

St Matthew's **MAIL**

**Suggested
Donation**

£1.00

News from the Parish of Kingsley, Northampton

MAY 2024



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 May

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

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

May's Pastoral Letter from the Vicar

Making Disciples

Once a spiritual leader called six of his disciples to him and said, 'Go out and make disciples.' And the six set off at once. Time passed and, one by one, they returned.

The first came back with five hundred disciples. 'How did you manage to gain so many?' the leader asked. 'I went around among the poorer sections of the people,' the disciple answered. 'I promised them that if they embraced our way I would take care of all their needs.' 'I see,' said the leader.

The second came back with four hundred disciples. 'And what approach did you use?' the leader asked. 'I told them about heaven and the great reward that is waiting there for the followers of our way,' was the reply. 'I see,' said the leader.

The third came back with three hundred disciples. 'What approach did you use?' the leader asked. 'I pulled no punches,' this disciple replied. 'I told them they would all go to hell unless they followed our way. That scared the living daylights out of them.' 'I see,' said the leader.

The fourth came back with two hundred disciples. 'What approach did you use?' the leader asked. 'I decided to go around among the simple and uneducated. I convinced them with arguments. I blinded them with knowledge.' 'I see,' said the leader.

The fifth came back with one hundred disciples. 'And what approach did you use?' asked the leader. 'I went among the young,' the disciple replied. 'They were standing around, waiting for a leader. I told them about our way. Then I simply commanded them, and this is the result.' 'I see,' said the leader.

Finally, after a long delay, the sixth returned with only a dozen disciples. 'What kept you so long?' the leader asked. 'I wasn't able to sow the seed at once,' he replied. 'You have to wait for the snow to melt and the ground to soften. So I waited. As I waited, I befriended them, trying to give them an example of our way by the kind of life I lived.

'While I was sharing their lives I discovered that freedom was very important to them. I also learned something else about them. I learned that they are a generous people and not afraid of sacrifice. I told them about the cost of discipleship, but I also stressed the good they could do for others and for God as disciples. They seemed impressed. However, when the crunch came, only twelve agreed to come with me.'

The leader commended the last disciple.

Five appealed to the weakness and fears of the people. It's easy to play on people's fears and manipulate them. But this is to interfere with their freedom. The sixth man appealed to their strengths. He befriended them and tried to win them over by example. The approach of the sixth man is the Christian approach. This is a slower and more difficult method. But those who will be converted will have deeper roots, and will be more committed in following the way. If we are to grow in number and in depth of understanding we are each called to respond to the challenge of being the sixth disciple.

Your sincere friend and parish priest,

Fr. Nicholas

Christian Aid Week 2024

12-18 May

This year, we are focusing on helping farmers and their families in Malawi with their pigeon peas crop. With your support, many more families will be able to fight against inhumane poverty.



Each Christian Aid week, the incredible outpouring of prayer, passion, dedication, and generosity from supporters like us makes a lasting change possible. The movement to end poverty for the world's poorest people could not happen without the commitment of thousands of churches like ours in this country. The number of churches in Northampton sadly decreased last year, pushing us up as the second highest giver.

This year, there will be the usual two events. The first is a Coffee Morning, to be held on **Saturday 11 May**, at my house from 10.00am to 12 noon. And the following week on **Saturday, 18 May**, the Big Breakfast will take place in the Parish Centre at 10.00am after the morning Mass.

Please support these events if you can. A reminder of these dates will be in the pewsheet closer to the time.

The distinctive red envelope will be given out in church on **Sunday 12 May**. **Please return it by Sunday 26 May.**

Girlie Franklin

Join us in prayer this Easter season

Easter Season, 50 days of celebration, a time for us as a Church to joyfully celebrate the love of God shown to us in Jesus whose death and resurrection open the way for us to know the God who loves us.

In the last 10 days of this season of celebration, between Ascension (Thursday 9 May) and Pentecost (Sunday 19 May) there is the opportunity to join with others in prayer.



‘Thy Kingdom Come’ is an international prayer event; there are resources to help us pray, a Novena – which is a booklet of short readings and reflections, this year by Bishop Anthony Poggo (General Secretary of the Anglican Communion) – and also a prayer journal which has beautiful artwork and video reflections drawing on different ways of praying.

