

*St Matthew's*  
**MAIL**

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**Suggested  
Donation**

**£1.00**

**News from the Parish of Kingsley, Northampton**

**MAY 2021**



**[www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk](http://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, as the present covid-19 pandemic restrictions ease, the church is now open for communal worship and offering a Sunday 10.15am Parish Mass with other services as advertised — please keep referring to our website for changes. Sunday and Major Feast-Day services will also be live streamed on our website and facebook pages.

## 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
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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

<b>Monday</b>	7.00pm Mass (on Bank Holidays at 9.30am) (Healing Mass and Devotions on the first Monday in the month)
<b>Tuesday</b>	9.30am Mass <i>(suspended for the foreseeable future)</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	9.30am Mass <i>(followed by coffee)</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	9.30am Mass
<b>Friday</b>	12 noon Mass
<b>Saturday</b>	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 May

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<i>Date</i>	<i>Observance</i>	<i>Intention</i>
1	Ss Philip and James, Apostles	
<b>2</b>	<b>THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	The Parish
3	Feria	The Ministry of Healing
4	The English Martyrs	
5	Feria	
6	Feria	
7	Feria	
8	Of OLW	The Shrine and Society
<b>9</b>	<b>THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	The Parish
10	Feria (Rogation Day)	
11	Feria (Rogation Day)	
12	Feria	
<b>13</b>	<b>ASCENSION DAY</b>	
14	S Matthias, Apostle	
15	Feria	
<b>16</b>	<b>THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	The Parish
17	Feria	
18	Feria	
19	Monthly Requiem	The Faithful Departed
20	Feria	
21	Feria	
22	Feria	
<b>23</b>	<b>PENTECOST (Whitsunday)</b>	The Parish
	<i>Ordinary Time resumes</i>	
24	Feria	
25	The Venerable Bede	
26	S Augustine, B	
27	Feria	
28	Feria	
29	Of the BVM	
<b>30</b>	<b>TRINITY SUNDAY</b>	The Parish
31	Visitation of the BVM	

**NB** Mass on weekdays is currently suspended

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

# May Letter from the Vicar

## The Fiftieth and Greatest Day of Easter

Very occasionally, you may still hear people talking about the Spring Bank Holiday as the 'Whitsun' break. Until 1965, this national holiday took place on the Monday after Pentecost; but the inconvenience of its date, always 50 days after the moveable feast of Easter, finally argued for its replacement with a fixed 'day off'. Our inherited cultural calendar understood the intimate connection between these two great feasts, which share an almost equal weight in the cycle of the Christian year.

Easter proclaims the resurrection of Christ from the grave, the transformation of humanity into something glorious after its passage through pain and death. It celebrates something fundamentally mysterious, defying explanation. The disciples are confounded by the risen Christ when they encounter him: as the gardener, the companion on the journey to Emmaus, or the stranger on the shoreline, Jesus is almost unrecognisable – until their eyes are opened, and they begin, fragmentarily, to understand. The risen Lord is no revived corpse. He is the flickering image of the human future, cast into the shadowy present of his friends for them to behold.

Fifty days after the resurrection, the disciples wait in the Upper Room. In the calendar of the Old Covenant it is the Feast of Weeks, Shavuot, commemorating the gift of the Law on Sinai. The disciples hear the wind and behold the flames, and then find they are able to speak and be understood by many as they are filled by the Holy Spirit. They receive something far greater than



the Law this Pentecost, because God himself comes to inhabit them. He comes as the advocate, source of consolation and giver of gifts, who will speak the truth through them to all who will hear. He comes as love to dwell in their hearts, making sense of the mystery of the Christ they have encountered, and enabling them to share that mystery with others. Pentecost gives the disciples all they need to pass on what they have received from the Lord, so that others too may believe, and be transformed. Pentecost, 23 May, is the traditional birthday of the Christian Church, and we should celebrate it with all the joy we can muster.

The gift of Pentecost is not just for Whitsun. It flickers in every natural gift and skill we possess. It rises to a flame in Baptism, in the sharing of the Eucharist and the life of Christian discipleship. To us it gives the ability, and the boldness, to pass on what we have received, and to live faithfully and lovingly in hope of the glory which is to come.



Your sincere friend and parish priest,

*Fr. Nicholas*

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**SOLUTION ON PAGE 40**

# Looking Backwards and Forwards

Earlier this year we celebrated the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bishop Donald's arrival as our bishop. It was good to give thanks for his inspiring and visionary leadership and especially his commitment to the growth of every Church.

Ascension Day this month will be the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my own consecration as one of your bishops in Westminster Abbey and St Peter's Day next month will mark 35 years since my ordination in Southwark Cathedral. Again, it has been good to look back over the countless ways in which I have been enriched by the family of God's people in Peterborough diocese. For example, the folk from Corby and Rushden who helped bring my faith alive as a teenager, wonderful mission training in Northampton as a curate, refreshing retreats at Ecton House and Launde Abbey, a faithful colleague whose father had been Vicar of Oakham and a memorable residential workshop at the Cathedral led by Canon (now Archbishop of York) Stephen Cottrell.

It's good to look back and celebrate. During lockdown I have learnt to value a way of praying in which each evening I review the day by asking the question; "Where has God been in my life today?" It's a great question, sometimes challenging, sometimes encouraging, often surprising. It has really helped me in daily seeking to walk with Jesus.

Dag Hammarskjold, the second Secretary General of the United Nations, famously once said: For all that has been, Thank You. For all that is to come, Yes!"

Looking forward to a post-lockdown world and church where it's too early to say how much will have changed and how much will remain the same, I have been looking back to a book which inspired me 35 years ago. "*I heard the Owl call my name*" by Margaret Craven tells the story of a terminally ill young priest Mark Brian, with less than 3 years to live, who is sent to serve the remote Tsawataineuk village of Kingcome in the wilds of British Columbia, Canada, because it is where his bishop would have wished to go if he were young again in similar circumstances.

At first Mark fails to understand and makes little connection with the community, but gradually he learns to listen, to walk alongside and share people's lives, serving them in a Christ-like way, remembering that Jesus came and walked alongside all of us. The young priest and the village are both transformed. It's a beautiful description of the kind of "humbler, simpler, bolder Church" of which Archbishop Stephen has recently spoken.

May God bless and guide us as we seek to listen to our communities, walk alongside them and renew the lives of our Churches in the coming months.

With my thanks, prayers and best wishes,



+John  
Bishop of Brixworth

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## A Little Poem For Seniors

Another year has passed  
And we're all a little older.  
Last summer felt hotter  
And winter seems much colder.

There was a time not long ago  
When life was quite a blast.  
Now I fully understand  
About 'Living in the Past'

We used to go to weddings,  
Football games and lunches..  
Now we go to funeral homes  
And after-funeral brunches.

We used to go out dining,  
And couldn't get our fill.  
Now we ask for doggie bags,  
Come home and take a pill.  
We used to often travel  
To places near and far.  
Now we get sore asses  
From riding in the car.

We used to go to nightclubs  
And drink a little booze.  
Now we stay home at night  
And watch the evening news.

That, my friend is how life is,  
And now my tale is told.  
So, enjoy each day and live it up...  
Before you're too damned old!

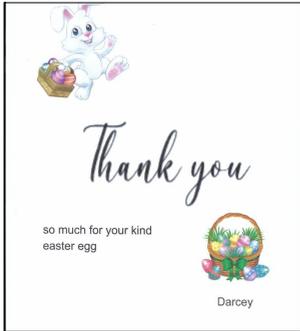


# 31<sup>st</sup> St Matthew's GirlGuiding

Elizabeth March

## Easter Egg 'Thank you'

The Wednesday Girlguiding girls would like to say thank you for your kind Easter egg gifts. When I delivered them just before Easter they and their parents were thrilled. Here are a few of their 'thank you' notes.



