

St Matthew's **MAIL**

**Suggested
Donation**

£1.00

News from the Parish of Kingsley, Northampton

JULY 2025



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
--------	---------------------------------

Fourth and Fifth Sundays in the month

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

Weekdays *(During the winter months of November to March, held in the Parish Centre)*

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

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

Tuesday 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 July

<i>Date</i>	<i>Observance</i>	<i>Intention</i>
1	Feria	Those being ordained
2	Feria	Our PCC
3	S Thomas, Ap	Strengthening our faith
4	Feria	Preparations for the Summer Fete
5	Of the BVM	Survivors of abuse, learning the lessons
6	THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 9)	
7	Feria	The Ministry of Healing
8	Feria	The Greater Northampton Deanery Synod
9	Feria	Conflict in the Middle East
10	Feria	Care and residential homes of our community
11	S Benedict, Ab, Patron of Europe	Having a 'rule of life'
12	Of OLV	The Shrine and Society
13	THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Proper 10)	
14	Feria	Those preparing for baptism
15	S Bonaventure, B, Dr	The teaching profession
16	Feria	Disruption of the 'World order'
17	Monthly Requiem	The Faithful Departed
18	Feria	For Kingsley Primary School
19	Of the BVM	For children caring for adults
20	THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 11)	
21	Feria	The school holidays and family living
22	S Mary Magdalene	Those on the margins of society
23	S Bridget of Sweden, Rel, Patron of Europe	Forced marriages
24	Feria	Travelling in safety
25	S James, Ap	The fishing industry
26	Ss Joachim and Anna, Parents of the BVM	NGH Baby Care Unit
27	THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 12)	
28	Feria	Our use of precious resources
29	S Martha, Mary and Lazarus	The blessings and tribulations of family life
30	Feria	Those awaiting examination results
31	S Ignatius of Loyola, Pr	Finding 'quality' time for prayer

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

July Pastoral Letter from the Vicar

The Sacred Rhythm of Rest

As the days lengthen and the sun casts its golden warmth over fields and city streets alike, we find ourselves in the heart of summer – a season often dubbed the “silly season” in the media. Parliament recesses, school playgrounds fall silent, and inboxes fill with out-of-office replies. For many, this time of year signals holidays, travel, and a welcome pause from the relentless rhythm of routine. But beneath the surface of beach days and BBQs lies something deeply human – and deeply spiritual.

From the very beginning, rest has been part of God’s design. In Genesis, we read that on the seventh day, God rested from all his work. This divine pause wasn’t because God was weary, but to establish a holy rhythm for creation: work and rest in balance. Summer holidays offer us a contemporary echo of this sacred pattern. They are an invitation to step away from the pressures of daily life and enter into a time of physical rest, mental unburdening, and spiritual reflection. In a world that often glorifies busyness, choosing to rest can feel counter-cultural. Yet scripture reminds us again and again of the importance of stillness. “Be still, and know that I am God,” writes the psalmist (Psalm 46:10). In rest, we recover not only our strength but our sense of who we are – and whose we are.

For those able to travel during the summer, whether across the world or just beyond the next village, there is something uniquely enriching about encountering new places and people. Travel expands our horizons, challenges our assumptions, and opens our eyes to the beauty and diversity of God’s creation. Even a short change of scenery can bring unexpected insights – a fresh appreciation for home, a renewed sense of gratitude, or a new idea sparked by conversation or observation. Jesus himself often withdrew from the crowds, retreating to the hills or the lakeside to pray and rest. His example reminds us that time away isn’t just a luxury; it’s a necessity for spiritual clarity and renewal.

In recent years, society has become more aware of the vital link between rest and mental health. Burnout, anxiety, and stress are common challenges in our communities, including among those in ministry and church life. Rest is not just good practice; it is an act of stewardship – caring for the body, mind, and soul God has given us. Moments of rest give space for joy, laughter, sleep, creativity, and the simple pleasure of being rather than doing. They allow healing and give us the strength to return to our responsibilities with clearer vision and deeper peace.

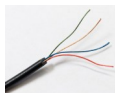
As summer fades and the familiar routines of September beckon, we may find ourselves returning not just to work or school, but to our callings with new energy and perspective. Holidays don't just interrupt our routines – they enrich them. They prepare us to re-engage with our lives, our communities, and our ministries with deeper compassion and sharper purpose.

So whether your summer holds foreign adventures or quiet afternoons in the garden, may you embrace this season as a gift. May your rest be restorative, your travels inspiring, and your return full of hope and clarity. For in all of life's seasons, even the so-called "silly" one, God is at work – renewing, restoring, and reminding us of his ever-present love and grace.