In our own diocese we have two groups of people walking the boundaries of the Diocese during this time, with morning prayer each day, live streamed for anyone to join in with.

Whatever is helpful to you I encourage you to make use of this special time in the church year to try something new in prayer, or to spend some time praying in a way you are familiar and comfortable with, alone or with others; this is a time to pray together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Booker'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Reverend Alison Booker
Archdeacon of Oakham

Produced by the Diocesan Office,
The Palace, Peterborough PE1 1YB
Tel: 01733 887000

Email: communications@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

The Parish Church of St Matthew

Thursday 9 May
**ASCENSION
OF THE LORD**

7.30pm The Parish Mass



The Parish Church of St Matthew

Sunday 19 May
PENTECOST

10.15am
Procession and Parish Mass

5.30pm
Solemn Choral Evensong
and Benediction



The Parish Church of St Matthew

Sunday 2 June
CORPUS CHRISTI

Thanksgiving for Holy Communion

10.15am
The Parish Mass

5.30pm
Choral Evensong



The Parish Church of St Matthew

Sunday 26 May
TRINITY SUNDAY

10.15am
The Parish Mass

5.30pm
Solemn Evensong



Preaching the Trinity

Author: Terence Handley MacMath

If I had a pound for every sermon I have heard on Trinity Sunday when the preacher has apologised for his or her poor grasp of the doctrine they are about to expound, I'd be celebrating this Trinity Sunday in somewhere like Bermuda. Alas, they expect me, instead, to put a pound and more in the plate in exchange for the sermon, despite the apologies. The Trinity, of course, is a way of speaking about God, drawn principally from Jesus's farewell discourse to his friends at the Last Supper in St John's Gospel.

Here, Jesus tells them that he's going to his 'father', and when he does, he will 'send the comforter' or 'strengtheners' – and this is meant to be good news for his friends! The comforter will lead them into all truth.

The implication is that they aren't there yet. This, despite their knowledge of the scriptures (our Old Testament), in which God appears as a creator, a father, wisdom, and the spirit, not to mention the references it contains to the arrival of Jesus.

Perhaps it is easier to use the doctrine of the Trinity as a reminder of what God is not. God is not a man in the sky. It is so easy to fall lazily into that human image which William Blake sent up as 'Nobodaddy'.

God is not an object. From then, it's a short step to making God an object in our own image. (What other image could we create 'him' in?)

And from then, it's fatally easy to ask daft questions like: 'How could God do x when he's supposed to be loving?' or 'What will God do to me if I do y?' – questions that imply that God is a human being with human capabilities and reactions, just bigger and more powerful than most.

Jesus invites us to call God 'abba' or 'father' – not because God is any sort of a man in the sky, but because God is an intimate, loving presence. Jesus equally promises that his spirit will be with us as 'the comforter' – another personal image intended to give his friends hope and joy. Jesus calls himself most often 'the Son of Man', without contradicting those who accused him of equating himself with God. He promises his friends that he is going to Father in order to draw them into that loving relationship, too – that their joy may be complete.



Rublev's famous icon of the Trinity conveys many Christian truths. Most excitingly, its composition leads the eye around the flowing circle of the three persons' gestures of love until it rests in the space into which the beholder may come to join them at their table. The eternal flow of love between the three mysterious figures draws us lovingly into the mystery of God who is beyond creaturely comprehension.

The next Cell Mass of Our Lady of Walsingham takes place at 9.30am on Saturday 11 May followed by refreshments.



These services are for **EVERYBODY** not just members of the Parish Cell.

Please direct any enquiries to the Cell Secretary Dave Wilson

walsingham@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

St Matthew's contribution

to helping the Church of England achieve net zero carbon by 2030

Gary Drinkwater

General Synod voted in February 2020 for the whole of the Church of England to achieve net zero carbon by 2030. The vote recognised that the global climate emergency is a crisis for God's creation and a fundamental injustice.

Should you have found yourself to be flying over the Parish Centre recently you will have seen fifty-six solar panels on the roof. More realistically you will probably have seen the scaffolding outside to aid their installation and/or the eight batteries and two inverters in the storeroom.

The PCC discussion on installing these started some two years ago and finally came to fruition at the beginning of April. We are very grateful to Tony Day and Dave Wilson who spent many hours researching and bringing back to PCC their deliberations. Eventually in February this year we agreed that Elech-Tech would take forward this project at a cost of £62,000.



So, it was during four days in the first week of April that the panels were installed on the Parish Centre roof with a 6mm armoured cable and data cable being laid underground to the church so that both the Parish Centre and the church will benefit from the solar supply of electricity. This cable was put in place by an electric mole burrowing through the ground.

It is estimated the solar system will cover 91% of our electricity expenditure during the winter months with excess electricity gained in the summer months being sold to the National Grid through our supplier. We expect our investment of 62k to be recovered in approximately six years.

The PCC will be discussing the route map to a net zero carbon church over the coming months. Should you have an interest or experience in this please do offer your input to this process.



Next month's magazine

Contributions to our magazine are always appreciated so let us know what you / your group are up to! If you don't have the confidence to write something yourself, just let us have the details and we'll write it for you.

Please leave paper contributions in the 'P' (for 'Parker') pigeon hole in church or email files to: magazine@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

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

Deadline for the JUNE magazine is SUNDAY 12 MAY

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

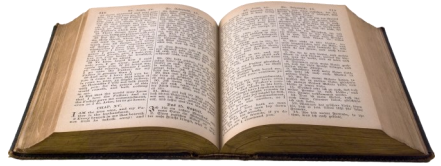


NEW OPENING TIMES

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

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.



Wednesday	1 st	Job 23.1-12	John 1.43-end
Thursday	2 nd	Exodus 3.1-15	Mark 12.18-27
Friday	3 rd	Ezekiel 36.33-end	Romans 8.1-11
Saturday	4 th	Isaiah 38.9-20	Luke 24.33-end
Monday	6 th	Proverbs 4.1-13	Philippians 2.1-11
Tuesday	7 th	Isaiah 32.12-end	Romans 5.1-11
Wednesday	8 th	Isaiah 43.1-13	Titus 2.11-3.8
Thursday	9 th	2 Kings 2.1-15	Matthew 28.16-end
Friday	10 th	Exodus 35.30 – 36.1	Galatians 5.13-end
Saturday	11 th	Numbers 11.16-17, 24-29	1 Corinthians 2
Monday	13 th	Numbers 27.15-end	1 Corinthians 3
Tuesday	14 th	1 Samuel 16.1-13a	Matthew 7.15-27
Wednesday	15 th	1 Kings 19.1-18	Matthew 3.13-end
Thursday	16 th	Ezekiel 11.14-20	Matthew 9.35 – 10.20
Friday	17 th	Ezekiel 36.22-28	Matthew 12.22-32
Saturday	18 th	Micah 3.1-8	Ephesians 6.10-20
Monday	20 th	Genesis 12.1-9	Romans 4.13-end
Tuesday	21 st	Genesis 13.1-12	Romans 12.9-end
Wednesday	22 nd	Genesis 15	Romans 4.1-8
Thursday	23 rd	Genesis 22.1-18	Hebrews 11.8-19
Friday	24 th	Isaiah 51.1-8	John 8.48-end
Saturday	25 th	Joshua 2.1-15	James 2.14-26
Monday	27 th	Exodus 2.1-10	Hebrews 11.23-31
Tuesday	28 th	Exodus 2.11-end	Acts 7.17-29
Wednesday	29 th	Exodus 3.1-12	Acts 7.30-38
Thursday	30 th	Proverbs 9.1-5	Luke 9.11-17
Friday	31 st	Zechariah 2.10-end	John 3.25-30

Church Crawling no.10

Fabian Robertson

All Souls' Church (Akroydon), Halifax – (Architect Sir George Gilbert Scott)

and

Church-crawling Advice by Sir John Betjeman

The last church-crawling article in the Mail had a lot in the text about Sir George Gilbert Scott. A lovely surprise recently was to receive a birthday card from other church-crawlers and St Matthew's Mail readers. The greetings were from Alan and Joy Riley and their fascinating information on the back of the two pictures they sent are this article, for which many thanks.