Darcey



Jasmine



Violet



Noah



Noah & Violet (twins!)



Freya

# 32<sup>nd</sup> St Matthew's Multi-Aged Unit

Mandy Ludlow

Since writing the article for the last Parish Magazine we have been on our Easter break. On our last evening before the start of the holidays we had an Easter evening with all four sections – our Zoom meeting now goes across two screens; I think in future I may have to log on to two devices so that I can see everyone at the same time.



The evening started off with a game of Easter bingo before we broke up into break out rooms; the Rainbows and Brownies made chocolate nest cakes, the Guides Easter Rocky Road which contained 400gms of chocolate not to mention mini eggs and marshmallows, the Rangers then made Easter flapjack, which when taken out of the oven was spread with melted chocolate before topping with mini eggs – some whole and some crushed. As girls finished their cooking, they moved around breakout rooms to do some craft – they painted and put together wooden chickens; these formed a basket to put eggs in. At the end of the evening, we all came back together to play a game of pin the tail on the bunny. It is surprising how quickly two hours go.



In the bag drop for our last evening was the Easter egg given to all the girls by St Matthew's. These were very much appreciated by both the girls and their parents. The girls have each written thank you letters to St Matthew's which hopefully you will have seen by now.

As you all know Guides, Rangers and Leaders should have been flying off to Sangam, the Girlguiding World Centre, in Pune, India this August. Sadly this is not to be and it is currently rescheduled for 2022, but as we have not been able to fundraise and not knowing what the Covid pandemic will look like worldwide it is looking ever increasingly like we will be postponing to 2023. But, to give us all a flavour of our trip a cooking session was arranged with the ladies in Sangam, and on a very cold Friday afternoon after Easter the older girls and leaders joined Uzma and her two colleagues for a brilliant cookery demonstration and class where we all cooked together – the wonders and brilliance of modern technology that we were all in our individual kitchens with the ladies out in India, all working, talking and joining in together at the same time. What delicious food we made, chai to drink, and a dhal followed by a soya curry – although some girls did use chicken served with rice and home-made chapatis. The leaders have already spoken following this session and Café Guides may well be organising a 'Curry Evening'.

Following this article are the recipes for three of the dishes we made – these were translated into English for us by the Sangam ladies so may not read as you would expect, but give it a try, it does work if you follow each step.

This last month we seem to have been ‘jetting’ around the world. We have been to India, now to Bulawayo in Zimbabwe! Back in September 2020 I saw a post on the Northants Girlguiding Facebook page asking if any units had out of date first aid items, dressings etc. I had a huge box of out-of-date dressings and bandages that I had kept following the death of my Dad; I didn’t know what to do with them but did not want them to go into landfill. It seemed that the hospitals in Bulawayo were cutting up old carrier bags and boxes to make dressings and bandages; an out-of-date dressing is better than this. I contacted the Guider concerned and yes, she would take them. At the same time, I asked if they would like any old pack holiday uniforms, I had boxes of tee shirts, shorts, jogging bottoms and dresses – I received a response back yes, they would, as they could go to one of the two orphanages there, and so the journey began. Firstly, I had to send Mark to the garage where all these items were stored, bearing in mind that the clothes had not seen light of day for the best part of 21 years. They were buried behind nativity items, camp and outdoor equipment, props once used on carnival floats... He found them and brought them home, still packed in the boxes as they had been stored, all perfectly clean and ready for the next stage of the journey. From Northampton we took them to Morton Pinkney; the Guider concerned then took them to another Guider in Brackley, ready to be put in a shipping container. Off to the docks and a long sea voyage across the oceans – we were told it would take a long time before we heard anything back, probably around Christmas. Yesterday, 11 April, I received these photographs. Our old, obsolete pack holiday uniforms are now being used as school uniforms for girls in an orphanage. Getting items into the country takes so long but as you can see some happy girls.





After our outdoor displays for Remembrance, Christmas and Mothering Sunday we received a telephone call from Fr Nicholas asking if we would look after the Easter Garden in church – a hard act and very big shoes to fill as Mary had looked after this for many years. The brief from Fr Nicholas was ‘it needed to look more Palestine than Hereford’. I think we achieved this and very much appreciate being given the opportunity to put together this very special part of the church decoration. Obviously, we could not involve the children owing to the current restrictions, so Jenna and I undertook the task.



Restrictions are slowly easing and face to face Guiding can once again start to resume; however, as a leadership team we have decided that we will not be meeting until after the spring half term. We will gradually ease ourselves back in to meeting face to face ready to be ‘back to normal’ in September for the new academic year.

## Chai

### *Ingredients*

- 1 x cup of water
- 1 x cup of milk
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- 1 x teaspoon of chai powder or 1 Chai tea bag
- 2 x teaspoon of sugar (or to taste)

Put the water in to a saucepan with the Chai powder or tea bag. Bring to the boil, stirring occasionally. Add the ginger and sugar, stir well. Add the milk and bring back to the boil, simmer for a few moments and then serve.

## Soya Curry

### *Ingredients*

- Soak the 2 x cup of soya in 2 x cup of hot water – if using dried. Not necessary if using frozen soya i.e. Quorn or chicken
- In the frying pan we add 4 x tablespoon of oil
- Half teaspoon of mustard seed
- Half teaspoon of cumin seed

- 3 to 4 cloves of garlic – crushed
- 4 to 5 curry leaves
- 2 x medium onion sliced or chopped (until it gets golden )
- Add 2 x medium tomatoes – chopped (until it gets soft)
- Mix it well
- Add the following to the pan
- Half teaspoon of cumin seed powder
- Half teaspoon of coriander powder
- Half teaspoon of turmeric powder
- Half teaspoon red chilli powder
- Half teaspoon of salt
- Mix all the spices well
- Add the soya chunks or chicken
- Cover it with a lid for a few minutes – if using diced chicken make sure it is cooked through.



## Dhal

### *Ingredients*

- 1 cup of lentils – red or yellow
- 2 cups of water
- Half teaspoon of mustard seed
- Half teaspoon of cumin seed
- Add 3-5 curry leaves
- 1 x green chilli chopped
- 1 x onion chopped
- 2 x tomato chopped
- Add half teaspoon of salt



Wash the lentils well

Add 2 x cup of water and the lentils to a pan and let it boil, when lentils are soft

