

# *St Matthew's* **MAIL**

**Suggested  
Donation**

**£1.00**

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

**FEBRUARY 2024**



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

# Services at the Parish Church of St Matthew

## Sundays

10.15am	The Parish Mass (sung)
5.30pm	Evensong — according to The Book of Common Prayer

## First Sunday in the month

10.15am	All Age Mass for the Parish Family
5.30pm	Choral Evensong

*When the choir is on holiday (coinciding with school holidays and half terms)  
Choral Evensong is replaced with Congregational Evensong*

## Second Sunday in the month

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

## Third Sunday in the month

5.30pm	Choral Evensong and Benediction
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## Fourth and Fifth Sundays in the month

5.30pm	Congregational Evensong
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## Weekdays *(During the winter months of November to March, held in the Parish Centre)*

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

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

**Tuesday** Currently suspended

**Wednesday** 9.30am Mass

**Thursday** 9.30am Mass

**Friday** 12 noon Mass

**Saturday** 9.30am Mass

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

## Major Feast-Days Procession and Sung Mass at 7.30pm

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

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

All aspects of the sacrament are in confidence.

# Worship Calendar for February

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Date	Observance	Intention
1	Feria	
2	CANDLEMAS	
3	Of the BVM	
4	THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT	
5	S Agatha, V and M	The Healing Ministry
6	Feria	
7	Feria	
8	Feria	
9	Monthly Requiem	The Faithful Departed
10	Of OLW	
		The Shrine and Society
11	THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT	
12	Feria	
13	Feria	
<b>LENT 2024</b>		
14	ASH WEDNESDAY	
15	Feria	
16	Feria	
17	Feria	
18	THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	
19	Feria	
20	Feria	
21	Feria (Ember Day)	
22	Feria	
23	S Polycarp, B and M	
24	Feria (Ember Day)	
25	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	
26	Feria	
27	Feria	
28	Feria	
29	Feria	

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

# February's Pastoral Letter from the Vicar

## Clothing Ourselves in Newness of Life

Once a king was walking through the streets of the capital city when he came upon a beggar. The beggar asked him for money. But the king didn't give him any money. Instead, he invited him to visit him in his palace. The beggar took up the king's offer.

On the appointed day he made his way to the royal palace and was duly ushered into the king's presence. However, as he came into the king's presence, he became acutely conscious of his rags and felt ashamed of them. Those rags were an eloquent symbol of the misery and wretchedness of his life.

The king, an exceptionally kind man, received him warmly, took pity on him, and among other things gave him a new suit of clothes. The beggar departed the royal palace in good spirits. However, a few days later he was back begging on the streets, dressed in his old rags.

Why did he give up the new suit? Because he knew that if he wore it, he would have to give up the life of a beggar, and make a new life for himself. This he was not prepared to do. It wasn't that the new life didn't appeal to him. It was just that he knew that it would involve painful changes in his behaviour and way of living.

In his love for us, God is continually calling us to a deeper and more authentic life. To answer God's call would involve painful changes in our way of living. We may not be guilty of great evil, yet it might be that we are very selfish, very demanding, and very inconsiderate of others. But we don't want to know, much less do anything about this side of our nature.

Here is where Lent comes to our aid. Lent is a window of opportunity, and a time of special grace. We begin by considering our mortality, and propensity to sin. Jesus was tempted. Because Jesus shared our humanity, he was tempted in every way we are, yet was without sin.

Jesus was victorious over temptation. We may think that it was easy for Jesus. It wasn't easy for him. He triumphed over Satan through prayer, fasting, and obedience to the word of God.

Lent is an opportunity to look at our lives. It challenges us to change what needs to be changed. But even if we take up the challenge, it may amount to little more than putting a new patch on an old garment. Our efforts at renewing ourselves do not go deep enough. If we want a new garment, we must cast aside the old one. The wearing of a new garment will involve a new way of living.

If we wish to change the outer aspects of our lives we must first change the inner attitude of our minds. Change requires the submitting of new habits for old ones. It calls for self-discipline. We have to command ourselves and make ourselves do what needs to be done. The change of heart to which Lent calls us can be accomplished most of all through the power of prayer. Through prayer, the power of Christ becomes available to us.

Lent is the Church's 'holy spring'. It is a time of self-denial. But it is also a time of joy, because we are preparing for Easter. It challenges us to let go of old habits of sin, and clothe ourselves in newness of life, so that when Easter comes, we will feel young again in our discipleship.

Your sincere friend and parish priest,

*F. Nicholas*



**St John Passion**  
J.S. Bach  
*Johann Sebastian Bach.*  
Northampton Bach Choir  
Charivari Agréable  
**23 SATURDAY MARCH 2024**

On the night before the start of Holy Week, the Northampton Bach Choir performs Bach's dramatic setting of the story of Christ's Passion from St John's Gospel in the atmospheric setting of St Matthew's Church. Joined by period instrument ensemble Charivari Agréable and a cast of soloists from the Old Royal Naval College Trinity Laban Chapel Choir, this promises to be a very special occasion.

Bach composed his setting of the St John Passion in 1724 for the Nikolaikirche in Leipzig, setting it in German (rather than Latin) so that the narrative would have immediate impact for those listening.

This performance will be sung in English, using the new translation by Neil Jenkins, for the same reason, ensuring that there are no barriers between performers and audience to experiencing the profound drama of one of the greatest musical works ever composed.

Tickets: £17, £15 concessions, £10 (u16)

Available from

Choir Box Office 01536 398619

In person at St Giles Music,

St Giles Terrace NN1 2BN

01604250905

On line at [www.wegotickets.com/northamptonbachchoir](http://www.wegotickets.com/northamptonbachchoir)

# At Home in Lent

## An exploration of Lent through 46 objects

by Gordon Giles

BRF Lent Book Amazon £7.65

I admit I was sceptical when I first came across this book of short (a couple of pages) daily reflections for Lent inspired by everyday objects around the house. Having dipped into the book I have changed my view. At the back of the book are a series of questions for group discussion for each week of the season. I propose you use this book as the basis for this year's 'Lent Course', assuming there is sufficient interest. Participants will need to purchase the book in advance and read the relevant sections before each session, *but no more!* We can obtain copies for you, if required. Each session is stand-alone, and so it is possible to miss a session and not be seriously disadvantaged.

In the past some of you have been deterred by what was perceived to be too 'highbrow'. Though accessible, this book is not a 'rush to the bottom', but is helped by points of departure with which we may all identify – the ordinary, everyday things seen in the light of faith and with spiritual insight. It promises to be journey on which any and all may come and benefit.

Our Lent Course will be in church (the venue may change according to numbers) on Wednesday evenings at 7.00pm beginning 21 February. Other decisions will be made when it is possible to gauge levels of interest.

Here is the introduction to the book which may be helpful:

### Introduction (by permission)

Is your home your spiritual castle? The origins of the proverb 'An Englishman's home is his castle' date back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, when in 1581 Henri Estienne's *The Stage of Popish Toyes: containing both tragicall and comjcall partes*, stated that 'youre house is youre Castell'; and in the same year Richard Mulcaster, the headmaster of the Merchant Taylor's School in London, wrote, 'He [the householder] is the appointer of his owne circumstance, and his house is his castle.' Seventy years later, the lawyer and politician Sir Edward Coke established the idea in law in *The Institutes of the Laws of England* (1628): 'For a man's house is his castle, and one's home is one's safest refuge].' Another century later and none other than William Pitt the Elder said in Parliament, 'The poorest man may in his cottage bid defiance to all the forces of the crown. It may be frail – its roof may shake – the wind may blow through it – the storm may enter – the rain

may enter – but the King of England cannot enter.’ The concept has carried across the seas to other lands too, notably to the USA, where in 1800 Joel Chandler Harris adapted the maxim, writing, ‘Exalt the citizen. As the State is the unit of government, he is the unit of the State. Teach him that his home is his castle, and his sovereignty rests beneath his hat.’

Notwithstanding the modern right of the police and bailiffs to force their way into premises with the necessary warrant or court order, we generally believe and behave as though our homes are private and open only to those whom we invite in. In our homes, we flee from the presence of all but our nearest and dearest. While for some it can be a place of domestic violence, treachery or strife, for many the home is a sanctuary, a safe haven and the place where not only our hearts but also our belongings are housed. Increasingly, we have more and more possessions, and our homes are becoming warehouses for objects whose use, meaning and significance varies widely. It is said that nature abhors a vacuum; in modern times this means that no matter how big your home is, it will likely be full of stuff!

This book seeks to cross the threshold of the Christian home. By all means read it on the train, but its desire is to be invited in and its purpose is to snoop around and ask nosy questions about the things you have in your home. If we feel that our homes are our castles, open only to those we wish to invite in, then this book stands at the door knocking as a friend, a divine friend, even. For, as the psalmist reminds us, there is no place where we can flee from the presence of God:

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.  
You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.  
Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O Lord, you know it completely.  
You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

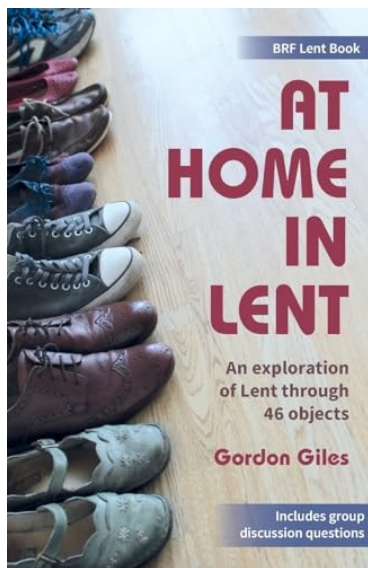
Where can I go from your spirit?  
Or where can I flee from your presence?  
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning  
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me fast.  
If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and the light around me become night,'  
even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.

Psalm 139:1-12

Against the temptation to hide or flee from the Lord, this book of daily readings comes as an invitation to discover how he is already in our homes and as a map of where to seek and find God in the fixtures, fittings and other items with which we surround ourselves at home. Inspired by Neil MacGregor's 2010 BBC Radio 4 series *A History of the World in 100 Objects*, this book seeks to open access to the spiritual significance of 46 objects that can be found in almost any home. Our biblical ancestors did not have anything like as much 'stuff' as we do, but some of the things we possess have long histories, while other modern gadgets and household paraphernalia have something to say to us about the world in which we live and move and have our being, and about the God from whom all art and science comes. For the way we live is a spiritual as well as a practical matter, and under God it is good to reflect on the things we take so much for granted.

The Holy Spirit of God is everywhere and in everything, if we only look with the right eyes and a humble frame of mind. During Lent, we are called to read and reflect, to be penitent and patient, and to journey towards the renewing light of the Easter dawn. When Easter comes in seven weeks, it is my hope and prayer for you, gentle reader, that the journey around your home will cast Passiontide and Easter in a different hue, and that the Lord will have been with you in everything, and everywhere.





## W I Winner

*Olive Stirling*

Our Kingsley W I Branch recently held a competition for members, for a picture depicting a wintry scene.

So I entered my picture, which had been painted by Dorrie Parker several years ago, and lo and behold won first prize with it! (The prize was points, building up over the year.)

So congratulations to Dorrie for producing such a lovely picture which I will always treasure.

*Editor's note: this was painted with watercolours in 2004, initially as the Parish Christmas Card, but as a number of people suggested it would also be good to have copies produced and framed and sold for fundraising, we did so, in time for Christmas 2005, and I found the invoice along with my original, which shows that 24 copies were ordered. Here is the painting:*



## St Matthew's Ladies Group

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

### Meetings in February

12 February     Red wrapped gifts (£1 per gift), Afternoon Tea and Musical Entertainment with Terry Smith

26 February     Speaker: Mo Palmer – *Hand Reflexology*

The full Spring / Summer programme is on our website:

Click on 'Community & Events', then 'St Matthew's Ladies Group' in the right-hand column.

## Mince Pies

We would like, on behalf of all our St Matthew's community, to thank Morrisons who donated the mince pies for our Advent Carol Service, which were much enjoyed by all.

Our special thanks to Bryan Wallis who made all this possible.

*Catering Team*



The Parish Church of St Matthew

**Friday 2 February**

## CANDLEMAS

**The Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

**7.30pm The Parish Mass**



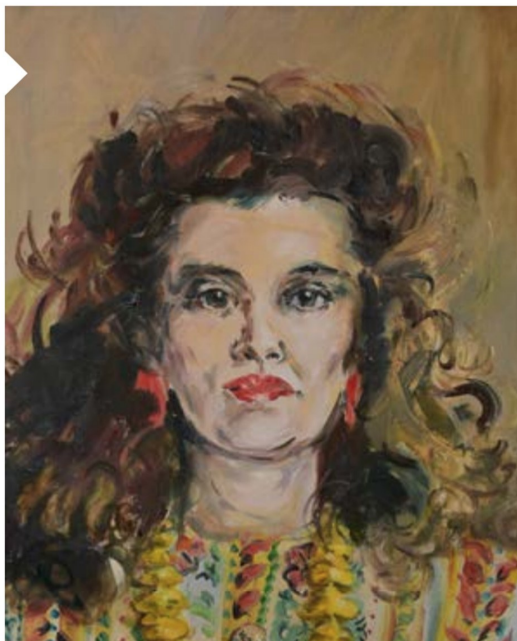
## LIFE AND ART: ELKE POLLARD RETROSPECTIVE

**Saturday 10 February**

**- Sunday 28 April 2024**

**Northampton Museum & Art Gallery**

Well-known amongst the local art community for her gregarious personality, Elke Pollard created a wide body of work in a variety of media and styles predominantly colourful large-scale portraits and floral still lifes. Alongside her art, Pollard worked as a designer and seamstress. This exhibition will showcase art and design highlights from the life of this influential and prominent Northampton artist.





The Parish Church of St Matthew

**Sunday 11 February**

## **SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT**

**10.15am**

**The Parish Mass  
with healing ministries**

**5.30pm**

**Service of Preparation  
for Lent**

The Parish Church of St Matthew

**14 February**

## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

**9.30am**

**Mass  
with Imposition of Ashes**

**7.30pm**

**The Parish Mass  
with Imposition of Ashes**

The Parish Church of St Matthew

## **Lent 2024**

### **Lent Course:**

Based on the book by Gordon Giles

#### **At Home in Lent**

*An exploration of Lent through 46 objects*

For further details please see the Parish Magazine  
and the weekly pewsheets

**Wednesday 21 February at 7.00pm**

**Wednesday 28 February at 7.00pm**

**Wednesday 6 March at 7.00pm**

**Wednesday 13 March at 7.00pm**

**Wednesday 20 March at 7.00pm**

*Held in the church*

The Parish Church of St Matthew

## **Lent 2024**



### **Stations of the Cross**

**Friday 16 February at 7.30pm  
at St Gregory's**

**Friday 23 February at 7.30pm  
at St Matthew's**

**Friday 1 March at 7.30pm  
at St Gregory's**

**Friday 8 March at 7.30pm  
at St Matthew's**

**Friday 15 March at 7.30pm  
at St Gregory's**

## 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 MARCH magazine is SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY**

*Editor:* Dorrie Parker

*Layout and production:* Gary Drinkwater

### **We can recycle...**

Used **postage stamps** from your envelopes

Your redundant **spectacles** (not the cases though)

*There are receptacles in the bookstall area in which to put them*

**Thank you!**



## Olde England Public House

199 Kettering Road  
Northampton NN1 4BP  
01604 619285



### **NEW OPENING TIMES**

<b>Monday:</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>5.00pm - 11.00pm</b>
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>5.00pm - 11.00pm</b>
<b>Thursday:</b>	<b>5.00pm - 12.00am</b>
<b>Friday:</b>	<b>4.00pm - 12.00am</b>
<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>3.00pm - 12.00am</b>
<b>Sunday:</b>	<b>3.00pm - 11.00pm</b>

# Weekday Scripture Readings for February

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.



Thursday	1st	1 Samuel 1.19b-end	Hebrews 4.11-end
Friday	2nd	Haggai 2.1-9	John 2.18-22
Saturday	3rd	Habakkuk 2.1-4	Revelation 14.1-7
Monday	5th	Isaiah 61.1-9	Mark 6.1-13
Tuesday	6th	Isaiah 52.1-10	Romans 10.5-21
Wednesday	7th	Isaiah 52.13–53.6	Romans 15.14-21
Thursday	8th	Isaiah 53.4-12	2 Corinthians 4.1-10
Friday	9th	Zechariah 8.16-end	Matthew 10.1-15
Saturday	10th	Jeremiah 1.4-10	Matthew 10.16-22
Monday	12th	2 Kings 2.13-22	3 John
Tuesday	13th	Judges 14.5-17	Revelation 10.4-11
Wednesday	14th	Isaiah 1.10-18	Luke 15.11-end
Thursday	15th	Genesis 2.7-end	Hebrews 2.5-end
Friday	16th	Genesis 4.1-12	Hebrews 4.12-end
Saturday	17th	2 Kings 22.11-end	Hebrews 5.1-10
Monday	19th	Genesis 6.11-end; 7.11-16	Luke 4.14-21
Tuesday	20th	Deuteronomy 31.7-13	1 John 3.1-10
Wednesday	21st	Genesis 11.1-9	Matthew 24.15-28
Thursday	22nd	Genesis 13.1-13	1 Peter 2.13-end
Friday	23rd	Genesis 21.1-8	Luke 9.18-27
Saturday	24th	Genesis 32.22-32	2 Peter 1.10-end
Monday	26th	1 Chronicles 21.1-17	1 John 2.1-8
Tuesday	27th	Zechariah 3	2 Peter 2.1-10a
Wednesday	28th	Job 1.1-22	Luke 21.34–22.6
Thursday	29th	2 Chronicles 29.1-11	Mark 11.15-19

# Church Crawling no.8

*Fabian Robertson*

## Weathercocks

The golden weathercock on the pinnacle of St Matthew's Church can be viewed from many miles away as you approach Northampton by road or rail. The choice of a cockerel was a papal edict way back in the 8th Century, that required every church in Christendom to have a cock mounted on the highest point of a church building. Apparently, the oldest weathercock still functioning in England is in Devon at St Mary's Church in Ottery St Mary, and is said to be of 1340 vintage. This symbol was to recall St Peter's betrayal of Christ (Luke 22:34): "I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shall thrice deny that thou knowest me".



*Golden cockerel atop St Matthew's Northampton  
Following extensive  
spire repairs in 2012-13*

Our brave Vicar Fr Nicholas had negotiated all the scaffolding and ladders to the narrow platform surrounding the cockerel on the tip of the spire for the blessing and topping-out ceremony. Fortunately it was a clear sunny day, good for photographs.



*Putting the cockerel  
back in place*



Many other buildings of importance which are not places of worship have fascinating weathervanes. The Royal Exchange, close to The Bank of England in the City of London, has an 11-foot-long three-dimensional grasshopper weathervane which survived the Great Fire of London in 1666 and also a subsequent fire in 1838, both of which completely destroyed the building.

*The Royal Exchange grasshopper*



Billingsgate Old Fish Market in London has a golden fish on a building which used to be market stalls since Roman times but got its fishy reputation from a 1699 act of parliament which allowed a 'free and open market for all fish whatsoever'. Today the New Billingsgate is in Canary Wharf.



Billingsgate Old Fish Market



Probably the most unusual of London's weathervanes is Father Time, to be found at Lord's Cricket Ground, following 'The Laws of Cricket Code' – that after the Call of Time the bails shall be removed from both wickets.

*Father Time at Lord's Cricket Ground*

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

*Mandy Ludlow*

January is always a quiet month to be writing articles for the Parish Magazine – we finish for the holidays usually around 3 or 4 December, so there is not a lot to report on.

As is our tradition, we visit the pantomime and on 13 December we went to see Cinderella at The Deco; a great fun evening was had by all. The Rainbows in particular loved it and spent quite a lot of the time up on their feet dancing. Part way through the show cast members use very large water guns to spray the audience, not only from the stage but they are up and down the aisles too, much to the hilarity of the girls. I was soaked – next time I will be taking a brolly! We went by coach from St Matthew's which is always a treat for the girls and something we have come to, I suppose, rely upon. A number of our girls do not have transport, for others transport is difficult, therefore we made a decision to try, wherever possible, to go by coach. Girls then meet and depart from their usual place.



As you will know, Yasmin (aka Sweep) went on maternity leave in the autumn term; baby Freya Grace came into the world on 22 November at 1.35am weighing 6lb 5oz – she is our newest Rainbow on the waiting list. We look forward to welcoming Yasmin back shortly.



This term we are looking at the Young Minds/Dogs for Good Challenge Badge which looks at mindfulness and having time for ourselves. We will also be concentrating on our Promise and what this means to us.



The leaders have been accepted to take part in a trial with Guide Dogs for the Blind, putting together a learning programme for children.

We have things to look forward to – we will be part of the Northampton Nene Division's Thinking Day celebrations, a trip to Boost, the trampoline centre, and Spring Craft Fair (see the ad in this magazine).







*CAFÉ  
GUIDES*

*SERVING A VARIETY OF  
TEAS, COFFEE, AND  
HOME MADE CAKES*

*BACON ROLLS &  
SAUSAGE SANDWICHES*

*COME AND VISIT US -  
SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY  
FOLLOWING THE 10.15am  
SERVICE*



*We are now able to take card payments*



32ND ST MATTHEW'S  
GIRLGUIDING

**Spring**  
CRAFT  
FAIR

**SATURDAY 9TH MARCH 2024**

St Matthew's Parish Centre, 27A The Drive,  
Northampton, NN1 4RY  
12.00 Noon to 3pm

Including vintage tea rooms serving  
afternoon tea and a selection of  
homemade cakes

  
Girlguiding  
United Kingdom's Girlguiding  
Association. Training and Support  
Programme.

## Café Guides Recipe for February

The last few weeks weather has been nothing but rain, and it's now turned icy cold; comfort food is what is called for and what better than a plate pie. The following recipe is suitable for vegetarians/vegans. Dice the veg very small, about 1-1.5 cms for best results.

### Cut and Come Back for More Plate Pie

#### *Ingredients*

For the filling:

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 large carrots, diced
- 200 gms celeriac, diced
- 100 gms sweet potato/pumpkin or squash, diced
- 3 leeks, cut into rounds
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 100 ml white wine
- 300 ml vegetable stock
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 tbsp wholegrain mustard
- A few sage leaves, finely chopped
- A few sprigs of parsley, finely chopped
- 1 tbsp cornflour
- 100ml double cream or plant-based convenient
- Salt and black pepper

For the pastry, shop bought is suitable for vegetarians or vegans or make your own, again suitable for vegans

- 150 gms plain flour
- ½ tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- 75 gms non-dairy spread, chilled and cubed

## *Method*

### Pastry

1. Put the flour and baking powder into a bowl and add the salt.
2. Rub in the non-dairy spread, then just enough iced water to bring the dough together.
3. Wrap the dough in clingfilm, then put in the fridge to chill for at least 30 minutes before using.

### Filling

1. Heat the olive oil in a large sauté pan and add the onion, carrots and celeriac. Cook over a medium heat until they take on some colour, then add the sweet potato, pumpkin or squash, the leeks and garlic. Continue to cook for a few minutes, then pour over the white wine. Bring to the boil and bubble until the wine has reduced by half.
2. Add the vegetable stock, season with plenty of salt and freshly ground black pepper and the bay leaves, then bring back to the boil. Turn the heat down, partially cover the pan and simmer until the vegetable are tender. Take the pan off the heat.
3. Remove the vegetables from the pan with a slotted spoon and put them on a pie dish or plate. Take out the bay leaves and discard. Simmer the remaining liquid until reduced by about a third, then whisk in the mustard and herbs.
4. Mix the cornflour with a little cold water until completely smooth then whisk into the liquid to thicken. Add the cream or plant alternative, stir to combine. Pour this over the vegetables and leave to cool. Pre-heat the oven to 200°C /Fan 180°C /Gas mark 6.
5. Roll the pastry out on a floured surface. Wet the edge of the pie dish or plate and carefully place the pastry over the filling. Trim and crimp.

### Glaze

- 1 tbsp milk/plant based alternative
  - 1 tbsp olive oil
1. Mix the milk with the olive oil and brush over the pastry – this will help it brown nicely. Cut a couple of slits in the pastry top to let out the steam. Decorate with the offcuts of pastry, if desired.
  2. Bake for about 45 minutes until the pastry is golden brown and the filling piping hot.

# God is Love

Lent begins on 14 February this year. That date might sound familiar to the more romantic among us; it is of course (Saint) Valentine's Day and it might seem hard to hold together the two themes of human love and readying ourselves for a season of penitential preparation. Will it be hearts or ashes?



At one level, of course, the contradictions are less obvious. St John reminds us that: "God is love and those who live in love, live in God and God lives in them" (1 John 16). He also says: "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Love is the meaning of it all – God creates the world in love, and in his love for the human race sends his Son to redeem fallen creation. Jesus comes to share our life, to live with us and die like us and for us but most importantly to rise again, so that we might know that love has the final word. And Jesus said that he came we might have life, life in all abundance, so I take all this to mean that the joy of loving human relationships is also very much his will. Romantic love can, perhaps, be an elusive quality; passion passes; but God's love, as St Paul puts it in his great love poem in 1 Corinthians 13, that love never ends.

And it is God's love and grace that our new Bishop will encourage us to share through our churches and in our communities in the months and years to come. Bishop Debbie's much anticipated arrival is something in which we, at the Cathedral, have a very special part to play and it's all systems go as we prepare for 3 March when we look forward welcoming people, parishes, institutions and civic life from across the Diocese and beyond for her service of Welcome and Installation.

Whoever said February was a dull month?!

Every blessing



Chris Dalliston  
Dean of Peterborough

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Email: [communications@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:communications@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)

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

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

Number **91**, held by **Olive Stirling**



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For full details and a form, please email [jonathan.starmer@yahoo.com](mailto:jonathan.starmer@yahoo.com)

*Jonathan Starmer*

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# 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.



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

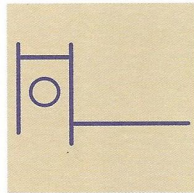
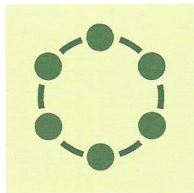
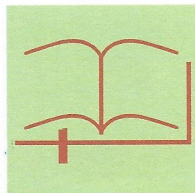
There are two methods of payment available: by a banker's direct debit or by weekly-numbered envelopes via the collection plate. The amount that you give is entirely confidential and is known only to the lay people who administer the Scheme.

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

Polly Matthews

<[office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk](mailto:office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk)>

Tel. 01604 846074



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

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

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## **Ministry Team**

Parish Priest	The Revd Canon Nicholas Setterfield <a href="mailto:vicar@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk">vicar@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk</a>
Honorary Assistant Priest	The Revd Canon Nicholas Gandy OGS <a href="mailto:OGS@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk">OGS@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk</a>
Honorary Assistant Priest	The Revd Canon Peter Garlick

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## **Parish Officers**

Churchwardens	Gary Drinkwater <a href="mailto:churchwarden@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk">churchwarden@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk</a> Dave Wilson <a href="mailto:churchwarden@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk">churchwarden@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk</a>
PCC Secretary	Sarah Oughton <a href="mailto:pcc-secretary@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk">pcc-secretary@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk</a>
PCC Treasurer	Donald Cran <a href="mailto:treasurer@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk">treasurer@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk</a>

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## **St Matthew's Trust**

Ben Drouet  
[chairman@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk](mailto:chairman@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk)

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## **Particular Responsibility**

Safeguarding Officer	Sarah Oughton (Assistant: Ben Drouet) <a href="mailto:safeguarding@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk">safeguarding@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk</a>
Verger	Gary Drinkwater
Head Server	Seymour Franklin <a href="mailto:head-server@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk">head-server@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk</a>
Stewardship Recorder	Polly Matthews
Electoral Roll Officer	Seymour Franklin
Archives	Patrick Rawlinson
Website & Magazine Editor	Dorrie Parker <a href="mailto:magazine@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk">magazine@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk</a>

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## **Music Department**

Director of Music	Tom Moore <a href="mailto:music@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk">music@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk</a>
Parish Organist	Jonathan Stamer
Friends of St Matthew's Music	Keith Hirst <a href="mailto:friends@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk">friends@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk</a>

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## **Walsingham Cell**

Cell Secretary	Dave Wilson <a href="mailto:walsingham@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk">walsingham@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk</a>
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