Sir George Gilbert Scott finished All Souls' Church Halifax in 1859. He pronounced it "on the whole my best church" with the second tallest tower in Yorkshire at 73 metres. The church was closed in 1977. Pieces of stonework had begun to crumble. The blame for its condition was placed on the architect who had mixed sandstone and limestone in the stonework and had unknowingly set off a chemical reaction. Transferred to the redundant Churches Fund in 1988, the church is still magnificent inside, though very cold and bare, and a couple of Minster Services are held there each year. It is open for Heritage Week.



*All Souls' in the snow
Akroydon, Halifax*

The calligraphy card is as produced, and probably written by Betjeman's own hand. As the text is small, making it hard to read, a transcription follows the original photograph on the following page.

JOHN BETJEMAN

1906-1984

Church-crawler

I know no greater pleasure than church-crawling. It leads you to the remotest and quietest country. It introduces you to the history of England in stone and wood and glass which is always truer than what you read in books. You meet all sorts of people on your travels.

FROM THE CHURCH OF ST PROTUS AND ST HYACINTH, BLISLAND, CORNWALL.

It was through looking at churches that I came to believe in the reason why, despite neglect and contempt, innovation and business bishops they still survive and continue to grow and prosper, especially in our industrial towns.

You must have the instruments of a church-crawler. The first of these is a map. A one-inch ordinance (no others will do!) tells you whether the church has a tower or spire for it is marked with a cross - and a black square if it is a tower, a cross or a black circle if it is a spire. You can generally assume that a country church is old, even if it has no tower or spire, if the map shows dotted lines of footpaths leading to it. The next thing you need is an eye. Look at the church for what it is, a place of worship and a piece of architecture combined. Guide books will tell you that something is in the 'debasal' style, meaning that it was built in the sixteenth, seventeenth or eighteenth centuries, but it does not matter when it was built or whether it is pure or 'debasal'. What does matter is, do you like the look of it yourself? Instead of bothering about dates and books use your eyes.

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Hot Cross Buns

We would like to convey our sincere thanks to Morrisons who very kindly donated the hot cross buns that were enjoyed following the services on Good Friday, and by our church cleaners on Holy Saturday.

A special thank you to Jonathan Starmer who arranged this and collected the hot cross buns on Maundy Thursday.

Catering Committee



St Matthew's Church



Saturday 6 July | 1.00pm till 4.00pm

We can now take donations for our Summer Fete. So it's time to start looking through your cupboards and garages for all those unwanted gifts and items you've been meaning to clear out.

We need donations for the bottle tombola stall, good quality bric-a-brac, children's toys, games, jigsaws, general items for the tombola stall, sweets, chocolates, and books for the books stall.

We are now also able to PAT test small working electrical items if donated.

We would also be grateful for any plants for the plant stall but these can only be brought in a few days before the fete.

Items can be left in the box at the back of church or brought to the parish office during office hours. Please telephone first to check someone is there to take them in.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Denise

summerfete@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Note Parish Office opening hours are:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm, 1.00pm – 4.00pm

The office is closed on Wednesdays

St Matthew's Church



32nd St Matthew's Multi-Aged Girlguiding

Mandy Ludlow

April is a 'funny' month for us, with Bank and school holiday, as well as Easter. Meeting on Mondays means we miss a lot of evenings at this time of year, so to make up for it we try and do extra or different activities. Easter being early in 2024 has not helped; we were no sooner back at the end of February than we were finishing for Easter.

Bearing this in mind we started our Easter activities in the middle of March. The Guides were all given a plain wooden egg cup on week 1 and they planned out a design, firstly on paper and then, using pencil, transferred this to the egg cup. The following week Mark came and taught the Guides how to use a pyrography tool, and the girls' designs were brought to life by burning the wood. Having been gifted a set of acrylic paints, the Guides painted egg shaped boxes with Spring designs, filling them with mini eggs.

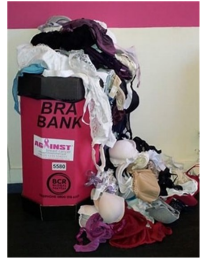
Paper plates into baskets! Sparkle Owl, aka Paula, came up with the idea of turning paper plates into a basket, and this the Brownies did, decorating them, adding eggs and fluffy yellow chicks to complete the effect.

The Rainbows have continued working on their Know Myself Theme Award, playing games whilst at the same time looking back to when Rainbows started and how Rainbows have changed since the beginning. This brought to mind that it was 20 years in March since I started the Monday Rainbows. Those first girls are all now adults, some with families of their own. Bethany is now a leader with us and another, Heather, is in the Grenadier Guards as a musician – I wonder where the others are now?

On the Monday of Holy Week we always go out so that we are not at the Parish Centre. Usually we go to our camp site, Jubilee at Castle Ashby, but back last summer when we were doing our planning, we thought that March might be a bit early for a night in the countryside. This year for a complete change we visited Boost Trampoline Centre; everyone had a brilliant evening, the staff there were superb and just took over, leaving the leaders to enjoy a cup of coffee! There were a number of different things to bounce on, play and climb, and best of all it was suitable for all ages between 4 and 14. As usual we had a coach to take us; a number of our girls do not have transport, so they are included and able to join in. Parents appreciate this too as they drop off and collect at the same place.

With the lighter nights now with us and the lovely outdoor space we are so fortunate to have access to, we will be looking at doing more outdoor activities working towards our Have Adventures Award. Mainly this is doing things outdoors.

As we said in last month's Parish Magazine, don't forget our bra bank. Please recycle your old or no longer wanted bras. There is a minimum amount we are able to send off – two boxes, and we are nearly there.



The bra bank is situated in the storage area of the Parish Centre.



Café Guides Recipe for May

Very often I need a one-pot supper dish that is quick and easy – a risotto is all of these things. Most of the ingredients are probably already in your fridge and store cupboard. This can be served with a simple salad using a bag of mixed leaves or for meat-eaters some grilled or roast chicken. The perfect mid-week family dinner.




Risotto

- *Ingredients*
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 1 large brown onion, finely chopped
- 2 medium carrots, cut into roughly 1cm / ½in chunks
- 2 celery sticks, trimmed and cut into roughly 1cm / ½in chunks
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 275g / 9¾oz risotto rice, such as Arborio
- 100ml / 3½fl oz dry vermouth or white wine (optional)
- 1 litre / 1¾ pint stock (made with 1 vegetable / chicken stock cube)
- 2 good pinches dried flaked chillies (crushed chillies)
- 1 small lemon, finely grated
- 50g / 1¾oz Parmesan or vegetarian hard cheese, finely grated
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- freshly chopped parsley, to serve (optional)

Method

1. Heat the oil in a large saucepan or medium flameproof casserole. Add the onion, carrots and celery, stir well then cover and cook over a low heat for 10-12 minutes, or until soft and lightly browned, stirring 2-3 times to prevent it sticking. Add the garlic and cook for 2 minutes more, stirring.
2. Stir in the risotto rice and cook for a minute, stirring constantly. Pour in the vermouth (or wine, if using) and bring to a simmer. Cook for 30-40 seconds, stirring.
3. Add all the stock and the chilli to the risotto. Bring to a gentle simmer and cook uncovered for 22-25 minutes, or until the rice is tender and very creamy. Stir the risotto every 4-5 minutes for the first 10 minutes of the cooking time, then more regularly as the liquid reduces and the rice swells, stirring constantly for the final 5 minutes.
4. Stir in the lemon zest and hard cheese. Season to taste with salt and pepper and serve topped with Parmesan and freshly chopped parsley if you like.

Recipe Tip: To make this veggie risotto simple, rather than adding the stock gradually, pour it all in at the beginning, then stir regularly as the rice simmers.



CAFÉ GUIDES

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

*BACON ROLLS &
SAUSAGE SANDWICHES*

*COME AND VISIT US -
SUNDAY 5TH MAY
FOLLOWING THE 10.15am
SERVICE*



We are now able to take card payments



On the Bookshelf

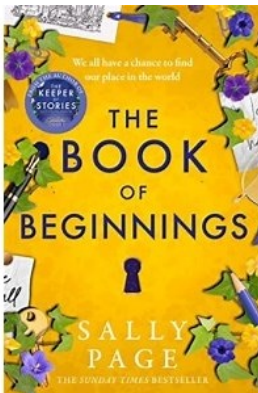
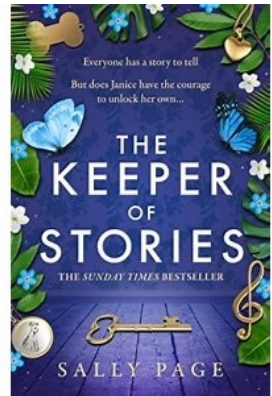
Dorrie Parker

***The Keeper of Stories* and *The Book of Beginnings* by Sally Page**

I'd read *The Keeper of Stories*, Sally Page's debut novel, last summer but had lent it to a friend before thinking about an article for this magazine, so didn't have it to hand. A few weeks ago I was in WHS buying up a few new books to read, and saw her new second novel, *The Book of Beginnings*, so it's now definitely the time for an article.

Both books are such a delight to read, full of humour, wisdom, and heartbreak too, meaty books that instantly warm you to the characters and you just *have* to keep on reading!

The Keeper of Stories' main character is Janice, a cleaner in private homes who listens to her clients' stories as they find her someone they can unburden themselves to. One of them, the only one Janice doesn't really like, 'suggests' she takes on another client – her mother-in-law, a woman in her 90s who cannot cope, her home is full of clutter, and if Janice doesn't agree they may have to look for a nursing home for her... So she reluctantly takes on her new, also reluctant, client, Mrs B, who starts to tell Janice snippets of stories. Janice is intrigued by this old woman's stories and finds herself looking forward to the next instalment. Eventually Mrs B begins to elicit Janice's own stories, and then, her own secret story...

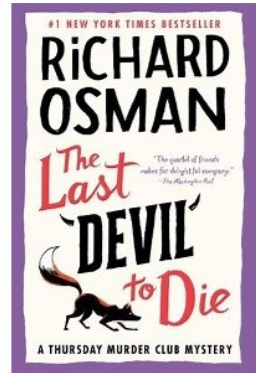


The Book of Beginnings has an intriguing beginning - a vicar 'disappears'. The main character in this book is Jo, a woman who temporarily takes on minding her elderly uncle's small hardware and stationery shop in a small street in Highgate, London, while he goes into respite care. As a child she enjoyed many school holidays with him, 'helping' in the shop, and so was happy to look after it, also to give her time and space to cope with a broken heart after her long-term boyfriend had walked out on her.

So this is a story of the people who wander into the shop – the optician and the tattooist in the neighbouring premises, a few regular customers and the odd ‘pop-ins’. Then one day, the vicar who disappeared happens to come in. Jo knows she’s seen that face somewhere before but can’t quite place it, till later... It’s a story of developing friendships and how they can heal. There’s a lot of tears shed (by me) and also a lot of smiles and laughs (also by me!).

I thoroughly recommend them both.

Plus... You may recall in a *Bookshelf* article in March 2023 I enthused about the Richard Osman *Thursday Murder Club* series. At that point I had read the first three, almost back-to-back. Now, again thanks to Anita, I’ve just read the fourth in the series, *The Last Devil to Die*. If you’ve still not read them, give yourself a real treat and put them on your list! They are so witty and funny, even though they’re sprinkled with bad people and bad things happening (and the odd murder of course), but so sensitive and emotional too. Well written and an absolute joy to read.



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 May

13 May Speaker: Chris Rowe – *Sulgrave Manor*

27 May *Spring Bank Holiday – No meeting*

The full Spring / Summer programme is on our website: Click on 'Community & Events', then 'St Matthew's Ladies Group' in the right-hand column.



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

Parish Giving Scheme

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



THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST MATTHEW • NORTHAMPTON

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

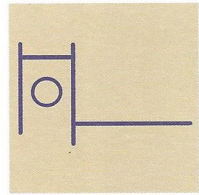
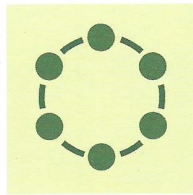
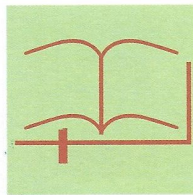
There are two methods of payment available: by a banker's direct debit or by weekly-numbered envelopes via the collection plate. The amount that you give is entirely confidential and is known only to the lay people who administer the Scheme.

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

Polly Matthews

<office@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

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

Ministry Team

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

Parish Officers

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

St Matthew's Trust

Ben Drouet
chairman@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Particular Responsibility

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

Music Department

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

Walsingham Cell

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