Mash your dhal nicely

In a frying pan add 2 x tablespoon of cooking oil

Half teaspoon of mustard seed

Half teaspoon of cumin seed

Add 3-5 curry leaves

1 x green chilli chopped

1 x onion chopped fry until it gets golden

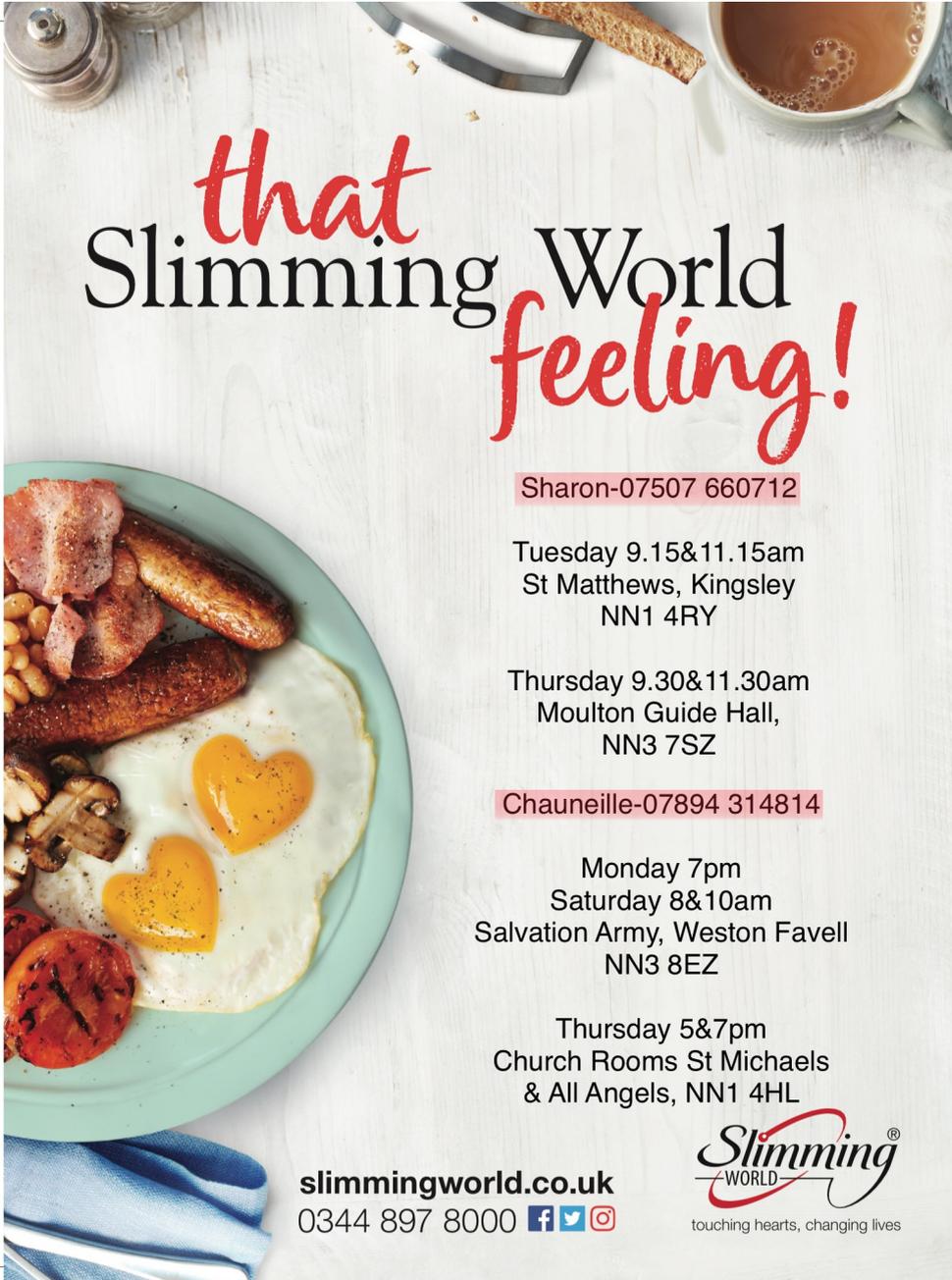
Add 2 x tomato chopped fry until it gets soft

Add half teaspoon of salt

Add the lentils and the liquid cooked in

Add 2 x tablespoon of fresh coriander leaves





# 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

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# Stewardship

The Diocese has recently introduced the **Parish Giving Scheme (PSG)** 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 worshiping 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.

**Thank you to everyone who has completed their registration** and we are pleased to confirm that your payments are being received.

The Diocese plans to close the Stewardship Giving Scheme and will no longer process payments made through this method.

**It is therefore important that those of you who are yet to register, complete and return your application form as soon as possible to ensure that your Stewardship payments continue.**

This will also give opportunity to prayerfully consider the level of your giving and make any required adjustments or amendments. If you would like to join the scheme and have not previously donated in this way, require additional advice or have misplaced your application form, please contact **Polly Matthews** via the Parish Office. For our church here at St Matthew to survive and grow, we rely on regular donations so that we can plan confidently for the future. Please support this scheme as generously as you can.

**For more information on either of the above schemes, or to request an application form [please contact Polly Matthews, Stewardship Recorder, via the Parish Office.](#)**

Do you use Amazon? If so, you can help St Matthew's Church raise money 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!

**smile.amazon.co.uk**



## Weekday Scripture Readings for May

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



Saturday	1 <sup>st</sup>	Job 23.1-12	John 1.43-end
Monday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Genesis 15.1-18	Romans 4.13-end
Tuesday	4 <sup>th</sup>	Deuteronomy 8.1-10	Matthew 6.19-end
Wednesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	Hosea 13.4-14	1 Corinthians 15.50-end
Thursday	6 <sup>th</sup>	Exodus 3.1-15	Mark 12.18-27
Friday	7 <sup>th</sup>	Ezekiel 36.33-end	Romans 8.1-11
Saturday	8 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 38.9-20	Luke 24.33-end
Monday	10 <sup>th</sup>	Proverbs 4.1-13	Philippians 2.1-11
Tuesday	11 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 32.12-end	Romans 5.1-11
Wednesday	12 <sup>th</sup>	2 Samuel 23.1-5	Colossians 2.20-3.4
Thursday	13 <sup>th</sup>	2 Kings 2.1-15	Revelation 5
Friday	14 <sup>th</sup>	1 Samuel 16.1-13a	Matthew 7.15-27
Saturday	15 <sup>th</sup>	Numbers 11.16-17, 24-29	1 Corinthians 2
Monday	17 <sup>th</sup>	Numbers 27.15-end	1 Corinthians 3
Tuesday	18 <sup>th</sup>	1 Samuel 10.1-10	1 Corinthians 12.1-13
Wednesday	19 <sup>th</sup>	1 Kings 19.1-18	Matthew 3.13-end
Thursday	20 <sup>th</sup>	Ezekiel 11.14-20	Matthew 9.35 – 10.20
Friday	21 <sup>st</sup>	Ezekiel 36.22-28	Matthew 12.22-32
Saturday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Deuteronomy 16.9-15	John 7.37-39
Monday	24 <sup>th</sup>	Genesis 12.1-9	Romans 4.13-end
Tuesday	25 <sup>th</sup>	Genesis 13.1-12	Romans 12.9-end
Wednesday	26 <sup>th</sup>	Genesis 15	Romans 4.1-8
Thursday	27 <sup>th</sup>	Genesis 22.1-18	Hebrews 11.8-19
Friday	28 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 51.1-8	John 8.48-end
Saturday	29 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 40.12-end	Mark 1.1-13
Monday	31 <sup>st</sup>	Zechariah 2.10-end	John 3.25-30

## 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](mailto:jonathan.starmer@yahoo.com)

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

Congratulations to the lucky winner of £50 in our APRIL draw —  
Number **99**, held by **James and Jenny Wallace**



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](mailto:jonathan.starmer@yahoo.com)

*Jonathan Starmer*

## Ann Walker: A Family Tribute

Ann Walker was born in Nantwich, Cheshire on 8 August 1932. Her parents were Eleanor and Dennis Taylor. Her mother was a nurse, her father was badly injured at Ypres during the war, her younger brother was John.

After residing in Crowthorne Berkshire, Newent in Gloucestershire and Fen Drayton in Cambridgeshire, she came to Northampton at the age of 18.



Ann then embarked on a career in nursing, having already completed a pre-nursing course in Cambridge.

This included, amongst many achievements, being Sister-in-Charge when the new Intensive Care Unit opened at Northampton General Hospital in 1974.

Ann met Colin Walker on a blind date at a Matron's ball in 1953.

Colin was organist at St Edmund's Church before moving to St Peter's Church Weston Favell.

They were married at All Saints' Church, Northampton on 12 April 1955. The following six years saw the birth of their three children – Sarah, Simon and Andrew.

Ann travelled extensively on holidays to Europe, including Oberammergau twice, Australia to visit her brother, and the Holy Land twice. She also travelled with work to Paris, Washington, Jerusalem and Kuwait.

Ann continued to work until her retirement in 1992, after which she became more involved with church life, first at St Peter's then St Matthew's where she became Church Warden.

Her faith and belief in the power of prayer helped her through some difficult times – the death of her brother John, her beloved husband Colin and son-in-law Bill.

Ann was always very family orientated and loved seeing her family grow up, her three children, seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

She loved gardening, sewing, cooking and latterly going to Lord's Cricket Ground and Northants Cricket Club where she enjoyed many sunny days.

During her final years she coped with her failing health with her characteristic gentleness and quiet acceptance.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

All our love Sarah, Simon and Andrew

## **Christian Aid Week 10-16 May 2021**

*Girlie Franklin*



Christian Aid week is an annual event that takes place across the UK every May, a fundraising drive to raise funds for 700 local organisations around 50 countries in the world. They help poor communities and enable them to deal with hardship from climate change and the possible threat of natural disaster. Alongside this Christian Aid helps with education, sanitation, health and reconciliation of certain communities.

Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and let injustice thrive. Everyone is equal in the sight of God. Every gift can change lives.

Unfortunately, we are unable yet again to hold any events this year. We can still do our bit though by donating using the red distinctive envelope. These have been given out in church. Please place your envelopes in the donation box or drop it through the Parish Centre letter box. Should you not have an official envelope but still want to give please drop your donation through the Parish Office letter box in an envelope labelled Christian Aid. Cheques need to be made payable to Christian Aid. Alternatively, by following this link you can donate in St Matthew's name online. <https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/st-matthew-kingsley-northampton?channel=copy>

## Not neglecting Ascension Day

After the excitement of Easter and before the joy of Pentecost, Ascension can feel like a forgotten festival. We rejoice in the Resurrection and celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, but how does Jesus' Ascension fit in?

It is interesting to note that John's Gospel (the last to be written) does not mention the Ascension. Matthew's Gospel (28.16-20) contains some of the most famous verses in the Bible, the 'Great Commission', which has inspired generations of believers to criss-cross the globe to share the Good News. There is no actual mention of the Ascension, however. If we turn to Mark (the earliest Gospel), we find an abrupt ending (16.8), with what commentators now deem a disputed ending in verses 9-20. While these verses mention Jesus being 'taken up into heaven', they are considered to have been drawn mainly from Luke's account, as well as other early preaching of the time. Luke, on the other hand, gives us (with characteristic thoroughness) two versions of the Ascension in Luke 24.44-52 and Acts 1.6-11.

### Luke 24.44-52

What we read in these verses resonates with fulfilment and anticipation of what return 'in the same way you have seen him go'; the promise that we, like them, wait for with prayerful longing and hope to see fulfilled.

So what are some of the implications of the Ascension for us as we seek to live as disciples day by day? Pentecost is when we focus on the story of the outpouring of the Spirit, the promised heavenly power to enable us, like the first disciples, to be Jesus' witnesses. Yet the days between the Ascension and Pentecost were days of waiting for that outpouring. There are times in our own lives when we have to endure such periods of waiting, believing in God's promises but coping with apparent absence for now. Reading the Psalms, we find so many verses that speak of waiting, longing, and praying for reconnection with God's loving and strengthening presence, and then the joy of experiencing that once again. Reflecting on Jesus' Ascension can give us a renewed perspective on that testing process.

Secondly, Jesus is no longer physically present with his people, but we should remember Paul's image of the Church as the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12.27). Not only do we have the ongoing responsibility of sharing the Good News but also the daunting task of ensuring that when people look at that body, they glimpse something of Christ. The Church as a whole – and indeed our local churches – are called to embody Christ to the world. Just as

any family has its characteristics, so too should the family of God. What a privilege to be a part of that, and what a challenge too!

Thirdly, we can find inspiration in the amazing vision set out in Colossians 3.1-4, which tell us that just as Jesus has been raised, so we too have already been raised, in the sense that the gift of everlasting life begins now. We can begin to live with an awareness of the eternal dimension 'where Christ is'. And when Christ returns in glory, we will, astonishingly, share in that glory.

## Ascension Day

We saw his light break through the cloud of glory  
Whilst we were rooted still in time and place,  
As earth became a part of heaven's story  
And heaven opened to his human face.  
We saw him go and yet we were not parted,  
He took us with him to the heart of things,  
The heart that broke for all the broken-hearted  
Is whole and heaven-centred now, and sings;  
Sings in the strength that rises out of weakness,  
Sings through the clouds that veil him from our sight,  
Whilst we ourselves become his clouds of witness  
And sing the waning darkness into light;  
His light in us, and ours in him concealed,  
Which all creation waits to see revealed.

*Malcolm Guite*



# Kingsley Fallen WW1 Hero

*The following is an account by Martin and Lindsey Stone of the background and military service of Sapper Arthur Henry Lowe. Known to his family as 'Harry', he died while a patient at a designated Military Hospital located at Hitchin (Hertfordshire), on 25 November 1918. He is remembered as one of the 168 brave men of the parish listed within the memorial chapel at St Matthew's Church, Northampton.*

## **ARTHUR HENRY LOWE, Service No. 288061, Sapper, Royal Engineers (Signal Service), Died 1918, Aged 33**

A short story was drafted in 2018, after our initial identification of the man listed on the screens in the Memorial Chapel of St Matthew's Church, Northampton; inscribed in gold it reads A.H.Lowe. In 2021, after reaching out both locally and to the online 'Ancestry' community, 'Harry's story' could be updated with much useful and interesting detail.

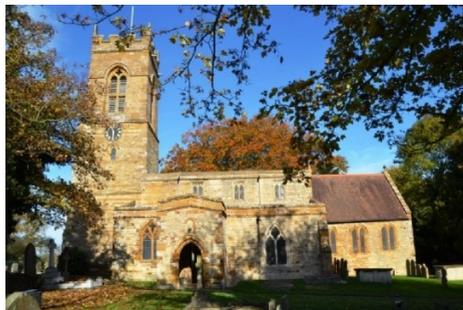
This latest version of the story of Sapper 'Harry' Lowe is dated 12 April 2021.

Neither a Medal Index Card nor an original Attestation Form for Spr. Arthur Henry Lowe, known to his family as 'Harry', has been found. His enlistment papers and associated documents were most likely lost to enemy action during the Blitz of WW2 when so many of the WW1 army records located in London were destroyed either directly by bombing or by water damage. The missing Medal Index Card is most likely a corollary of him not serving abroad on war service long enough to achieve qualification during WW1. That is to say that if he did deploy on active service that he did not serve the minimum period before returning to England for hospitalisation and his subsequent loss. Had he deployed for a minimum of 28 days, or indeed fallen in action while deployed even if within the 28 days, then he would have been awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal for his service.

*Authors note:* The formalised requirement for the issue of the British War Medal, and consequently also the Victory Medal, would have read similarly to the following: *Officers and men of the Army, including Dominion and Colonial forces, will be required to have either entered an active theatre of war or to have left the United Kingdom for service overseas between 5 August 1914 and 11 November 1918, and to have completed 28 days mobilised service. The Medal will also be awarded in the event of death on active service before the completion of the prescribed period.* There was some flexibility in this, and especially as his loss was recognised by the Commonwealth War Graves

Commission. It is not unlikely that the award of the two medals, and in Harry's case the associated WW1 death plaque, may have been possible had they been claimed (by the family). The reader will most likely recall from our other stories, that an additional medal was awarded for those that served abroad in the years 1914 and 1915.

