

St Matthew's
MAIL

Suggested
Donation

£1.00

News from the Parish of Kingsley, Northampton

APRIL 2026



www.stmatthewsnorthampton.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 winter months of November to March, may be 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	12 noon Mass
Thursday	12 noon 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 April

<i>Date</i>	<i>Observance</i>	<i>Intention</i>
1	Wednesday in Holy Week	Suffering for a good cause
THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM		
2	MAUNDY THURSDAY	Self-giving to others in the Christian life
3	GOOD FRIDAY	
4	HOLY SATURDAY	
5	EASTER DAY	The Passover of Our Lord Jesus Christ
6	Monday in Easter Week	Thanksgiving for the)
7	Tuesday in Easter Week	Resurrection of)
8	Wednesday in Easter Week	Our Lord Jesus Christ)
9	Thursday in Easter Week)
10	Friday in Easter Week)
11	Saturday in Easter Week)
12	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER	The Parish
13	Feria	Speaking the truth in love
14	Feria	Signs of resurrection in nature
15	Feria	Imprisonment for a worthy cause
16	Feria	Obedying God rather than humans
17	Of OLW	The Shrine, Society and our Cell
18	Feria	The various ministries in the church
19	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	The Parish
20	Monthly Requiem	The Faithful Departed
21	S Anselm, B, Dr	For Archbishop Sarah
22	Feria	Sharing our faith
23	S George, M, Patron of England	For the Royal Family
24	Feria	God in bread and wine: the great humility of God
25	S Mark, Ev	Speaking the truth directly
26	THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
27	Feria	The Shepherd and the sheep gate
28	Feria	Hearing the voice of the shepherd
29	S Catherine of Sienna, V, Dr	The value of contemplation
30	Feria	The evil of character assassination

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

April Pastoral Letter from the Vicar

Dear friends,

This year the month of April opens in an unusual and rather beautiful way: it begins in the very heart of Holy Week. The turning of the calendar coincides with the turning point of the Christian story, as we stand on the threshold of the Paschal Triduum – the Three Great Days of Christ's Passover from death to life.

The word Triduum simply means "three days", but they are three days unlike any other. From the evening of Maundy Thursday until the dawn of Easter Day, the Church does something remarkable. Rather than marking separate services, we enter a single unfolding act of worship that carries us through the last hours of Christ's earthly life: the supper in the upper room, the watch in Gethsemane, the silence of the cross, the stillness of the tomb, and finally the blazing joy of the Resurrection.

These are not merely commemorations of events long ago. The Church keeps these days because they draw us into the mystery itself. In worship we are not spectators of the Passion and Resurrection; we become participants in them. The Passover of Christ – his passage through suffering and death into new and indestructible life – becomes the pattern and promise of our own.

That is why these days matter so deeply. The Triduum brings us face to face with the great questions that sit quietly beneath our everyday lives: What does love look like when it is tested? What does faith mean when the world seems dark? What becomes of us in the end?

The Christian answer is given not as an argument but as a story – the story we keep in these days. On Maundy Thursday we see love kneeling to wash feet and offering itself in bread and wine. On Good Friday we stand before a love that goes to the uttermost, even to death. And on Easter morning we discover that death does not have the final word. The crucified one is alive.

It is tempting, of course, to skip straight to Easter Day. The chocolate eggs arrive early enough, and spring itself seems eager to rush ahead. But the wisdom of the Church is that we walk the whole journey. We watch with Christ in the garden. We keep silence at the cross. Only then do we discover how astonishing the Resurrection really is.

And at this time of year the world seems almost to speak the same message. April is full of small resurrections. The trees that looked so lifeless only weeks ago are suddenly tipped with green. Bulbs that lay hidden and dormant beneath the soil push their way into colour and fragrance. Light lingers longer in the evening. Life appears where, not long ago, everything seemed still and sleeping.

Creation itself seems to whisper the Easter promise: that what appears finished may not be finished at all.

For Christians this promise reaches far beyond the changing seasons. The Resurrection of Christ speaks not only of springtime but of eternity. It tells us that our lives are not closed circles ending in the silence of the grave, but journeys whose true horizon is life with God.

That is why, during Eastertide, the Church continues to pray for those we love who have died. We do so not in the shadow of despair but in the light of hope. Because Christ has passed through death and opened the way to life, we trust that those who belong to him are held in that same promise. The love that binds us to one another is not undone by death; it is gathered into God's own life.

Easter therefore reshapes how we live now. To believe in the Resurrection is not only to hope for life beyond death. It is to live already as people of the new creation – people who trust that love is stronger than hatred, mercy stronger than resentment, and life stronger than death.

Or, to put it more simply: Easter people should look like people who know that hope is justified.

The fifty days of Eastertide give us time to grow into that truth. If Lent is a season of searching and repentance, Easter is a season of learning to breathe again – of rediscovering joy, gratitude, and generosity. The risen Christ greets his disciples not with reproach but with peace, and he sends them out into the world as bearers of that peace.

My hope is that many of us will walk through the Triduum together this year. These liturgies are among the most beautiful and profound the Church offers. But more than that, they help us rediscover who we are. We are people who have passed through the waters of baptism, people whose lives are bound to the death and resurrection of Christ.

We are, in other words, a resurrection people.

So as the days lengthen and the colours of spring begin to brighten our streets and gardens, may they remind us of the deeper springtime that Easter proclaims. Christ is risen. Life is stronger than death. Love is stronger than the grave.

And because of that, the future – both ours and the world's – is held safely in God's hands.

With every blessing for a joyful and hope-filled Eastertide,

Fr. Nicholas

Happy Easter

One Easter Sunday morning, as we reached 'The Peace' in our service, I said:

"Today, instead of saying 'peace be with you' we will try something different. Turn to someone and say, 'The Lord is risen' and they will reply, 'He is risen indeed!'" Everyone nodded and smiled. So, I approached a tall man in the front row. "George, the Lord is risen!" I said with suitably uncontained enthusiasm. He replied, in a rather gruff and unimpressed voice, "I know."



Perhaps on Easter Day, I should have stuck with the usual response: "Peace be with you." Why? Because that is the way Jesus greeted his disciples after his resurrection. "Peace be with you."

A friend of mine was once leading Collective Worship in his local primary school and asked the children what Jesus said to his disciples on that first Easter morning. A forest of hands went up. "Yes," said my friend, pointing at an excited looking girl. "Happy Easter!" the girl replied. Well, not quite. "Peace be with you" was the answer he was looking for.

Before the world can experience a Happy Easter, there has to be a desire for that deep down, God-given peace. We watch the news on TV and there seems to be nothing we can do. Not true. We can start where we are – at work, at home or in the community.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God."

Happy Easter!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R Ormston', with a horizontal line underneath.

The Venerable Richard Ormston
Archdeacon of Northampton

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Weekday Scripture Readings for April



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	Isaiah 63.1-9	Revelation 14.18 – 15.4
Thursday	2	Exodus 11	Ephesians 2.11-18
Friday	3	Lamentations 5.15-end	Colossians 1.18-23
Saturday	4	Job 19.21-27	1 John 5.5-12
Monday	6	Isaiah 54.1-14	Romans 1.1-7
Tuesday	7	Isaiah 51.1-11	John 5.19-29
Wednesday	8	Isaiah 26.1-19	John 20.1-10
Thursday	9	Isaiah 43.14-21	Revelation 1.4-end
Friday	10	Isaiah 42.10-17	1 Thessalonians 5.1-11
Saturday	11	Job 14.1-14	John 21,1-14
Monday	13	Ezekiel 1.22-end	Revelation 4
Tuesday	14	Proverbs 8.1-11	Acts 16.6-15
Wednesday	15	Hosea 5.15 – 6.6	1 Corinthians 15.1-11
Thursday	16	Jonah 2	Mark 4.35-end
Friday	17	Genesis 6.9-end	1 Peter 3.8-end
Saturday	18	1 Samuel 2.1-8	Matthew 28.8-15
Monday	20	Exodus 24.1-11	Revelation 5
Tuesday	21	Leviticus 19.9-18, 32-end	Matthew 5.38-end
Wednesday	22	Genesis 3.8-21	1 Corinthians 15.12-28
Thursday	23	Isaiah 43.1-7	John 15.1-8
Friday	24	Nehemiah 9.6-17	Romans 5.12-end
Saturday	25	Ezekiel 1.4-14	2 Timothy 4.1-11
Monday	27	Jeremiah 31.10-17	Revelation 7.9-end
Tuesday	28	Job 31.13-23	Matthew 7.1-12
Wednesday	29	Genesis 2.4 <i>b</i> -9	1 Corinthians 15.35-49
Thursday	30	Proverbs 28.3-end	Mark 10.17-31

Chippings from the Vicar's Work Bench

Tenebrae – Wednesday of Holy Week at 7.30pm

Tenebrae – a Latin word meaning “darkness” or “shadows” – is one of the most atmospheric and prayerful services of Holy Week. Rooted in the ancient monastic night offices, it gathers psalms, readings and music into a single meditative act of worship that leads us gently yet deeply into the mystery of Christ’s suffering and death. The service begins in candlelight and gradually moves into darkness as candles are extinguished one by one. This slow fading of light is not theatrical for its own sake; rather, it helps us to feel – as well as to reflect upon – the growing abandonment, sorrow, and apparent defeat that mark the Passion of Christ. We wait in the shadows, just as the first disciples did: not yet at Easter, but not without hope.

Tenebrae is a fitting preparation for the Easter Triduum. It stills us, quiets our distractions, and allows the story of the Passion to sink from our heads into our hearts. By lingering with Christ in the darkness, we become more ready to walk with him through the solemn days of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday – and therefore more able to share fully in the joy of the Resurrection. The service ends in silence, leaving us to carry that prayerful stillness with us into the holiest days of the year. All are warmly invited to come and experience this beautiful and powerful beginning to the sacred Three Days.

Maundy Thursday – The Liturgy of the Last Supper at 7.30pm

On Maundy Thursday we begin the Easter Triduum – the sacred Three Days at the heart of the Christian year. At the Liturgy of the Last Supper we remember three great gifts: Christ’s example of humble service, the institution of the Eucharist, and his loving obedience to the Father as he goes out to Gethsemane. During the service, twelve people are invited to take part in the washing of feet, recalling Jesus kneeling to serve his disciples. If you would like to participate, please add your name to the list in church. All ages are welcome.

Watch at the Garden of Gethsemane

After the service we keep watch with Christ in the Garden, responding to his question to the disciples: “Could you not watch with me one hour?” The Watch continues until midnight and resumes again at 6.00am. Please come and go quietly via the north door and sign up for a time slot. For safety, we ask that at least two people are present at any one time.

Church Cleaning – Holy Saturday (4 April) from 9.30am

After Morning Prayer on Holy Saturday we prepare our church for the joy of Easter. This practical care for our building is also an act of love and devotion. Many hands really do make light work – and refreshments will be provided. Do come if you are able to help.

Easter Day

At the Parish Mass of the Resurrection on 5 April we will also celebrate the baptism of Matilda Vittoria Fowles. She and her mother, Mariana, have been worshipping with us for some time. Please remember them in your prayers. As part of the celebration, our participation in the baptism will be arranged so that on Easter Day we may renew our own baptismal vows together.

Easter Bank Holiday

Please note that Mass on 6 April is cancelled.

Post-Easter Break

Fr Nicholas will be off duty from Monday 6 to Sunday 12 April inclusive. During this time Fr Nicholas Gandy will be officiating at our services.

The Ministry of Healing

Please note that the April Healing Mass with intercessions before the Blessed Sacrament will not take place.

Parish Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham

Our Walsingham Cell is a group within the parish with a particular devotion to Our Lady and to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. It offers a gentle rhythm of Mass, prayer, and fellowship, rooted in the mystery of the Incarnation – God coming among us through Mary's faithful "yes".

Since its inception, the Cell has met on the second Saturday of each month at 9.30am. It has become clear that this day and time do not suit everyone who might wish to attend the monthly Mass of the Holy House, and may prevent new members from joining. For a trial period we will vary the day – and therefore the time – within the second week of the month, in the hope that this will make the Cell more accessible. We will review how this works in due course. In April, the Cell Mass and meeting will be held in the Lady Chapel on Friday 17 April at 12 noon. If you have been curious but unsure about coming, this would be a lovely time to begin.

Building a More Generous Church

During Lent we reflected on what it means to become a generous church. Fr Nicholas set out the Church of England's teaching on Christian stewardship and how this might shape our life together. His homilies, together with the Gospel readings on which they were based, have been gathered into a booklet available at the back of church. We ask every adult to take a copy and read it alongside the accompanying handout prepared by our Finance and Stewardship Group outlining the financial position of the parish.

There is a very real need to grow our regular income if we are to remain sustainable in the long term. Yet this is about far more than balancing accounts. It concerns the shape of a Christian life. What does generosity

look like in our time, our gifts, our attention, our hospitality – and yes, in our financial giving? The future shape of our life together in God's name depends, in no small measure, on how each of us responds. Please take time to read the material carefully, to pray, and to reflect. A simple question to hold before God might be: "Is it generous?" We believe in a generous God who pours out his love without measure. A generous life is therefore one of the clearest signs of Christian faith. As generosity grows, so too does our likeness to the God we worship. The ministry and mission of St Matthew's are sustained through the faithful generosity of parishioners. Thank you for all that is already given – and for all that is prayerfully considered in the weeks ahead.

Monthly Requiem

We remember the Faithful Departed of April at Mass on Monday 20 April at 7.00pm, praying for the repose of their immortal souls. All are welcome, especially those with loved ones who died during this month.

Holy Baptism

On the Third Sunday of Easter, 19 April at 10.15am, Annabel Eva Kinchella and Melisa Kitajeva will be baptised during the Parish Mass. Please remember them in your prayers as they prepare for this step, and also their families and friends. You may recall that their mothers, Sintia and Kristine, were themselves baptised earlier this year so that they might be godparents to one another's children.

Annual Reports Meeting

PCC members are reminded that we meet in the Garden Room after Mass on 19 April. The meeting has a single purpose: to receive the reports in preparation for the Annual Meeting in May, and will therefore be brief.

All-Age Mass for the Parish Family

Our next All-Age Mass takes place on Sunday 3 May at 10.15am. Our time together will be based on the Gospel reading for the day, John 14.1–14, where the disciples discover that Jesus is with us on the journey of life. He prepares the way for us, walks beside us as our companion, and through him we are led into eternal life. Do come and join us.

Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

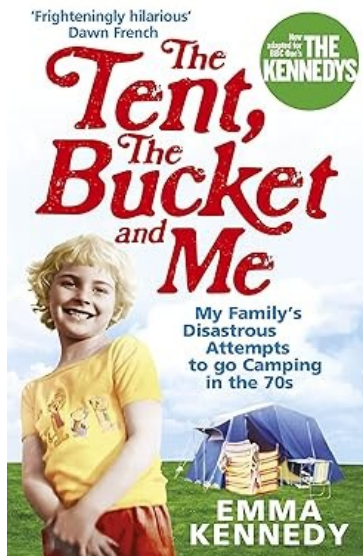
On Sunday 10 May we take stock of our parish life and elect two churchwardens to serve for the coming year, along with new PCC members and ministers of welcome etc. This is an important moment in the life of the parish – an opportunity to give thanks for faithful service and to look ahead together. Please make a note in your diary and come prepared to participate.

On the Bookshelf

Dorrie Parker

This is a book I would never have read. Speaking as a retired graphic designer, the cover wouldn't have got a second glance, and the title completely glossed over..!

As I've shared with you before, I have a 'book swap' regularly with my hairdresser, and she gave me this one saying, "You'll love this". It was a charity shop find by her sister, passed on to Rachel, and then from her to me. I hadn't heard of this author, though Emma Kennedy is a well-known actress and writer, and the book had been dramatized for television.



Emma was born in 1967 and this book *The Tent, The Bucket and Me* relates the annual disastrous camping holidays of her family (her parents were both teachers), starting in 1970 when Emma was three, and continuing through to 1979. It is hilarious. And was just the tonic when I read it during those grey rainy days in January. If you crave something with that 'feel-good factor' to cheer you up, then try this. It was published in 2009 but available through Amazon, Ebay etc.

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 April

13 April	Sandra Rivett	–	<i>My Zambian Adventure</i>
27 April	Kate Wills	–	<i>Royal Northamptonshire</i>

The full Spring/Summer 2026 programme is on our website:

Click on the 3-bar menu, go to News & Events
and then St Matthew's Ladies Group

The 1895 Walker Organ in St Matthew's

Tom Moore

Director of Music

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the rebuilding of the grand Walker Organ in St Matthew's.

It is well documented that the instrument, considered a masterpiece of Walker's work and of international significance due to its largely original specification and unaltered pipework, was by the early 2000s starting to become unreliable and difficult to maintain due to age and component parts simply having worn out. The organ needed a major rebuild, and the Vicar and PCC at the time saw fit to invest some £360,000 into its complete renovation. The organ underwent major 'surgery' in 2005/2006 and was ultimately restored, rebuilt and rededicated at the Dedication Festival in September 2006.

To mark this 20 year milestone, we are planning a number of events and recitals this year to showcase the organ, and to give those who have an interest in the instrument an education in how the instrument works, how the pipes make sound, and to show you around the instrument into parts of the organ that you never see from your seats in the nave. It is a fascinating instrument and can very easily be taken for granted each time we come for services where the organ is in use. We expect to be able to turn it on, for the organist to sit at it, and for music to come out; but its unbelievably complicated systems mean that it is a pure wonder that such a thing ever makes the beautiful sounds we hear and appreciate each week.

The celebration of this organ which St Matthew's and its people should feel so rightly proud of will initially take on the form of a series of recitals by organists who have a connection to St Matthew's, which will take place on certain Sunday evenings after Choral Evensongs. Later in the year, we are planning a 'meet the organ' event and, at St Matthew-tide, a silent movie will be presented where the organ will be used to accompany a film on a big screen. Keep an eye out for dates being released soon.



Organ Evensong

Tom Moore

Director of Music

On the afternoon of Sunday 15 March, Mothering Sunday, Evensong and Benediction at St Matthew's took on a slightly different format. Instead of our choir singing the service, appropriate organ music was selected and played for the main constituent parts of the Evensong service. Music by JS Bach composed on the text of the Magnificat and Nunc dimittis and taken from the Orgelbüchlein and Schübler Chorales collections was performed at the appropriate points in the service, with further music on the Marian theme of the day being played at the point of the introit (Prelude on 'Immaculate Mary' by Callahan) and at the conclusion of the service (The Fugue on the Magnificat, by Bach).

There were two improvisations at the time of Benediction, the first a reflective interlude on the plainsong theme used to set the antiphon 'Let us adore for ever the most holy sacrament' to music, and the second a flashy French Toccata on the plainsong theme 'Pange Lingua. Those present in the congregation had the opportunity to take part in the service by way of singing the hymns selected, as well as the Ferial responses for Evensong that day.

Thank you very much to those who came to appreciate the rather different take on Evensong that day.

Friends of St Matthew's Music 100+ Club

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

Number **17**, held by **Tanya Hayes**



You too could win the **single prize of £50** in our monthly draw if you had a number! For just £3.00 a month you'd be in with a chance, whilst also helping pay for our Director of Music's salary.

For full details and a form, please email jonathan.starmer@yahoo.com

Jonathan Starmer

Serving in South Sudan

Siân Millard

Since October, I have been living in a refugee camp in South Sudan. More specifically, we live in a camp together with Sudanese refugees who have fled conflict and instability in their home country. It is a place marked by many challenges, yet also by deep resilience, warmth, and hope.



I am here supporting a team that has founded a school and helped launch a small hospital to serve the refugees and the surrounding community. Education and basic medical care are urgently needed, and it is encouraging to see how these projects are slowly taking root.



Beginning in March, I will be working more directly in the hospital. My role will focus on prenatal care for pregnant women as well as conducting tests for typhoid and malaria – two illnesses that are very common in this region. Access to basic medical care can make a life changing difference here, especially for mothers and young children. It is a privilege to be able to serve in this way.



Our daily life is very simple. We live closely alongside the Sudanese refugees and share much of everyday life with them. There is no running water, and electricity comes only from a small solar panel on our roof. Our meals are local food, usually based on millet, prepared in traditional ways. Life here is not defined by comfort or convenience, but by relationships and shared experiences.

In the afternoons, I study Arabic together with a local woman. Learning the language has opened many doors and deepened my connection with the people. Hospitality is deeply rooted in the culture here. You can visit anyone at almost any time – just knock on the door, and you will be warmly invited inside. Tea or coffee is immediately served, often coffee prepared with ginger, which is especially good. Conversation flows easily, and community happens naturally. If your visit coincides with a mealtime, you simply join and eat together. The people here are incredibly friendly, warm-hearted, and generous.

The heart of our team's mission is to share the love of Jesus in both word and action. That vision is what motivated me to come here. In the midst of limited resources and challenging circumstances, we seek to be present, to serve faithfully, and to reflect Christ's compassion in practical ways.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support. It is a blessing to be part of this work and to witness the strength, dignity, and hospitality of the Sudanese refugees here in South Sudan.

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 MAY magazine is SUNDAY 12 APRIL

Editor: Dorrie Parker

Layout and production: Gary Drinkwater

A Time of Sharing

Mavis James

“One of the amazing things about the Spiritual Aspects of Life is the daily opportunities for growth plus renewal – also in God not creating men alike, thus resulting in the widening and understanding of our views.”

This challenging quote formed an ‘Eventide-time’ of sharing discussion when a group of Pilgrims attended the Oberammergau Passion Play 2010 under the leadership of the late Fr Peter Garlick. As we mourn the loss of him, I recall glimpses of this quote relating to his ministry among us.

Fr Peter was truly an inspirational figure, compassionate, attentive and time giving. Very human with a twinkle of the eye, a chuckle, nod or gentle smile as we passed him by. His great skill of communication allowed him to enter our ‘Joys and Sorrows’ and by planting words of wisdom he possibly transformed and shaped some lives.

It was during another Eventide Session at Oberammergau that Fr Peter reviewed his thoughts on daily living, by suggesting that “The journey of life is sensing that you are travelling in the right direction to things eternal”, thus confirming his dedication to the Ministry and Service to others. Among his many attributes Fr Peter cast a glimmer of hope over our shadows by introducing a keen sense of humour in our lives and it was as we arrived at the relaxed village of Imst in Austria that we captured his ‘fun loving spirit’ as he released an abundance of energy leaving us in shrieks of laughter outpouring his joking manner. So on a joyous note I leave you with a last quote.

Sunday 5 September 2010

Not on the itinerary but a last-minute offer by Fr Peter encouraging us to experience the Alpine Coaster which won 100% support for our leader’s vision and confidence in us!

Following Morning Worship and lunch we set off in summer attire to catch the local bus to the first stage of the chair lift. Here we rose swiftly to treetop level, making the Alpine Coaster seem almost miniature from below. Surprisingly three members had decided to remain at the base to care for extra baggage and set up cameras for the finish. In 10 minutes we arrived at the top, surrounded by the most beautiful Alpine sounds and scenery. The descent was met with mixed feelings as we alighted our individual

toboggan and waited for the green light to flash. Then we were very much exposed to the elements and with just one control – the brake to measure the distance between each person. The hairpin bends were a challenge but the toboggan tilted in our favour as we approached the slopes with some caution. On the descent it was comforting to be close to the ground and catch the flash of the camera and hear Fr Peter’s voice saying “Well done!” A count on the last bus back suggested three of the group were missing; for them it was to be a taxi journey to the hotel. “They just needed extra time to face the challenge.”

For all the seeds he planted and shared with us
We give our thanks today.

A Tribute to The Revd Canon Peter Garlick

Canon’s Challenge Prayer of an unknown Confederate Soldier

I asked for strength that I might achieve;
I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.

I asked for health that I might do greater things;
I was given infirmity that I might do better things.

I asked for riches that I might be happy;
I was given poverty that I might be wise.

I asked for power that I might have the praise of men;
I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.

I asked for all things that I might enjoy life;
I was given life that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing that I had asked for,
But everything that I had hoped for.

Almost despite myself my unspoken prayers were answered;
I am, among all men, most richly blessed,

Amen.

32nd St Matthew's Multi-Aged Girlguiding

Mandy Ludlow

Celebrations, Crafts and Community Spirit

Reflecting on an eventful term before Easter

The Easter holidays are almost upon us and it is in fact only four weeks since we started back following the February half term. During those four weeks all sections have been busy. The Rainbows and Brownies decorated glass jars into which they put tea lights, then these were used as their 'Guiding Lights' to celebrate 100 years of World Thinking Day; the scariest thing about that was I have been part of World Thinking Day for over half of them! The Guides cooked – what can you make and get cooked in 1½ hours, using a recipe from another country? At the same time, they were completing their Food Critic interest badge and needed to use bread in three different ways. They had already made toast, French bread



pizza and used tortillas to make snacks for the Rainbows and Brownies. The answer to the conundrum was Irish soda bread; I had found an easy recipe that used no yeast, and all the girls made a brilliant loaf of bread to take home at the end of the evening. The following week lots of positive comments from parents were received, the loaf not lasting very long, and all agreed it was great.

Thinking Day this year was closely followed by Mothering Sunday, and we always try to make something for the girls to give as a present, and this year was no exception – a wine glass and some acrylic felt tip pens and lots of imagination. The girls had a great time decorating them and they looked very professional when they had finished, and they were then filled with chocolates. To add to the gift the girls made a scroll card which was tied with ribbon.



Our Spring craft market was also held in March; we had over 25 stalls selling lots of unique handmade items. Despite lots of advertising the footfall was not as good as it might have been; however it was a lovely event, and the stallholders are now returning as they tell us we are one of the friendliest they attend.

On 21 March, World Downs Syndrome Day, Girlguiding was asked to take part in the Sunflower Challenge, so the girls all set sunflower seeds. We have now challenged them to see who can grow the tallest sunflower this summer.



EID is an important celebration for our Muslim girls and leaders, and we have been invited to submit bunting for this year's Northampton Town EID festival which they will display. Armed with paper plates previously painted blue, more blue and white paint and glitter we started our creations to represent the moon and stars. Glitter is a bit of a controversial issue as it is not biodegradable; luckily, we have found eco-friendly, plant-based glitter which looks just as good as the usual kind.



Café Guides continues to become more professional – we now do the food ordering digitally which prints the food order for the kitchen, and those taking the money can find the order on another machine. We really appreciate all the support we receive from the congregation; the money we raise allows us to support the Church in a meaningful way by paying a monthly amount of £100, and we also sponsor the production of the service booklet four times a year and provide the refreshments for those cleaning on Holy Saturday. Our Craft Markets help to provide transport for trips so that we can include all the girls as some of them do not have transport and this would preclude them from attending. Thank you to all who support us with Café Guides.

Wishing you all a Happy and Blessed Easter.

Café Guides Recipe for April

Looking in my freezer, I came across some frozen strawberries and rhubarb left over from last season at the allotment, so how to use them up before the new crops start to arrive? A soft vanilla cake base topped with tangy-sweet rhubarb and strawberries, finished with a buttery crumble – perfect for Easter.

Easter Strawberry & Rhubarb Crumble Cake

Ingredients

For the fruit layer

- 300g frozen strawberries
- 250g frozen rhubarb
- 80g sugar
- 1 tbsp cornflour
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

For the cake base

- 150g butter (softened)
- 150g sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 180g flour
- 1½ tsp baking powder
- Pinch of salt
- 3 tbsp milk



For the crumble topping

- 100g flour
- 70g cold butter (cubed)
- 60g sugar
- Optional: handful of oats or chopped nuts

Method

1. Prep the fruit

- Preheat oven to 180°C (160°C fan).
- Mix frozen strawberries and rhubarb with sugar, cornflour, and vanilla.
- Set aside (no need to thaw fully).

2. Make the cake

- Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy.
- Beat in eggs one at a time, then vanilla.
- Fold in dry ingredients and milk until smooth.

3. Assemble

- Spread batter into a lined 23cm tin.
- Spoon fruit mixture over the top.

4. Make the crumble

- Rub butter into flour and sugar until crumbly. Stir in the nuts or oats if using.
- Sprinkle over fruit.

5. Bake

- Bake 45–55 minutes until golden and set.

To Serve

Dust with icing sugar and serve warm with custard or cream



The Parish Church of St Matthew

HOLY WEEK

Monday 30 March

7.30pm

Mass with homily

Tuesday 31 March

7.30pm

Mass with homily

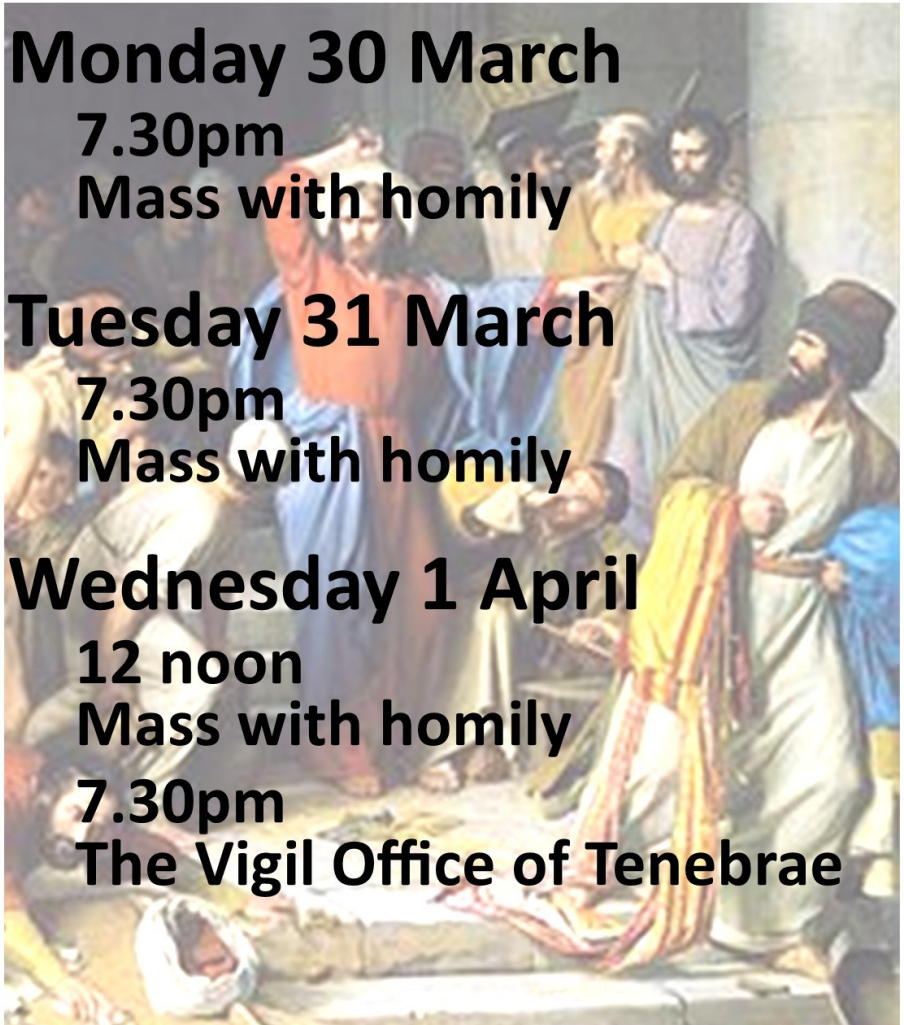
Wednesday 1 April

12 noon

Mass with homily

7.30pm

The Vigil Office of Tenebrae



The Parish Church of St Matthew

THE EASTER TRIDUUM

Thursday 2 April

MAUNDY THURSDAY



7.30pm

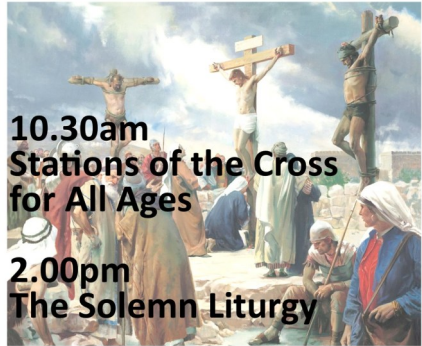
Liturgy of the Last Supper,
Foot Washing,
Stripping of the Altar, and
Watch at the
Garden of Gethsemane

The Parish Church of St Matthew

THE EASTER TRIDUUM

Friday 3 April

GOOD FRIDAY



10.30am

Stations of the Cross
for All Ages

2.00pm

The Solemn Liturgy

The Parish Church of St Matthew

THE EASTER TRIDUUM

Saturday 4 April

HOLY SATURDAY



8.30pm

The Pascal Vigil and
First Mass of Easter

The Parish Church of St Matthew

Sunday 5 April

EASTER DAY

10.15am

Procession and Parish
Mass of the Resurrection



5.30pm

Solemn Choral Evensong

The Parish Church of St Matthew

Sunday 3 May

10.15am

All Age Mass

for the Parish Family



5.30pm

Choral Evensong

RESERVE A TABLE

ITALIAN CUISINE

ITALIAN CUISINE

NOW OPEN



LA TIELLA

Monday 15:00 - 23:00

Tuesday Closed

Wednesday to Sunday 15:00 - 23:00



An Extraordinary View of St Matthew's

Anita arranged for this photo to be included in the magazine – it was posted by Carl Everitt on the Facebook Northamptonshire Countryside Photos page of a foggy sunrise on Friday 6 Ma



St Matthew's website also has some interesting views of the church – Click on the 3-bar menu, go to Ministry & Mission and then Photo Gallery



www.dailybread.co.uk

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Open Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.30pm

Saturday 9.00am to 5.00pm

A Christian 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.

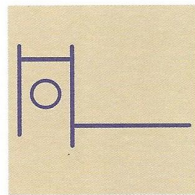
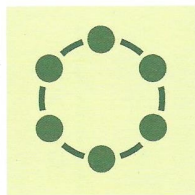
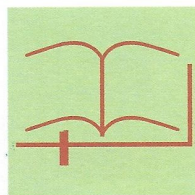
The Scheme is the most tax efficient way of contributing to the church because contributions may be eligible for Gift Aid (raising your donation by 25% at no cost to either you or St Matthew's).

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 as below.

Polly Matthews

<office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk>



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

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

Parish Officers

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Dave Wilson
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PCC Treasurer Donald Cran
treasurer@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
Stewardship Recorder Polly Matthews

St Matthew's Trust

Ben Drouet
chairman@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Particular Responsibility

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Friends of Steve Stringfellow
St Matthew's Music friends@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Walsingham Cell

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