Your sincere friend and parish priest,

F. Nicholas

36th Northampton (St. Matthew's) Scout Group



Any Old Copper?

St Matthew's Scout Group are now raising funds for new tents.

We are doing this by collecting copper from old electrical flex such as kettle leads, computer cables, mains cable, anything that has copper running through it. Also old copper piping.



If an old electrical appliance breaks down, safely cut off the flex (unplug from the mains first!).

If you can remember 10 years ago, we did this with your generous help and raised enough money for our current tents which are now showing their age after numerous memorable camps.



We shall have a yellow container on the stage for any donations.

Thank you!

Mr Badger



Our Shared Calling

July is the season of ordinations – a time to celebrate those who have been called to special ministries in the life of the Church, as deacons and priests, but also an opportunity to reflect on what God is calling US to be and to do. For us at the Cathedral, the ordinations come hot on the heels of our patronal festival when we remember St Peter, that rather unlikely hero of the Christian faith, who so often seemed not to be the ‘rock’ that Jesus had nick-named him! Nevertheless, Peter managed to come to terms with his past failings, and respond to Christ’s forgiveness, and the call to “feed my sheep”.



It's surely true that none of our new priests and deacons are the finished article either. Like Peter, like all of us, they will have much to learn about themselves, their role and the communities they serve and every new experience and challenge offers all of us an opportunity to learn and grow, if we are humble enough to accept it in that way.

This year the ordination service has a particular resonance for me as I will have just celebrated 40 years as a priest. A lot has changed since the summer day in 1985 when I was ordained. Shops were still closed on Sundays; the ordination of women was still to happen; there was no ‘internet’, mobile phones or social media; it was still likely that people would apologise for not going to church – rather than express amazement that anyone still does!

But in the midst of that, I know I’ve changed and hope that I will continue to do so. Not in the strong sense of calling that I still feel, but in recognising that in a changing world, while the message of Christ’s love remains constant, how that love is to be lived out and the good news of it shared has and will continue to change and develop. All of us are called by the one Spirit of God. May we seek to follow that call and live it out, wherever it leads us.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Dalliston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" and last name "Dalliston" clearly distinguishable.

The Very Revd Chris Dalliston
Dean of Peterborough

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

Email: communications@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Weekday Scripture Readings for July

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.



Tuesday	1	Proverbs 3.1-18	Matthew 5.1-12
Wednesday	2	Judges 6.1-16	Matthew 5.13-24
Thursday	3	Job 42.1-6	1 Peter 1.3-12
Friday	4	1 Samuel 16.14-end	John 14.15-end
Saturday	5	Isaiah 6.1-9	Revelation 19.9-end
Monday	7	Exodus 13.13b-end	Luke 15.1-10
Tuesday	8	Proverbs 1.20-end	James 5.13-end
Wednesday	9	Isaiah 5.8-24	James 1.17-25
Thursday	10	Isaiah 57.14-end	John 13.1-17
Friday	11	Jeremiah 15.15-end	Luke 16.19-31
Saturday	12	Isaiah 25.1-9	Acts 2.22-33
Monday	14	Exodus 20.1-17	Matthew 6.1-15
Tuesday	15	Proverbs 6.6-19	Luke 4.1-14
Wednesday	16	Isaiah 24.1-15	1 Corinthians 6.1-11
Thursday	17	Job 7	Matthew 7.21-29
Friday	18	Jeremiah 20.7-end	Matthew 27.27-44
Saturday	19	Job 28	Hebrews 11.32-12.2
Monday	21	Exodus 32.1-14	Colossians 3.1-11
Tuesday	22	Zephaniah 3.14-end	Mark 15.40-16.7
Wednesday	23	Isaiah 26.1-9	Romans 8.12-27
Thursday	24	Jeremiah 8.18-9.6	John 13.21-35
Friday	25	Jeremiah 26.1-15	Mark 1.14-20
Saturday	26	Hosea 11.1-11	Matthew 28.1-7
Monday	28	Exodus 40.1-16	Luke 14.15-24
Tuesday	29	Proverbs 11.1-12	Mark 12.38-44
Wednesday	30	Isaiah 33.2-10	Philippians 1.1-11
Thursday	31	Job 38	Luke 18.1-14

Parish Pilgrimage 2025

to The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

Sarah Oughton

On Monday 2 June, 12 pilgrims gathered in the Lady Chapel for Mass, followed by Blessing of Pilgrims before departure.

We were then allocated between four cars for the first part of our physical and spiritual journey. Thank you to our drivers, especially Ian Rivett who joined us for Mass; he gave very generously of his time and graciously turned down reimbursement for fuel. We met for a very good light lunch at the Brothers in Arms, Walpole St Andrew, before setting off for the second part of the journey.

A visit to the Slipper Chapel, the Roman Catholic Shrine, was our next stop for prayers. The Slipper Chapel was built in the mid-14th century, and dedicated to Saint Catherine of Alexandria, whose tomb lies in the Monastery on Mount Sinai. This chapel served pilgrims on their



way to Walsingham, England's Nazareth. It is called the Slipper Chapel as pilgrims used to remove their shoes for this last part of the walk, known as the Holy Mile, a penitential journey, just as on Mount Sinai where Moses took off his shoes because he was on holy ground.

We arrived safely at the Anglican Shrine, where we were allocated our rooms in St Joseph's House. Our first Visit to the Holy House in front of the Altar of Annunciation followed; this is located in the Shrine Church.

Evening Prayer took place every evening in The Shrine Church at 5.30pm, an opportunity to join our fellow pilgrims from around the country for this traditional devotion.

We met in the Norton Bar prior to supper; it serves a large variety of alcohol, including the excellent Vision Gin and an equally large variety of non-alcoholic drinks, plus tea and coffee. During the day it also serves homemade cakes and light lunches.

Supper was served in the Pilgrim Refectory, as were Breakfast and Dinner each day. It seats up to 180 diners at one time. We, the discerning St Matthew's pilgrims, agreed the food was of a good quality, and plenty of it! That first evening Bishop Peter Eagles and his wife Gail joined us for drinks. They live in Walsingham, just around the corner from the Shrine. It was lovely to see them again; they were very much part of our worship at St Matthew's over Eastertide. They joined us again on Thursday morning when Bishop Peter was our celebrant at Mass.

Each day started with Morning Prayer, then Mass, held in one of the 15 chapels of the Shrine. On Tuesday we had a talk by the Priest Administrator of the Shrine, Fr Benjamin Eadon, who has been in post since autumn 2024. He was a boy chorister at Kings College Cambridge, then choral scholar at Durham Cathedral prior to attending theological college.

Later on Tuesday we had Intercessions in the Holy House, where all who had asked for our prayers at St Matthew's were remembered. We also prayed for pilgrims no longer with us, or not well enough to make the journey. The Liturgy of Healing and Reconciliation was the same evening.

Wednesday morning was the Solemn Pilgrimage Mass, where we joined all our fellow pilgrims from around the Shrine. On Wednesday afternoon we visited the Priory of Our Lady, situated in the grounds of the Shrine, where the Sisters of the Society of St Margaret live a common life. Sadly Sister Angela was unwell so unable to join us, but it was good to meet with Sister Carol again. The Wednesday Evening Devotion in the Shrine Church included the candlelit procession of Our Lady around the grounds. Our very own Steve was one of the two bearers carrying the Image of our Lady in the procession, and our very own Dave was thurifer, or as Father Ben said, our wonderful thurifer!



On Thursday there was some free time. Fr Nicholas, Helen and Peter went to Sandringham, Gary went to Fakenham, and the rest of us, in twos or threes, explored the rest of Walsingham. Stations of the Cross in the afternoon, was in the grounds of the Shrine, in the wind and rain, but we at St Matthew's are used to the cold so coped with it magnificently!

That evening, our last, was our social gathering at the local hostelry, The Bull. Fr Nicholas and Dave were presented with gifts to thank them for their hard work in organising the pilgrimage. It was a happy evening.



The opportunity arose to ask everyone for their highlights of the week. Unanimously the Wednesday Procession around the grounds was loved by all especially as Steve was one of the bearers (his highlight) and Dave was the wonderful thurifer!

Sally's highlight was singing the hymn 'Here I am Lord' at one of the services. For Carol it was the First Visit, for Glenda it was serving for Bishop Peter when he was our Celebrant for Mass, for Dave being thurifer for three services within 24 hours, and for Jean, marvelling at a beautifully behaved school party who spent one night at the Shrine. For Peter, it was the miracle of Walsingham – he looked into the mirror and his younger self looked back at him – and for Helen the seals at Wells-Next-The-Sea. Helen and her car passengers saw peacocks on the journey to Walsingham... none of the rest of us did...?!

Friday morning was our Last Visit to the Holy House prior to our journey home.

Our time in Walsingham was reflective and prayerful, its peace and beautiful gardens are ever present. It was also a time of much laughter, learning more about each other, and forming friendships.

I am indebted to my fellow pilgrims for a very special five days. Thank you Fr Nicholas, Dave, Helen, Gary, Steve, Peter, Sally, Jean, Glenda, Carol, and Sandra.



Hymn Festival at St Matthew's

The Hymn Society of Great Britain & Ireland is meeting at Highgate House this month for its Annual Conference. The Society was formed in 1936 to promote good standards of hymn-singing, and to encourage a discerning use of hymns and songs in worship. Today the Society is a diverse group of people, all sharing an interest in hymns. Some of our members are authors and composers, others are simply enthusiasts.

A key feature of our Annual Conference is the Festival of Hymns. We are delighted that this year's Festival will be held at St Matthew's Church on Thursday 24 July at 7.45pm.

Twelve hymns have been chosen, most of which will be well-known. This year we are marking the 400th anniversary of the death of Orlando Gibbons, whose choral music and madrigals are still widely sung and greatly loved. Another significant anniversary being celebrated this year is that of John Newton who was born 300 years ago on 24 July 1725. It will be so good to sing 'Glorious things of thee are spoken' on his actual birthday!

The hymns will be introduced by The Revd Canon Michael Garland from Gloucester, and we are delighted that the Director of Music at St Matthew's, Tom Moore, has kindly agreed to accompany the hymns.

'Few things have the power to stir the soul like hearty hymn-singing,' wrote Peter Holder in the *Church Times* recently. All of us might add our 'Amen' to that. Why not come and lend your voice in praise and worship on Thursday 24 July at 7.45pm. All are welcome!

Revd Canon Michael Garland
Hymn Society Treasurer

The Hymn Society
of Great Britain and Ireland
2025 Conference

A Festival of Hymns in St Matthew's, Northampton

Thursday 24 July 2025, at 7.45 pm

The Hymns introduced by
Revd Canon Michael Garland

Organist: Thomas Moore
Director of Music at St Matthew's

ALL ARE WELCOME!

A Service of Thanksgiving and Reflection on the 80th Anniversary of Christian Aid

Girlie Franklin

In recognition of the efforts made by our worshipping community to support this worthy cause over the years, the Dean of Westminster Abbey invited me to attend the service mentioned above on Thursday, 12 June at Westminster Abbey.

I felt honoured by the invitation, a privilege stemming from our worshipping community's commitment and steadfast support over many years.

Fr Nicholas and Fr Gandy were aware of the invitation, but unfortunately Fr Gandy was away and Fr Nicholas was committed to family matters that day.

Our day began with a delightful train journey, which Seymour very seldom indulges in, though it was a regular occurrence for me while babysitting.

We arrived at the Abbey late in the morning and were pleasantly surprised to see such long queues waiting to enter the building. Everyone seemed excited, well-mannered, and very receptive; they also interacted well, creating a lovely Christian atmosphere.

As we entered the Abbey's perimeter, young schoolchildren at the gate greeted us. They sang and appeared excited and happy about their activities and greetings, all while wearing the Christian colours and logo.



Once inside the building, we had to show our tickets, after which we were escorted to our seats. Once again, we were surprised to find so many people already seated for the event. Those attending were of various ages, many of whom were young.

The service commenced with an Introit by the Choir, after which the procession began with the Hymn: 'Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord'. The event was formal; most dignitaries processed in before the main procession, while others followed the choir.

The Reverend David Stanton, Sub-Dean, delivered the Bidding prayer, after which The Right Reverend Dame Sarah Mullally, Bishop of London, spoke about the purpose of this good cause.



Many other clergy participated, all of whom appeared resolute in their fight against poverty and injustice and in their belief that generous giving is necessary to assist those less fortunate than others.

During the choir's performance of an anthem, five congregants processed from the south porch to the high altar, carrying placards that featured various themes to promote Christian Aid.



The Reverend Dr Jerry Pillay, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches and Minister of the United Presbyterian Church of South Africa, delivered the Address, highlighting the importance of generous giving and the benefits derived from donations: education, proper sanitation, nutrition, and accommodation.



It was an enjoyable service that would inspire many. The delivery of the event was well presented and empowered people to be generous in giving to help those less fortunate than themselves.

We were privileged to meet the Reverend Canon Kate Bottley, whom we have seen on TV during Songs of Praise, which we watch weekly. We conversed with her, and she seemed so warm and delightful. It was a pleasure to speak with her.

We usually see her on television, but we saw her in person on Thursday. We were impressed by her warmth and receptivity.

Overall, it was a splendid day, and we were delighted to have had the opportunity to attend the service of Thanksgiving and Reflection on the 80th anniversary of this noble cause.

The event left us with a sense of satisfaction about what we have all done at St Matthew's to promote and contribute yearly to help those in need.



In conclusion, the late Pat Sykes and Jean Collins would have been delighted by this recognition, as I know both were profoundly dedicated to this worthy cause.

Christian Aid Week 2025

Girlie Franklin

A huge thank you to everyone who supported us this year. We held the two events we usually have – the Coffee Morning and the Big Breakfast – but attendance at both was very low. Some of you had very valid reasons for being unable to be there, so thank you to those who did come.

A total of **£640.50** was raised (the lowest amount raised since I took over), and with gift aid a further **£37.00** will be added.

From talking to other church reps, I believe the same applies to most of them. A few churches have also opted out because of a lack of support from their church members.

Thanks go to the catering team for helping with the breakfast, and to those who helped at the coffee morning. Without you, these events wouldn't have been possible.



Brand New Christian

Florence Elowen Morgan-Scott, born on Friday 4 October 2024, was baptised at St Matthew's on Sunday 18 May 2025. Parents Simon and Alice have been regular worshippers at St Matthew's for over a year, Simon singing bass in the choir, with Alice and Florence sitting in the Children's Area.

Once a month they also support the worship and congregation at their small local village church, where Alice was baptised and is the PCC Secretary, and where Simon was Churchwarden.



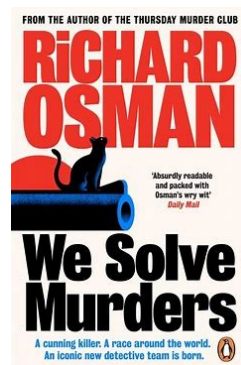
Alice says that Florence's baptism was a wonderfully special occasion, surrounded by her family, godparents (Oliver, Doug, Claire, and Sophie), friends, and church family. She wishes to give huge thanks to Fr Nicholas, and everyone at St Matthew's, for making them feel so incredibly welcome and at home – they feel very blessed.

On The Bookshelf

Dorrie Parker

If you're thinking about an easy, enjoyable read for your holiday, look no further – I can heartily recommend this one – *We Solve Murders* by Richard Osman.

If you've read his *Thursday Murder Club* series, you'll know already you're in for a treat, and if you haven't, this is the first of a whole new series with whole new characters, so a good place to start. I could not stop smiling all the way through this story, laughing out loud too – if you're a fan of offbeat deadpan black humour like me, you will too.



There are three main characters, Steve Wheeler, a former London police officer, now retired and still doing the odd investigation, but really preferring his retired life of the weekly pub quiz and looking after his cat. His wife has recently died and he talks to her on his dictaphone. He's very set in his ways. Amy Wheeler is Steve's daughter-in-law; she is a private security officer who is currently acting as bodyguard to Rosie D'Antonio, a popular crime novelist. The two of them are hiding out on a remote island as a Russian oligarch had taken offence to one of Rosie's books and is now threatening to have her killed. The only other person on the island, the chef, turns out to be an assassin. Three clients of Amy's firm have already died while Amy was close by and she realises she is being set up as the murderer. Amy has a very close relationship to Steve and enlists the help of her reluctant father-in-law, setting off a chain of events leading to a fast-paced race around the world, avoiding being killed and trying to work out who is the mysterious figure behind it all.

The interactions between the three diverse characters make this book a joy to read, with Steve just wanting to get home to the familiar things in his life, Rosie fearless and up for a bit of an adventure, and constantly teasing Steve, and Amy the serious one. They meet some equally wonderful and funny characters along the way; many conversations had me laughing out loud.

One of the lovely things that happen when I do one of these articles is that people tell me they've bought the book and have enjoyed it too – thank you for telling me, it makes it so worthwhile. Another is that, realising the sort of books I enjoy, people have recommended titles to me, for which I'm always grateful. If you've loved reading a book, then do think about writing something for us in this magazine.

32nd St Matthew's Multi-Aged Girlguiding

Mandy Ludlow

The last couple of weeks have been somewhat hectic for all the girls. The week before half term was a beautiful evening and we were able to go outside to play games.

First night after half term we were on the water – the coach arrived at 5.30pm to pick us up, and we were soon on our way to Nene Active where all the girls and leaders took part in bell boating – what is bell boating you ask? The best way to explain is to think of two canoes, each seating 10 people, bolted together with a plank of wood down the centre. The rules with Girlguiding have changed and this year the Rainbows, with the appropriate adult ratios, were allowed to go out on the boat. Obviously, they did not go as far as the older girls but they had an absolutely brilliant time.

Girlguiding have two bell boats and we were lucky enough to have two helms to take out the boats, meaning all the girls and leaders got a go. While not on the boat we had lots of activities to do all about water and the countryside, one of which was a countryside treasure hunt where they had to find a number of objects. We all enjoyed a picnic tea too as part of the evening. 8 o'clock came all too soon and our coach was picking us up and heading back to the Parish Centre.

On the Monday when we were in at the Parish Centre, the Rainbows looked at rolling marbles and how fast they went. Using an empty toilet roll holder and paper plate, they made a 'run' to see how best the marbles ran the course.

Brownies need to complete an interest badge towards their Skills for My Future Theme Award and Languages was chosen. We invited parents where English is not their first language to come in and help with this; a Rainbow and a Guide also helped by teaching the Brownies some Polish. By the end of the evening girls had learnt some Spanish, Romanian, French and Polish.

Guides too are looking at an interest badge from the Skills for My Future section and Investigator was chosen. To start this they looked at fingerprints and how they are different for everyone. Using two types of paint they each made two sets of fingerprints, one with powder paint, the other with liquid paint. The powder paint worked the best. Once done they each had to look at the different ridges, curves etc of their own fingerprints.

Our next adventure was to Whipsnade Zoo on Sunday 8 June. We joined this outing with 1050 other members of Girlguiding from Northamptonshire, in 21 coaches. A lovely day and huge success. Girls saw all sorts of animals, giraffes, camels, rhinos, lions, tigers, elephants, penguins, and visited the

butterfly house. We also had a train ride which took us around the zoo. Before we left it was time for the 'regulation' ice cream and visit to the gift shop. We arrived back to St Matthew's at around 5.15pm, having left at 8.45am, with some very tired girls (and leaders), but everyone had a great time. Unfortunately, this date coincided with June All Age Mass; however when the County organise events we have absolutely no control over the date and as they only happen every few years, have to do what we think is best for the girls, especially as for some this would be their only chance to go to the zoo or in fact go out of Kingsley Park. We hope that the congregation understands our absence in June and there being no Café Guides.



Café Guides Recipe for July

Chicken Breasts with Red Pepper and Goat's Cheese

This recipe is simple and great for when the weather is hot and you do not want the cooker on for a long time. It takes just 25 minutes to cook and is very quick to prepare. I served this with baby new potatoes and salad at a recent Division lunch; alternatively serve with new potatoes and a green vegetable.

Serves 6

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 small red peppers, deseeded and thinly sliced
- 3-4 tbsp onion marmalade or caramelised onion chutney
- 200gm/7oz rindless, full fat firm goat's cheese, cut into small cubes
- 6 skinless and boneless chicken breasts (about 150gm/5oz each)
- 25g/1oz panko breadcrumbs
- ½-1 tsp paprika
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C/ 180°C fan/ Gas 6 and line the base of a roasting tin with baking paper.
2. Heat the oil in a non-stick frying pan, add the peppers and fry over a high heat for about 5 minutes or until soft and tinged brown. Tip into a bowl to cool, then stir in the onion marmalade/chutney and the goat's cheese, and season well with salt and pepper.
3. Arrange the chicken breasts in the prepared tin and season well with salt and pepper. Spoon the goat's cheese mixture on top of the chicken pieces, then sprinkle with the panko breadcrumbs and paprika.
4. Bake in the oven for about 25 minutes or until the chicken is golden on top and cooked through, the juices running clear when the chicken is pierced with a knife.
5. Serve the topped chicken pieces hot with the juices from the pan poured over.

The Parish Church of St Matthew

Sunday 6 July

10.15am

All Age Mass
for the Parish Family



5.30pm
Choral Evensong

Junior Church

Every Third Sunday of the Month



Join us during the 10:15am mass
in the children's area
for adult led stories and crafts
linked to the Church Year

The next Junior church session is on
Sunday 20 July 2025

What did God do to cure Moses' headache?

He gave him two tablets.

How do we know Peter was a rich fisherman?

By his net income.



Friends of St Matthew's Music
SATURDAYS AT 4



Saturday 26th July 2025 at 4:00pm
Lewis Kingsley Peart (Piano)

Tickets **£10**

FSMM Subscribers **£8**

Under 18s **FREE**

St Matthew's Church

SUMMER FETE



Saturday 5 July

1.00pm till 4.00pm

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

⚙️ Raffle (£100 cash first prize) ⚙️

⚙️ Bouncy castle ⚙️ Face painting ⚙️

⚙️ Kiddies Noah's Trail ⚙️

⚙️ Fire engine and crew ⚙️ Police vehicle ⚙️

⚙️ Model railway displays ⚙️ Coconut shy ⚙️

⚙️ Organ recital in church ⚙️

⚙️ Irish dancing ⚙️ Folk group ⚙️

⚙️ Beer & Pimm's ⚙️ Ice Cream van ⚙️

⚙️ Vintage tea room ⚙️ BBQ ⚙️

⚙️ Stalls and Games galore ⚙️

⚙️ **CASH ONLY** ⚙️

Northampton NN1 4RY ⚙️ www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

St Matthew's Church

SUMMER FETE



Saturday 5 July
1.00pm till 4.00pm

Special events during the afternoon:

- ⚙ BB's Bouncy Castle
- ⚙ Model Railway displays
- ⚙ Police and Vehicle
- ⚙ Raggle Taggle Folk Group
- ⚙ Bell Ringing
- ⚙ Fire Engine and Crew*
- ⚙ Made of Metal fitness challenge
- ⚙ Irish Dancing by SLT Academy of Irish Dance
- ⚙ Organ Recital in church
- ⚙ Mario's Ice Cream Van from 1.30pm
- ⚙ Kiddies Noah's Trail in church
- ⚙ 3.30pm Raffle to be drawn

**Working crew—may be called away in an emergency*

Please note there will be an official photographer (wearing a badge) taking photos of the Fete for an article on our website and in our parish magazine — if you do not wish to be photographed please tell the photographer! Thank you.

Evensong Sermon, 1 June 2025

Ray Douglas

Back in the late seventies, at the close of the Punk Rock era, a little-known combo known as 'The Jags' had their one and only recognisable hit single. This song was entitled *I've got your number written on the back of my hand*. The song referenced a time when, if you wanted to pass on your phone number to someone, the best way to do it was to write it on the back of their hand. A scrap of paper could be lost, not so much your hand. Remember, this was before smart phones were invented and the easy sharing of phone numbers.

I say all this because, in our reading from Isaiah, we have this rather curious statement from chapter 44 verse 5 – 'This one will say I am the Lord's, another will be called by the name of Jacob, yet another will write on his hand "The Lord's" and adopt the name of Israel.' So, even then, the strategy of writing something on your hand, was considered a useful tactic in remembering something vitally important. And it is to this topic of remembering, that I wish to turn to this evening.

Just to give you a bit of historical context here, Isaiah is giving his message sometime around 746 BC, and his principal audience was to the leaders and people, of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. This kingdom having split off from the more southerly Kingdom of Judah following events after the death of King Solomon some two hundred years previously. And things morally, religiously and culturally, had gone into a subsequent steep decline following that event. So much so, that the judgement of God, in the form of conquest by the rising power of Assyria, was becoming a very real possibility. So, Isaiah is sent to seek to arrest that apostasy and return that Northern Kingdom back into fellowship with God.

To be specific, Isaiah is calling on Israel to remember their God, to turn from useless idol worship, and to get their collective house in order, before it really was too late.

If you were looking back to chapter 43, to which 44 is so intimately connected, you cannot fail to notice the dire situation the religious life of the Northern Kingdom was in. This, itself, had disastrous knock-on effects onto just about everything else in the nation's life. So, in verses 1-3 of chapter 44, Isaiah calls on Israel to remember God and turn back to him. And God, through the prophet, does this by reminding his people that he still remembers them, and has chosen them as his own special people. Hoping that this reminder will prompt a positive reaction from the populace, and thus spare them from the imminent judgement to come.

It is interesting to notice here, that three different names are employed here in talking about the same group of people. In 44 v1&2, the terms Israel, Jacob and Jeshurun are all used about the same group of people. You may remember from Genesis that Israel was the new name God gives to Jacob to identify the people he was building through him. You might also recall other individuals given new names to identify their new status with God – Abram to Abraham, Simon to Peter, Saul to Paul. And, invariably, it is the new name that is subsequently used in Scripture, not always, but mostly. But, with Israel, there is much back and forward use of his previous name of Jacob. This should inform us of the constant struggle God has with this ‘stiff necked people’, who are constantly wavering back and forward in their devotion to God.

Yet, despite of all this wavering, God reaffirms his choice of them, even at this eleventh hour in the nation’s life. Listen to this: ‘But do not fear O Jacob my servant, Jeshurun whom I have chosen’. Now, Israel / Jacob we understand, but what about this Jeshurun? Who is he? I have never come across this before! This name means ‘The dear upright ones’. It is a poetic, even affectionate name for his people. Almost a pet name if you like, indicating something more than just a formal identification with someone. In Deuteronomy we read ‘There is none like God, Oh Jeshurun, who rides through the heavens to your help, majestic through the skies.’ God has a special love, I believe, for Israel. A love that lasts even to this day I would contend. And he wants them to remember that quality of love. Even if, so often, they are more Jacob than Jeshurun or even Israel.

But how are we to connect to all this? Well, if God remembers his people, even at their most fickle and unfaithful, even when imminent judgement is just around the corner, then we need to also know that he remembers us. And that he calls us, like ancient Israel, to remember him. But how? In Deuteronomy Israel was encouraged to remember God, and his ways, by attaching his laws to their gates and door posts. Even today, Orthodox Jewish homes will have little round receptacles containing the laws of Moses attached to the door frames of their homes, which they will touch on entering and leaving. But, what about us in our Christian context? How can we be helped to remember God and his ways?

In our last Lent course, Father Gandy introduced to us the idea of having a ‘Personal Rule of Life’. In this rule we commit to doing things like praying every day, reading our Bible every day. These things are added to what we probably are already doing, being at Holy Communion regularly, and seeking to do good to others as we are enabled. The Diocese, similarly, is also

focusing on prayer, and encouraging us all to be a part of this endeavour as churches. Perhaps as well, we should be seeking to turn away from those things which take us away from God. For ancient Israel, that thing was a persistent tendency to turn from the living God to useless dead idol worship. 'For us, at its heart, idolatry is anything that supplants God in our lives. Be that money, power, or whatever.'

But let us be encouraged. In our endeavours to remember God, even in the difficult days we live in, let us reflect that God never, ever, forgets us. Later in Isaiah, we read this, 'Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands.'

So, Jesus has not just written your number on the back of his hand, he has engraved you on the palms of his hand. Written in the Lambs book of Life. On that first Good Friday, as they drove those nails into that most sensitive part of the human body, the human hand, Jesus took all our sins onto himself. As he did so, he was remembering you and me. And offering Salvation from Sin in his name. Let us then, therefore, not forget such a Saviour. Or such a great Salvation. But to remember him, and what he has done for us. Always. Amen

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 AUGUST magazine is SUNDAY 13 JULY

Editor: Dorrie Parker

Layout and production: Gary Drinkwater

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	Food Served
Thursday:	5.00pm – 12.00am	
Friday:	4.00pm – 12.00am	5.00pm – 9.00pm
Saturday:	3.00pm – 12.00am	5.00pm – 9.00pm
Sunday:	Noon – 11.00pm	1.00pm – 5.00pm

Friends of St Matthew's Music 100+ Club

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

Number **77**, held by **Mark Arrand**



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



DAILY BREAD COOPERATIVE

www.dailybread.co.uk

**Vegetarian - Vegan - Wholefoods - Organic
Fairtrade - Special Dietary needs**

Food

Bodycare

Household Cleaning

Refill Station in store

Shop in Store or

Buy Online

for collection or delivery



The Old Laundry, Bedford Road, Northampton NN4 7AD

Open Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.30pm

Saturday 9.00am to 5.00pm



People Before Profit



dailybread.co.uk



01604 621531



/DailyBreadNorthampton

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 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).

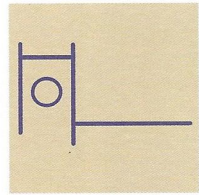
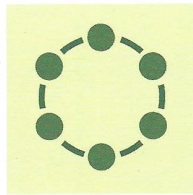
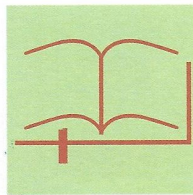
There are two methods of payment available: by a banker's direct debit or by weekly-numbered envelopes via the collection plate. The amount that you give is entirely confidential and is known only to the lay people who administer the Scheme.

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@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk>

Tel. 01604 846074



TM

PARISH GIVING SCHEME

Parish Office

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

Telephone: 01604 791251 Email: office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Anita Speake 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
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
Stewardship Recorder	Polly Matthews

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	Nick Everitt head-server@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
Sacristan	Seymour Franklin sacristan@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
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
----------------	---