Harry was one of the few of the St Matthew's men whose remains are to be found on home soil. The majority, in accordance with the custom and the rules of the time were buried on or near the field of battle, or at sea. Like all the stories for the men that were lost to their families and to the St Matthew's community, the story is layered in sadness as we remember one of our St Matthew's soldiers. In this case we will see that Harry was laid to rest in the churchyard of St Peter's Church, Cogenhoe – in the village where only three years earlier in 1915 he had married Blanche May Mann, daughter of TC Mann, at the Baptist Chapel there. The impressive Chapel had been built and funded by the Mann family, along with an equally impressive row of shoe trade houses opposite (the buildings still exist). Harry and Blanche's only daughter, Madge Lowe, would later marry into the Andrews family at St Peter's Church, Cogenhoe, in the presence of her mother, Harry's widow, Blanche. This was the same church where her father had been laid to rest just over twenty years earlier. It must have been a very emotional day for the family and friends.



*Photo images of the grave of Arthur (Harry) H Lowe and of St Peter's Church, Cogenhoe*

While it is not particularly unusual that a British WW1 soldier would be buried at an English parish church or borough cemetery, it is relatively unusual that a Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) provided headstone, publicly funded, was not erected. Indications are that the family strongly preferred a privately funded and designed headstone, and that it is unlikely the church would have granted the necessary permissions to mount both. An additional anomaly is that there is no CWGC Register page immediately associated with his listing. It becomes even more unusual as we investigate the CWGC records, in that by checking for other CWGC burials in Cogenhoe Churchyard and investigating their associated documentation, that we can see that the CWGC Register has been overwritten in his favour, by hand, adding Harry's burial site to the register as an official war grave. We can also see that on a second CWGC Report Form, which lists the other men and women who had died on military service and are buried at Cogenhoe Church, that a CWGC Inspector based at Peterborough reversed the decision for two of those buried here to be considered as war graves. They were: Sapper W. Fielding (R.E. Railway Coy) and V.A.D. Nurse A. Sharman (see images below) (refers to L.A. Sharman, related by marriage to Harry Lowe).

Despite the CWGC interventions as written, there are four other confirmed war graves at Cogenhoe in addition to Harry's, all formally listed and remembered. They are Pte Arthur Edward Atterbury (d.1915), Guardsman Sidney Alfred Boor (d.1940), Lt. John Abbott Geyton (d.1942) and A.C.1<sup>st</sup> Cl. Harold Royston Wager (d.1947). The CWGC Report Form for Harry confirms the privately funded nature of the headstone and that it is in the shape of a cross, and from the photograph above we can see that it is mounted on a generous plinth. The CWGC Report Form informs us that there is a citation on the headstone which reads: *Harry dearly loved husband of Blanche Lowe, died at Hitchin Military Hospital Nov.25th 1918. Aged 33 years.*



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**GRAVE REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.**

B.S./1440

Name of Cemetery *(CAR COXMAN)* Cogenhoe (St. Peter) Chyd. Report Number Peterboro 1440  
 Parish Cogenhoe. Schedule Number I.  
 County Northamptonshire. Category of Graves D.

Certified Correct and Complete.

Signature *Area Insp. Peterboro*

Unit	Regt. No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Number or letter of			Type of Memorial	Type of Grave	Remarks
					Plot	Row	Grave			
<i>10th</i> <del>Wolfe &amp; Derby</del>	<del>708</del>	<del>Atterbury</del>	<del>Pte. A.E.</del>	<del>17-6-18</del>	-	-	-	<del>U.S.</del>	<del>Pr.</del>	Certified that a plan of this Churchyard is not necessary.  <i>B.S. Popley</i> Area Inspector.
<del>1st</del> <del>Bedfordshire</del>	<del>10/276260</del>	<del>Fielding</del>	<del>Spr.</del>	<del>14-8-06</del>				<del>Ngr a War Grave 401/2434</del>	<del>Pr.</del>	
<del>1st</del>		<del>Shannon</del>	<del>Su. 2nd Lt.</del>	<del>23-4-19</del>				<del>Ngr a War Grave 667/84239</del>	<del>Pr.</del>	

*Area Insp. Peterboro*

CWGC Report Form 2

It is also not unlikely, given the fact that a CWGC/military headstone was most probably declined, that Harry's immediate family may have actually declined the medals, if indeed they were offered. Layered in sadness, many mothers, and wives, and sometimes the serving man or woman themselves, did refuse them, although in this case a Medal Index Card was usually raised and annotated to confirm eligibility and subsequent refusal. If the medals had already been stamped and engraved in readiness for posting, they were usually then destroyed. Again, a note would be added to the Medal Index Card, and the associated signed and date stamped documents and communications would be included with the fallen man's Service Record to formally confirm these requirements and details.

Returning to Harry, his birth documents initially indicated to us that he was born during Q1-1885; this would be corrected later in our analysis, and we could already see that six years later in 1891 Harry was living at ## Milton Street, Kingsley Park, Northampton, (*all house numbers redacted in published versions*), with his father James a Mineral Water Traveller, his mother Elizabeth, and siblings Edith, Frank, and Mary. Although probably in build, St Matthew's Church had not yet been consecrated and Harry was baptised at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.





*The impressive Church of St Matthew, Northampton*

In 1911, Harry and his father had gone to live at Brafield. Harry, now aged 26, was a Post Office worker, listed specifically as a Sorting Clerk and Telegraphist; we can see that this specialisation and skill potentially extended his all too short life, and enabled him to be attested into the Royal Engineers Signal Service (*author's note*: The Royal Corps of Signals was formed post-war in 1920), as opposed being called up into the infantry earlier in the war. Harry's father was listed as a widower of private means, indicating his mother Elizabeth had presumably and sadly died. Four years later, Harry married Blanche May Mann of Cogenhoe (1915). Harry, together with Blanche, moved back into the area close to St Matthew's church making their home at ## Broadway, and together they had one child, baby Madge who Harry would sadly never be able to meet.

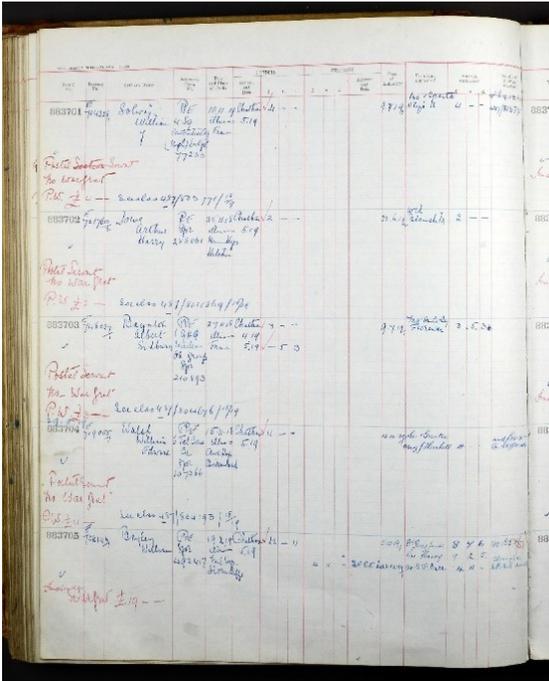
We have Harry's death entry from the Military Effects Register (essentially a military probate record) and very unusually there are two listings for him, the first listing with incorrect information that he died in France, and the second listing the apparently correct iteration. (*Author's note*: amongst the St Matthew's men I would say there are only two instances of this, in turn indicating the massive administrative and generally successful effort to correctly administer the records of the serving men and women.)

The first Military Effects listing, along with information and advice from the family, supports the view that Harry did serve in France. From the second of these two documents, combined with the absent Military Index Card, even a

blank one excepting name and rank, suggests however that Harry did not in fact reach France before being taken ill. The indications from the documents available are that he was en route to Southampton in readiness to deploy abroad. However, it is just possible that he did deploy to France, but for insufficient time and not early enough to qualify or even be registered for the issue of the war service medals.

We can be clear that in 1918, Harry had become Sapper A.H. Lowe, Service No.288061, Royal Engineers Signal Service, also closely associated with the Royal Engineers Postal Service. Although the rank of Sapper equated to Private, it meant that he would enjoy a significantly higher daily rate of pay than an infantryman, possibly even further enhanced due to his Post Office telegraphist skills. Even without the all-defining Service Record, we can deduce from the remaining documents that he served in that subset unit of the Royal Engineers known as the Signal Service, and within a subset of that unit, another titled the Postal Service. From his 'Effects' documentation we can see that he died at the Union Hospital, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, then a designated military hospital, on 25 November 1918 immediately following the Armistice. Prior to this, we know that his unit's base headquarters was at Stony Stratford in Buckinghamshire. Although a family member, Harry's grandson, was kindly able to update us from Harry's own letters that the first indication of a foot injury was while marching from Fenny Stratford towards Newport Pagnell.

While initially suffering from an injury to one foot, probably gained or exacerbated during the march to Newport Pagnell that in turn became infected and required hospital treatment, we can see that Harry died of Spanish Influenza quite likely acquired at the hospital or just prior to admission. On the revised Effects register listing (below), he is listed with other military men that died of illness (as opposed to dying on war service). However, it is possible, but without his Service Record impossible to confirm, that his illness was exacerbated by war service and hence the acceptance of his burial site as a war grave. This was unusual, in a strict rule-based environment; other St Matthew's men who died, even having completed significant war service and been granted the appropriate medals, were denied this. Also, if his illness had been caused by war service, the Military Effects Register would almost certainly indicate this via the grant of a lump sum war gratuity. The difference appears to be that Harry died at a Mission Hospital that had been re-designated a Military Hospital, as opposed to other men who were discharged and returned to their homes, or a local civilian hospital, for recuperation or what may currently be termed 'end of life care', albeit directly caused by war service.



Military Effects Register page listing Spr. A H Lowe

Looking back, we know that Harry had married Blanche May Mann at Cogenhoe in 1915 (although there was an element of confusion as the marriage registration index pointed us towards the registration district of Brixworth) and that they had one child, Madge. Northamptonshire historians will recognise the family name, supported by the location, as being one of the county's boot and shoe manufacturing families with a three-storey shoe factory on the perimeter of the village.

From civilian probate records we know that their address at the time (Harry and Blanche) was ## Broadway, Northampton, close to St Matthew's, and that Harry left a considerable sum of money for the period, amounting to thirty times or more of that typically left by a Sapper or Private soldier. As explained previously, when Harry died, he had received no war service gratuity; despite this he is listed in Commonwealth War Grave Commission documentation and records. His wife, Blanche, returned to live with her family at Manchester House in Cogenhoe, Northamptonshire, where she kept house for her father while he continued his work at their factory. He would become a widower in 1927, and Harry's niece was later able to tell us that the arrangement worked well for both father and daughter. Later, we would see that Harry and Blanche's only daughter Madge Lowe married on

19 December 1939, at Cogenhoe parish church (the same village where Harry and Blanche had married at the Baptist Chapel in 1915), to Mr Henry John Andrews, and it is their son, Harry's grandson Pat Andrews who was the first family member to kindly get in touch with us.

Amongst the first updates passed to us in 2019, courtesy of parishioner Mr Terry Coles, we received a photograph of the gravestone and confirmation that Arthur Lowe was known as Harry. Mr Coles noted: *I have at last located the photograph of Arthur Lowe's gravestone in Cogenhoe Churchyard. Arthur was always known as Harry, hence the name on the memorial.*

Mr Coles was also able to report that Harry's grandson was known to him and that his grandson still lived in Northamptonshire.

In 2021 Mr Pat Andrews, grandson of Harry and son of Madge Andrews nee Lowe, came forward to share additional photographs and information as noted above. An excerpt from his very kind email, which included corrections to the information already gathered by the authors, although I have redacted content referring to other family matters, is as follows:

*Harry was born on 10/12/1884 and christened in Northampton on 1/2/1885. I have six children of James Russell Lowe (Harry's father) listed, Edith Mary (b.23/11/1877, d.13/2/1900), Emily Muriel (b.24/7/1879, d.14/4/1908), **Arthur Harry (b.10/12/1884, d.25/11/1918)**, Frank Russell (b.9/2/1888, d.29/1/1922, Mabel Mary (b.7/11/1890, d.23/9/1893) and Russell Sidney (b.29/5/1893, D.26/7/1899), but no Lillian. All apart from Russell would have been alive in 1891 and presumably been living with their parents in 1891 and all died before their 34<sup>th</sup> birthday. Elizabeth their mother had died at ## Oliver St on 24/7/1902.*



*Harry and Blanche May Lowe nee Mann, marriage at Cogenhoe in 1915. Harry's brother Frank to their right, on the lawns of Manchester House.*



*Photo Images of the late 'Harry' Lowe, courtesy his Grandson, Mr Pat Andrews of Northamptonshire*

*Pat Andrews continues: I have some letters from Harry to my grandmother, Blanche, all from Hitchin. The first was sent from the address of a Nell Montgomery in Hitchin on 6/7/1918 in which he is noting that it is their third wedding anniversary that day, and presumably he knew Nan was about 5*

*months pregnant with my mother as he refers to Madge even then. I don't know if Harry was ill then or why he was in Hitchin, but the next letter was written from the hospital on the Saturday (16th) and the handwriting has deteriorated. He says that he struggled to write a whole page, and that other men are coughing, but "I will probably be here for another week". The final letter is again from hospital on the Tuesday (19th) and the handwriting is extremely shaky. His death certificate shows he died on 25th November at the Military Hospital, Hitchin and the cause of death was (1) Influenza and (2) Acute Bronchitis. His name on the certificate was given as Arthur Harry Lowe of ## Broadway, Northampton, and he was a sapper in the Royal Engineers, and he was also a Post Office clerk. The informant was the above-mentioned Nell Montgomery who was present at death. The rear of the certificate has been stamped with a Post Office Insurance Society stamp on 7/12/1918 and noted "read with regret". I assume that Nan must have received some sort of payment.*

*I always thought that Harry had been returned from France with Spanish Flu but maybe that was wrong. I have another letter, undated, written to "Dear Bert" from 288061 Prv A H Lowe, R E Signals Depot, Newport Pagnell which ends "Mon night. Have not been out as my foot is..... I fear it is poisoned so don't be surprised if you hear of me in Hospital". I think Bert was Blanche's younger brother. Harry had also mentioned working or training at Fenny Stratford and being marched to Newport (Pagnell). After Harry's death Nan never married again and moved back to Manchester House to look after her father when his wife died in 1927, or soon after. She stayed there until he died in 1943 and then she moved to ## Brookland Road, close to St Matthew's Church. In March 2021, after a number of kind emails, I was fortunate enough to be able to interview Harry's niece Ruth nee Sharman, and her daughters Elizabeth and Julia, by Zoom call. This was a massive privilege, and as with so many of those meetings and church services attended by family members of the St Matthew's fallen after the initial analysis, a huge amount of detail and colour was brought into the story of Harry's loss. The additional privilege of course is being able to further remember and respect these brave men, how they served their country and Crown, and to ensure that for the foreseeable future their service and loss will not be forgotten.*

Harry's niece, Ruth, was not only able to talk about and share her knowledge of the family going back to the first war, but able to remind us that if one member of a family has served their country and the Crown, then

it is likely that other family members will have done so too. In the Mann and Sharman families we can clearly see this. For example, in the online discussion with Ruth and her daughters, we can know that Blanche's brother Bert Mann also served with the army during WW1. Indications are that he initially went to France with the Northamptonshire Regiment and was then commissioned into the South Wales Borderers. He was severely injured, and discharged disabled. We would see during the discussion courtesy of Ruth and her daughters, that LA Sharman (Lottie Adelaide) and also buried at Cogenhoe, was related through marriage. She was a Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) nurse who would also lose her life to Spanish Flu.

Lottie Adelaide had two sons, known to Ruth's daughters as Uncle Jack and Uncle Sid, both of whom served during the following war, WW2, and both survived. The first son was an RAF Warrant Officer Flight Engineer on Catalinas and the second was an RAF PE Instructor, before he re-mustered on Radar systems, to become a Radar Instructor. However, the two boys were only 5 and 2 respectively when they lost their mother. When Lottie Adelaide's husband Reginald re-married, to Florence Helen Mann (Harry's sister-in-law), they would have as well as their daughter Ruth, a son, David Leslie Sharman, who served during WW2 as a commissioned RAF pilot. Those that know St Matthew's well would be interested to know that while growing up in the parish of St Matthew's, all three boys had been acolytes to the clergy, as Altar Boys and Servers.



*St Matthews Church, Northampton, and the Memorial Chapel within*

As we endeavour to remember the social aspects of the time, and the contribution of the families of the serving men and women to the country and the parish of St Matthew's in particular, Ruth and her family were able to tell me how their mother and grandmother respectively assisted at the church. Florence Helen Mann, an accomplished seamstress, was asked in 1940 by

the Curate of the time, Mathew Methuen Clarke, to make the blackout curtains for the Lady Chapel. Ruth was able to tell us that *during the war, services could not be held after dark (such as Evensong) because of the blackout. So, her mother made the curtains; she says they were blue, Lady Blue which is a little darker than Sky Blue, on one side and she was not sure of the lining colour and added that possibly as the material was so heavy that were able to black out the light without a lining; they were similar to crushed velvet. She remembers the yards and yards of material. They were in use from 1940 until Europe was liberated.*

Returning to Harry and his sad loss, and possibly hard to understand in this day and age of instant communication, the reader may have noted that he died in hospital on 25 November 1918, knowing that Blanche was imminently to give birth to their first and only child. His family have been able to tell us something that Blanche would have carried for the rest of her life, in that although Harry had been sent a Telegram to tell him of Madge's birth, that presumably through weakness and illness, that somehow the telegram was found by his nurses under his pillow after his death, still unopened.

While for the St Matthew's Fallen, we would not usually include so much parallel and adjacent information, the family have very kindly supported Harry's military history story, and I hope the reader will forgive the extended nature of its writing. There is of course even more contained now within the St Matthew's military history records in respect of 'Harry' Lowe, including a considerable number of family related documents relating to the two world wars.

It seems appropriate to end with new life, and two of the documents relating to his wife and daughter ongoing. They demonstrate in 1939 Madge Lowe living with her mother and now qualified as a Bank Clerk. They were living at Cogenhoe prior to Blanche's return to the parish at Brookland Road in the 1940s. There is also record of an Atlantic crossing by Blanche on the SS New York, a Greek Line ship, sailing from Southampton to New York, and either intentionally or by chance she is listed with another Northampton lady of a similar age, Mrs Daisy Maine (sic) of ## St Michael's Road. When the document was located and forwarded in 2021 to the family now in Louisiana, Ruth kindly goes on to tell us that *my mother, Florence Helen Mann Sharman, and Aunt Blanche Lowe came to Quebec, Canada, via New York, for my wedding in Shawinigan Falls, Quebec, May 1955. In May 1961, when my daughter Elizabeth was born, my mother came to British Columbia, Canada, where we were living at the time, and Daisy Mayne, an old friend living at St Michael's Rd, travelled with her as far as the prairies.*



End. Authors and Copyright at [www.stonesmilitaryhistories.co.uk](http://www.stonesmilitaryhistories.co.uk) (NB: All references and attributes for the above are recorded in the main covering paper, copy in the church.)

1<sup>st</sup> Photograph below includes Harry in football rig (second row), 2<sup>nd</sup> Photograph is of Harry's grave site at Cogenhoe, St Peter's, (his wife Blanche was sadly unable to attend possibly either through recovery post the birth of baby Madge, shock, or isolation due to the Spanish Flu pandemic). Both courtesy Mr Pat Andrews. NB: More photographs including more of the wedding party at Manchester House are held on record.



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## **Bombs Over Birmingham (Part 2)**

*Sheila Rotherham*

Shortly after the bombing of the Prince of Wales Theatre where my father was Musical Director, he enlisted in the Royal Marines, to be stationed in Plymouth. With my mother and grandma, we went with Dad on the train from Snow Hill Station to Stratford-on-Avon so that he could board a south-bound train. I was three at this time, and I remember Dad putting us in a carriage to return to Birmingham. There were two soldiers in the compartment and Dad asked them to look after us, and make sure we got off at Snow Hill. (In those days, it was unusual for ladies to travel unaccompanied.) Once we arrived, I refused to get off until one of the soldiers had kissed me goodbye. Of course, this went down in family history, but I think what they had overlooked, and what was not noted until I had a proper eye test aged 12, was that my eyesight had been badly damaged when I was seriously ill with diphtheria aged 18 months – so I'm pretty sure I thought one of the soldiers was Dad. My mother, Grannie and I had been staying in Malvern with Uncle Joe – no relation – who kept bees, and sold honey, away from the bombing in Birmingham. There was a serious outbreak of diphtheria at the Malvern Boys School and somehow I must have acquired it. My mother insisted on us returning home and seeing our own doctor, who without examining me, (there must have been a distinctive odour) immediately made the diagnosis, and I was looked after in a Nursing Home where apparently I nearly died. (This was before my brother was born.)

About a year later, my mother, who was a well-known Concert Violinist, became ill, and died in hospital. My grandmother petitioned the local MP and succeeded in having my father released from the Royal Marines. Once back home, he worked in a factory which made aircraft parts, and continued playing his violin at night in various locations, often travelling many miles in the blackout to such as Droitwich. My brother also remembers him driving to Tewkesbury, with Peter and myself in the back of the van, very uncomfortably – sitting on coils of rope – and of course, we found out later he was delivering aircraft parts. On the way home, we bought some eggs from a farm and Peter and I munched slices of Gran's wonderful bread and butter/suet pudding.

I was five when my father remarried, and about that time he acquired and erected a Morrison shelter in the dining room. Sporadic bombing raids were still occurring, and I remember one night Dad waking me up (Gran, step-

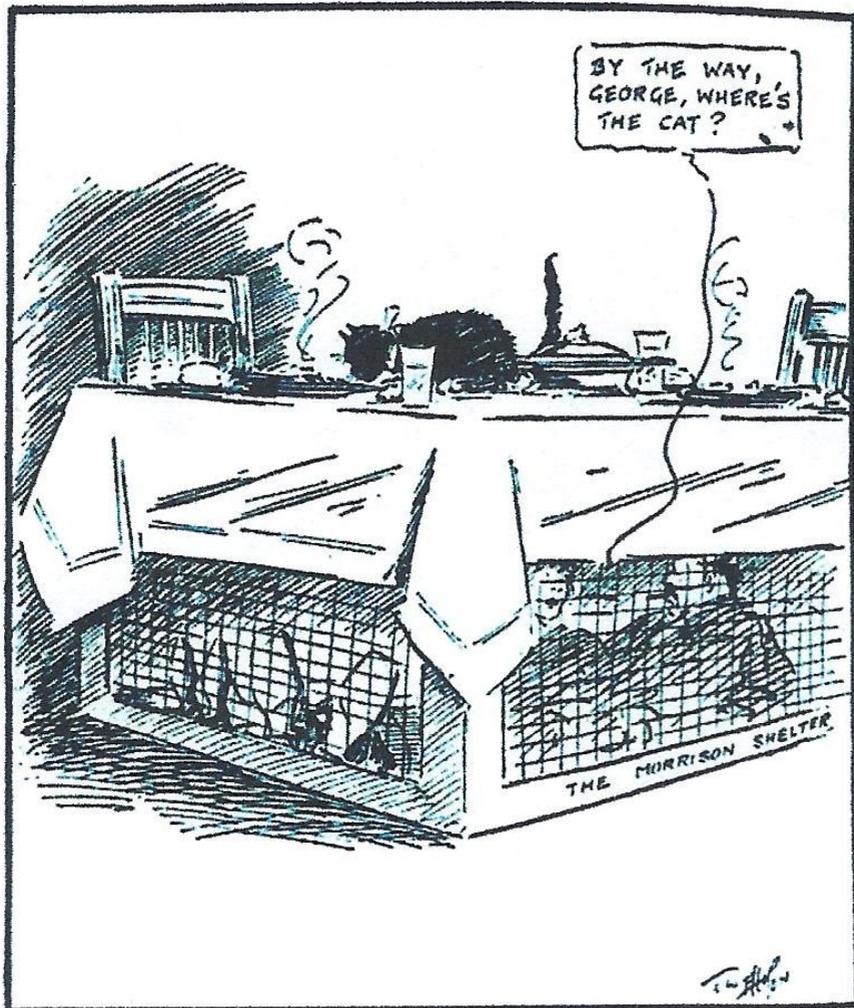
mother, small brother and I huddled up in this metal indoor shelter). Finger on his lips, he beckoned me. I slid out of the funny metal bed and took his hand. We crept silently along the dark hall and through the kitchen. Dad quietly unbolted the back door, and he and I stood, watching the big lights that criss-crossed the night sky. Loud whistling sounds followed by big bangs and fiery glows meant that bombs had hit their targets. Dad said that the intermittent buzzing sounds and drones overhead were the Luftwaffe planes. A few minutes later, we heard a big cracking noise that sounded very near, followed by some frantic knocking on our front door. We stumbled back through the dark hall, and Dad opened the door. It was our neighbour from across the road: "I think there's a bomb in our attic!" he exclaimed, "Can you help? I just don't know what to do!" Dad bundled me back into the funny metal bed, tucking me up safely, and I must have fallen asleep immediately.

The next bit of this story is Dad's. He ran across the road and into the neighbour's house. "Fill a bucket with water, and put it in the garden," he instructed the neighbour's wife who was crying and shaking with fear. Somehow, the two men found a ladder and Dad climbed into the attic. He carried a torch in his pocket and could make out below the hole in the roof, wedged by a roof joist, the shape of what was indeed a firebomb. It was a cylindrical device about a foot long with metal fins. He crawled along the joist and carefully and with considerable difficulty picked up the bomb which weighed about two pounds and struggled back out of the attic down the stairs and into the garden where he immersed the incendiary device in the bucket of water.

He and our neighbour had co-operated together previously in assembling the table shelters which had been delivered to each house in our road, as we had no cellars. They were called Morrison Shelters after Herbert Morrison who was Minister of Home Security at that time. They arrived as assembly kits with over two hundred and nineteen parts, not including the forty-eight nuts and bolts, and came with three tools to help put them together. It must have been a mammoth task for the two men. The finished product was about six and a half feet long and just over four feet wide. It stood two and a half feet high, much the same height as a dining table of today, and the solid top was steel plate one eighth of an inch thick. The sides were enclosed by re-enforced wire mesh. Underneath, near the ground, was a sort of spring mattress on which to put a softer mattress such as one made of flock and made up as a normal bed, the only difference being that all the family had to crawl into it when the sirens went off. We called them 'Bulls' in

Birmingham! The top of the table could be laid with a tablecloth for mealtimes. I remember playing Rummy on top of it (a card game), and Lexicon, my favourite – a word game, also what we called Corinthians – a kind of bagatelle.

By now, we kept chickens in the back garden for their eggs. When a poor hen stopped laying, it was her turn for the pot, but my brave Dad who could deal with lethal bombs – no problem – could not bring himself to dispatch a hen. Fortunately, our kind neighbour (of bomb fame over the road) stepped into the breach and performed this sad task – no problem!





## 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

## *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](mailto:office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk)

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

SOLUTION TO SUDOKO ON PAGE 3

## April Wordsearch Answers

Did you find all the words listed in the grid?

And the theme that unites these words is – chickens!

BANTAM          CAMPINE          COCHIN          FAYOUMI  
LAKENVELDER          LEGBAR          LEGHORN  
PLYMOUTH SILKIE          SUSSEX

## 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](mailto:magazine@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk)

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

**Deadline for the JUNE magazine is SUNDAY 16 MAY**

*Editor:* Dorrie Parker

*Layout and production:* Gary Drinkwater

# 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).

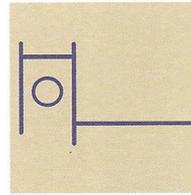
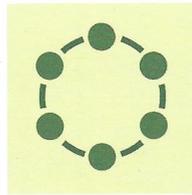
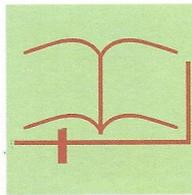
There are two methods of payment available: by a banker's direct debit or by weekly-numbered envelopes via the collection plate. The amount that you give is entirely confidential and is known only to the lay people who administer the Scheme.

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@stmathews-northampton.org.uk](mailto:office@stmathews-northampton.org.uk)>

Tel. 01604 846074



PARISHGIVINGScheme

## Parish Office

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

Telephone: 01604 791251 Email: [office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk](mailto: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**

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## Ministry Team

Parish Priest The Revd Canon Nicholas Setterfield  
[vicar@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk)

Honorary Assistant Priest The Revd Canon Nicholas Gandy OGS  
[OGS@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk](mailto:OGS@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk)

Honorary Assistant Priest The Revd Canon Peter Garlick

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## Parish Officers

Churchwarden Vacant

PCC Secretary Donald Cran  
[pcc-secretary@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk](mailto:pcc-secretary@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk)

PCC Treasurer Donald Cran  
[treasurer@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk)

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## St Matthew's Trust

David Waller  
[chairman@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk](mailto:chairman@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk)

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## Particular Responsibility

Safeguarding Officer Sarah Oughton  
(Assistant: Ben Drouet)  
[safeguarding@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk)

Verger Gary Drinkwater

Head Server Seymour Franklin  
[head-server@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:magazine@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk)

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## Music Department

Director of Music Justin Miller  
[music@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk](mailto:music@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk)

Parish Organist Jonathan Starmer

Friends of Keith Hirst

St Matthew's Music [friends@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk](mailto:friends@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk)

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## Parish website

[www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk](http://www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk)