 4HL

slimmingworld.co.uk
0344 897 8000



Slimming
WORLD[®]
touching hearts, changing lives

32nd St Matthew's Multi-Aged Unit

Mandy Ludlow

I am sitting writing this reflecting back to 12 months ago today – I had just returned from a lovely weekend away at Highgate House with other Guiders from the County and was making last minute adjustments to our Risk Assessments for something we had just heard of, Coronavirus! The leaders and Guides were getting on a coach to France for our much-awaited trip to Paris and Disneyland the very next day. On Sunday 23 February the BBC announced that France started to go into lockdown and anyone arriving back should monitor for symptoms etc – we got back to the UK late on Thursday 20 February! The rest, as they say, is history. None of us thought then that we would not be meeting for 12 months or more.

Our Zoom meetings are still going well, and we have even managed to recruit a couple of new Brownies and Rangers. For all our meetings we are getting 100% attendance, something we never did when meeting face to face at the Parish Centre.

As we approached half term girls have completed challenge badges for New Year, Winter Sports, Burns Night and Birdwatching. We have made kilt pin brooches with the Rangers, mindfulness/worry jars with the Guides and all sections have made bird feeders, some using recycled materials (toilet roll holders) whilst the older girls have made bird cup-cakes. Mini ice hockey has been attempted by freezing water in a baking tray and using buttons or similar and straws or lolly sticks. Snow angels and snowball fights have been enjoyed. We have made wind turbines, Tartan has been designed and kilts for Robert Burns. Crosswords, wordsearches, eating egg-based dishes and round foods have all been Clauses for the various badges. We have talked about what a friend is and what makes a good ‘best friend’; healthy foods and keeping well, mindfulness and relaxation too have all featured in our meetings over the last month.

The Brownies have been busy with interest badges as well, with girls completing Baking, Painting, or Collectors badge. Virtual tours of museums have been undertaken and they have ‘exhibited’ their collections and written about it. We have had farmyard animal cupcakes and Victoria sandwiches made.

Scottish Shortbread was made by all four sections; we started with the Rangers and as this proved so popular we decided to be daring and had all the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides making this on one Zoom meeting using breakout rooms. If I do not see another set of ingredients it will be too soon... For each meeting, the girls get a bag drop and this involves me weighing out

over 30 sets of ingredients; luckily it was only butter, sugar and flour! Parents were very impressed and enjoyed them. One Brownie and one Guide iced their biscuits and packaged them up to send in the post as treats for their family.

Talking of baking brings me nicely on to Café Guides – yes, we are still operating, albeit on a delivery service. If anyone would like a cake just give me a ring, preferably with 10 days' notice. We are charging the same – 50p per portion, so if a cake serves 8, then the cost of the cake would be £4.00.



Scottish Shortbread

(Recipe as used by the girls)

Ingredients

55g caster sugar

180g plain flour

125g butter

Method

1. Heat the oven to 190°C or gas mark 5
2. Beat the butter and the sugar together until smooth
3. Stir in the flour to get a smooth paste
4. Turn on to a work surface and gently roll out until the paste is 1 cm thick
5. Cut into rounds or fingers and place onto baking tray. Sprinkle with caster sugar and chill in the fridge for 20 minutes
6. Bake in the oven for 15-20 minutes, or until pale golden-brown. Set aside to cool on a wire rack.



9			6	8	4	7		
5						9		
	2				4			
6			4		5	1		
		9	7		3			
4	7	3						
8		9	1					
	5		3			9		
				8	1	2	5	

SOLUTION ON PAGE 28

A prayer of shelter and shadow

It is in the shelter of each other that the people live.
 It is in the shadow of each other that the people live.
 We know that sometimes we are alone,
 and sometimes we are in community.
 Sometimes we are in shadow,
 and sometimes we are surrounded by shelter.
 Sometimes we feel like exiles –
 in our land, in our languages and in our bodies.
 And sometimes we feel surrounded by welcome.
 As we seek to be human together,
 may we share the things that do not fade:
 generosity, truth-telling, silence, respect and love.
 And may the power we share
 be for the good of all.
 We honour God, the source of this rich life.
 And we honour each other, story-full and lovely.
 Whether in our shadow or in our shelter,
 may we live well and fully
 with each other. Amen.

From Daily Prayer with the Corrymeela Community

All On The Board

Gary Drinkwater

Two members of St Matthew's congregation very kindly gave me a gift recently with the request 'buy yourself a book'. As we had been talking about Lent reading they were probably expecting me to purchase something spiritually edifying. However, I went a little frivolous and got a book called 'All On The Board' with the strap line 'Inspirational Quotes from the TFL Underground duo'.

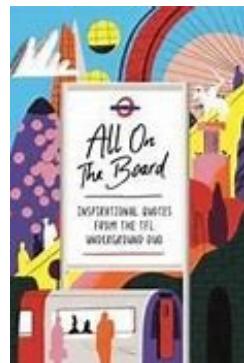
I don't know if you are familiar with the whiteboards that over the last few years have appeared at Underground stations and London railway stations, but this book is a collection of them alongside the biography of the authors.

The authors are two station assistants who in March 2017 were assisting passengers at North Greenwich to go through the barriers. Many of the passengers were on their way to the O2 for a Craig David gig. As they passed through, the two assistants began to talk about their favourite songs of his which led them to compose a poem using some of the song titles and lyrics. There was a board next to them saying 'Keep Right' so they wrote their poem on this as they wanted to share it with the fans. They realised people were smiling as they read it and some took selfies. Seeing that it brought happiness to passengers they decided to do it again and have been writing together ever since.

As their popularity grew people began asking 'Who writes these boards?' The answer would be 'No one writes them' or 'Everyone writes them'. They began calling themselves N1 and E1 which at first was thought to be their post code until they explained it was 'No one' and 'Everyone' and collectively it is 'NE1' which very cleverly is 'Anyone'.

They set up a social media account that now has a legion of celebrity fans including U2, Ricky Gervais, and Michelle Obama, while Katy Perry and Mumford & Sons have taken selfies with the boards, after travelling by tube specifically to find them.

It is a brightly colourful book, split into different chapters with AOTB's quotes vividly reproduced. Amongst a fair few different topics – Love, Legends, Random Treasures – there are chapters titled Raising Awareness, Mental Health, In It Together and Positively Positive, each prefaced by a handful of pages where the altruistic duo give an insight into their daily lives and experiences.



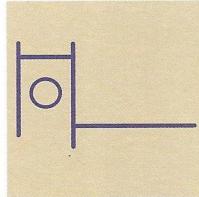
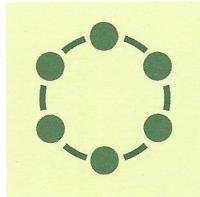
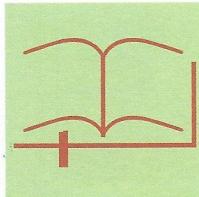
Despite the light-hearted origins of the project, All On The Board has tackled some serious issues. Both Jeremy Chopra and Ian Redpath (their real identities) have suffered from mental health problems, and wanted to spread awareness of illnesses that can be overlooked. In January 2008, Ian was driving a train when a young girl jumped on the tracks at Pimlico station which left him with PTSD and anxiety whilst Jeremy has suffered with an eating disorder and is keen to highlight the stigma surrounding men suffering with this particular illness.

During this last year the pandemic has made their messages more powerful than ever, with messages of support for key workers and hope and encouragement for us all. ‘There is a light at the end of the tunnel, and it’s about looking forward to getting there’.

So whilst my book seemed a frivolous purchase it is anything but as it touches on difficult issues, whilst being full of humour and fun and the perfect reminder of our lives full of struggles that are always, somehow, overcome.

By the way, I had enough change to purchase the book for my Zoom Lent course called ‘Not a Tame Lion’ which is based on the writings of CS Lewis. You may hear my thoughts on this in the future after I have attended the course.





TM

PARISH GIVING SCHEME

Stewardship

Polly Matthews

The Diocese has recently introduced the **Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)** designed to replace the existing Stewardship Giving Scheme.

An Introduction to the Parish Giving Scheme

Why are regular donations so important to our Church?

The Church of England offers a Christian presence in every community. Together we seek to make this Christian presence the heart of our cities, towns and villages: by our wonderful buildings; by worshipping together; by serving our communities and by sharing our faith and values. This valuable contribution to our community has a cost of which 75% is met by personal donations. For our Church to survive and grow, we rely on regular donations so that we can plan confidently for the future.

What is the Parish Giving Scheme?

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) has been set up to help us best manage regular donations. It is run as a partnership between dioceses on a cost sharing basis.

How does it work?

Donations can be made on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis, by completing the relevant donor application form and Direct Debit instruction. Even though donations are made to the Parish Giving Scheme, they are restricted to our parish, giving you peace of mind that your gift cannot be used elsewhere. You are always in charge of what you give and your gift will be passed back to our parish each month. Gift Aid will be collected and received separately. The unique feature of the scheme is the option for you to commit in principle to increase your gift annually in line with inflation. Whilst this is a voluntary decision, it is one that could potentially have a huge impact on the life and future of our church.

What are the main benefits?

The main beneficiary of this scheme will be our church. Through your generous commitment, we can be assured of a regular, tax-efficient source of income which has the capacity to increase with the cost of living, yet involves virtually no administration. You will benefit from a system that is secure, confidential and easy to use, while supporting our church today and for the future.

Will this affect the Stewardship Weekly Envelope Scheme?

No – if you prefer to use the envelope scheme your payments will not be affected and you will receive a box of numbered weekly envelopes at the start of the year.

For more information on either of the above schemes, or to request an application form please contact Polly Matthews, Stewardship Recorder at the Parish Office.



Hannah Rose Woods @hannahrosewoods · 1h

It's what Augustus Pugin would have wanted



Martyn Percy @MartynPercy · 8 Jul

Upgraded face-masks now available in seasonal colours for clergy. Ideal for most liturgical settings. Please don't be fooled by cheap imitations. These are the original. Genuine authentic features. Made from recycled brass and other materials. BOGOF. Ideal for large processions.



1

2

27



Contributed by David Waller

Lost and Found Again

Fabian Robertson

Listening to the Radio 4 programme ‘Saturday Live’ on a Saturday morning hosted by The Reverend Richard Coles fits in well doing various jobs. This morning Saturday 13 February he asked each of his guests, and listeners who phoned in, whether they remembered something important they had lost and then some days, weeks, or years later they had found it. The replies ranged from a wallet being returned the same day to a lady’s own wedding ring being recovered from under sea water by her husband days later.

As a child I remember my mother making the Christmas pudding, in fact several of them, as we had a second one when brother Giles returned from Exeter Cathedral Choir School after Epiphany and another at Easter. They were made in the large pottery bread bin just before ‘Stir-up Sunday’ and any family at home had to have a stir of the mixture and make a wish.

Traditionally into the main pudding went various rather small charms, about five all together with my mother’s great grandmother’s wedding ring and a silver thimble we as children used for playing ‘hunt the thimble’. One year not all the small charms came out! It was then decided that it was a safer bet in future just to include some silver three penny coins, the thimble and the wedding ring. The wedding ring incidentally was of 1785 vintage.



Christmas 1943 the ring wasn’t swallowed and came out of the pudding. It was carefully put on the side of a bowl to be washed and put away in mother’s jewel box until the following Christmas. Despite invoking the help of Saint Anthony of Padua (the patron saint of lost things) the trouble was the next Christmas the ring couldn’t be found. This sorrow went on year after year and it still hadn’t turned up. In November 1951 the family moved from Suffolk to a village near Stratford-upon-Avon. Every single thing was very painstakingly packed up before the moving van arrived. In the kitchen there were fitted cupboards and drawers which had to be cleared and cleaned. An awkward and hard to close drawer at ground level stored just brown wrapping paper for sending parcels. The drawer was cleared of its contents and when finally dusted out there was the almost forgotten heirloom of the wedding ring standing on its edge in a corner of the drawer. What rejoicing! What joy! Thank you St Anthony! Naturally still talked about today when senior members of the family reminisce.



Christmas Pudding

Eric Ravilious, 1903 - 1942

Christmas Pudding Service, Wedgwood, 1938

(The Reverend Richard Coles is Vicar of Finedon in this diocese and Chancellor of the University of Northampton – he is a regular broadcaster)

Laughter

Laughter Lines from my 5 year old Grandson

Girlie Franklin

Ellis Grandma, do you know, my Great Grandma is 97 years old and she is still alive!

Me Really?

Ellis Who is the oldest person you know Grandma?

Me Hmm, let me think... (*two of my friends, mentioning their names*)

Me Who is the oldest person you know Ellis?

Ellis (*Quick as a flash*) Jesus!

Me When you grow up and start working, will you buy Grandma a nice flashy car?

(He is into cars big time)

Ellis Grandma, when I grow up and start working you'll be in heaven!

You have got to laugh!

MINECRAFT



A Minecraft St Matthew's!

Anita recently had a call from a Jamie Ellis, enquiring what was at the top of the church spire. She duly emailed him a link to the 'Caring for our Heritage' page on our website and a photo of when the cockerel was taken into Mums and Tots for them to see before being put back up after restoration.



Jamie's son Ethan plays **Minecraft**, a downloadable video game 'of adventure and infinite creations built with simple building blocks', and he was building pictures of the local churches on it and wanted to know what the weathervane was so he could add it. Due to the scale he was unable to show the cockerel, but Anita asked if we could have the pictures he made so we might put them in the magazine? So here they are!



St Matthew's Residential Homes Singing Group



This group was formed over eighteen years ago, with the aim of entertaining the residents of the homes within our parish.

We usually visit four establishments each year: Oakwood Nursing Home (8 The Drive), St Matthew's Nursing Home (21-23 St Matthew's Parade), The Crescent Care Home (3 The Crescent), and Margaret's Rest Home (30-32 Kingsley Road). However, due to the Covid-19 Coronavirus, we are unable to function as we cannot enter their premises.

In the meantime, please pray for the residents of these homes.

Currently there are ten singers in the group (including some of our Methodist friends from across the road), but there are occasions when not all of them may be able to attend. Therefore we would welcome new recruits to join our happy band when the current restrictions are lifted.

If you would like further details, please contact Jonathan Starmer
Telephone 01604 406009, or email jonathan.starmer@yahoo.com

Parish Office Update

Due to the current situation, Anita, our Parish Administrator, is now part furloughed and the Parish Office opening hours are changed. The Office is now CLOSED on Mondays and Wednesdays, and will be open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 9.30am-12.30pm and 1.00pm-4.00pm.

As Anita is working from home, please telephone during working hours ONLY: calls will divert after 15 seconds so please be patient. Do not leave a telephone message as they cannot be picked up.

Alternatively, please email office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk and Anita will reply during working hours.

Also, for the latest updates as they happen, please keep looking at our website:
www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

NORTHAMPTON BACH CHOIR

Celebrating eighty-five years of glorious choral music making



CONCERTS ARCHIVE

One of the tasks that I set myself during this enforced shutdown was to compile a listing of all the concerts that have been performed by the Northampton Bach Choir since its formation in 1935. My own personal collection of programmes goes back to around 1966, but before that time records are sketchy and in places there are several years where I have no information at all.

It occurs to me to ask if any members of St Matthew's Church have copies of any programmes for Bach Choir concerts, press cuttings, church magazines, or other memorabilia, which might help to fill that gap. If so, I would be grateful if you could contact me on either 07766 880227 or by e-mail at markandpatgibson@jcd.co.uk

Mark Gibson

Mark Gibson
Concerts Manager, Northampton Bach Choir





Do you use Amazon? Are you thinking about your Christmas shopping? If so, you can help St Matthew's Church raise donations for free.

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of eligible purchases to St Matthew's.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same price, same service. All you need to do is use the link below

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1130083-0>

Happy shopping!

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

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

Number **90**, held by **Sandra Rivett**



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

Raise funds for St Matthew's Church every time you shop online

Find us on easyfundraising to start:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmatthewsnorth/>



Shop with over 3,300 online stores



John Lewis

ebay

M&S



Booking.com

Boden

next

DEBENHAMS



Viking

Sainsbury's

SCREWFIX

JUST EAT moonpig

ASOS
discover fashion online

easyfundraising
feel good shopping



£20 Million raised



1.2 Million users



100,000 causes

GUINEA PIGS

DOGS

CATS

RABBITS

RATS

HAMSTERS

GERBILS

CHINCHILLAS

PETS PANTRY

SUPPLIER OF FOOD & TREATS FOR YOUR PETS

All Major Brand Names Supplied

James Wellbeloved ★ Burns ★ Skinners ★ Chudleys ★ Royal Canin
★ Eukanuba ★ Beta ★ Lilly's Kitchen . . . & many more available

GROOMING PARLOUR INSIDE THE SHOP

APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE 6 DAYS A WEEK!

Telephone: 01604 722 222
17 Collingwood Road, Abington, Northampton NN1 4RD

WILD BIRDS

BUDGIES

PARROTS

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 APRIL magazine is SUNDAY 14 MARCH

Editor: Dorrie Parker

Layout and production: Gary Drinkwater

SOLUTION TO SUDOKO
(page 15)

FEBRUARY WORDSEARCH
ANSWERS

9	3	1	6	8	4	7	5	2
5	8	4	2	1	7	9	6	3
7	2	6	3	5	9	4	1	8
6	9	2	8	4	3	5	7	1
1	5	8	9	7	2	3	4	6
4	7	3	5	6	1	2	8	9
8	4	9	1	2	5	6	3	7
2	1	5	7	3	6	8	9	4
3	6	7	4	9	8	1	2	5

Did you find all the words?

CHAFFINCH
COOT
CORMORANT
DOVE
GOSHAWK
GUILLEMOT
PLOVER
SWAN
WAXWING

Floodlighting of the Church

If you would like to celebrate an anniversary or remember a loved one, St Matthew's can offer you the option of having the church floodlit at night.

The church would be floodlit all night, timed from dusk till dawn, at a cost of £20.00 per night. Please contact the Parish Office for further details.



Baptisms and Weddings

For Initial Enquiries for Baptisms and Weddings please telephone the office during the hours advertised on the back of the magazine or email office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

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.

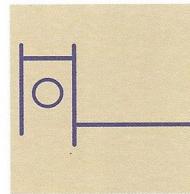
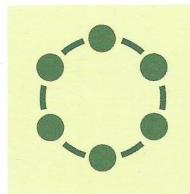
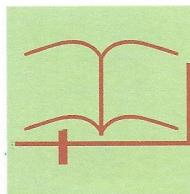


The Scheme is the most tax efficient way of contributing to the church because contributions may be eligible for Gift Aid (raising your donation by 25% at no cost to either you or St Matthew's).

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 or as below.

Polly Matthews
<office@stmathews-northampton.org.uk>
Tel. 01604 846074



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 Opening hours for **telephone enquiries only:**

Tues/Thu/Fri 9.30am - 12.30pm. 1.00pm - 4.00pm; CLOSED Mondays & Wednesdays.

VISITORS TO THE OFFICE WILL BE SEEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Ministry Team

Parish Priest The Revd Canon Nicholas Setterfield
vicar@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Honorary Assistant Priest The Revd Canon Nicholas Gandy OGS
OGS@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Honorary Assistant Priest The Revd Canon Peter Garlick

Parish Officers

Churchwarden Vacant
PCC Secretary Donald Cran
pcc-secretary@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
PCC Treasurer Donald Cran
treasurer@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

St Matthew's Trust David Waller
chairman@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Particular Responsibility

Safeguarding Officer Sarah Oughton
(*Assistant: Ben Drouet*)
safeguarding@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
Verger Gary Drinkwater
Head Server Seymour Franklin
head-server@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
Sacristan Patricia Sykes
Stewardship Recorder Polly Matthews
Banking & Gift Aid *Office*
Electoral Roll Officer Seymour Franklin
Archives Patrick Rawlinson
Website & Magazine Editor Dorrie Parker
magazine@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Music Department

Director of Music Justin Miller
music@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
Parish Organist Jonathan Starmer
Friends of Keith Hirst
St Matthew's Music friends@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Parish website www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk