

St Matthew's **MAIL**

**Suggested
Donation**

£1.00

News from the Parish of Kingsley, Northampton

July 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 July

<i>Date</i>	<i>Observance</i>	<i>Intention</i>
1	Feria	Music: something beautiful for God
2	Feria	Courage in living the life of faith
3	S Thomas, Ap	Our struggles with faith and doubt
4	Of the BVM	The 'Safe houses' of our community
5	THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 9)	The Parish
6	Feria	The Ministry of Healing
7	Feria	Gratitude for forgiveness
8	Feria	The Middle East
9	Feria	Giving hope to the discouraged
10	Feria	Those involved in agriculture
11	Of OLW	The Shrine, Society, and Cell
12	THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 10)	The Parish
13	Feria	Concern for the unfortunate
14	Feria	Discerning our national sins
15	S Swithun, B	The implications of climate change
16	Feria	Confiding in the Lord
17	Monthly Requiem	The Faithful Departed
18	Of the BVM	Expectant mothers
19	THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 11)	The Parish
20	S Margaret of Antioch, M	Proclaiming Christ amid opposition
21	Feria For Ukraine	
22	S Mary Magdalene	Our stewardship of our minds and bodies
23	S Bridget of Sweden, Rel, Patron of Europe	The Royal Family
24	Feria	The importance of symbolism in worship
25	S James 'the Great', Ap	Our willingness to follow Christ
26	THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 12)	The Parish
27	Feria	Recognising the work of God
28	Feria	Those awaiting exam results
29	Ss Martha, Mary and Lazarus	Extending Christian hospitality
30	Feria	Safety during the school holidays
31	S Ignatius of Loyola, Pr	Having a daily pattern of prayer

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

July Pastoral Letter from the Vicar

Saints, Seasons, and Stoppage Time

July is one of those curious months that seems to exist in two worlds at once. The summer holidays beckon, school terms draw to a close, gardens burst into life (and weeds likewise with remarkable enthusiasm), and many of us begin to think about holidays, lighter evenings, and perhaps the possibility of a little rest.

And, lest anyone should accuse the parish magazine of being entirely detached from contemporary life, I should also acknowledge that a significant proportion of the globe will be spending July with one eye on the FIFA World Cup. Nations will rejoice, despair, celebrate unexpected victories, lament questionable refereeing decisions, and confidently explain afterwards exactly how the manager should have done it differently. It is one of the few occasions when entire countries appear to acquire expert tactical knowledge overnight. Yet even amid the excitement of competition, the tournament reminds us of something important: people of every nation, language, and culture share a common humanity. Christians, of course, would add that we are all members of one human family, created in the image of God.

Yet the world itself rarely seems to take a holiday. As I write, we continue to witness conflict, uncertainty, political upheaval, economic pressures, and growing concern about the care of our planet. The news can sometimes leave us feeling weary and burdened. It is perhaps no coincidence that one of the great themes of our All Age Mass this month is Jesus' invitation: "Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Those words are not addressed merely to first-century disciples but to twenty-first-century Christians trying to navigate an increasingly complicated world.

The Church, too, keeps its own calendar, and July is rich in saints whose lives continue to speak to our own circumstances. On 3 July we celebrate St Thomas the Apostle. Poor Thomas is forever remembered as 'Doubting Thomas', which seems rather unfair. After all, the other disciples had already seen the risen Christ before Thomas was asked to believe. Perhaps he is the patron saint of all who have questions, uncertainties, and moments when faith feels difficult. Thomas reminds us that honest questions are not the enemy of faith. Indeed, they may sometimes be the doorway to a deeper faith.

A few days later comes St Benedict, often called the Father of Western Monasticism and Patron of Europe. Benedict understood that holiness is usually found not in dramatic gestures but in the faithful keeping of daily routines: prayer, work, study, hospitality, and community life. In a culture that

often values noise and novelty, Benedict gently reminds us that God is frequently found in the ordinary.

Then comes St Swithun, whose name inevitably raises the annual question: "Will it rain for forty days?" Northampton weather-forecasting has not, to my knowledge, yet been entrusted entirely to medieval saints, but his feast does prompt us to think seriously about our stewardship of creation. Climate change is no longer a distant possibility but a present reality. Christians believe that the earth is God's gift to us, and that caring for it is not a political fashion but a spiritual responsibility.

Later in the month we celebrate St Mary Magdalene, the first witness to the resurrection and often described as the 'Apostle to the Apostles'. She stands at the empty tomb carrying grief, confusion, and loss, only to hear her name spoken by the risen Lord. Many people today carry hidden wounds of one kind or another. Mary Magdalene reminds us that Christ still calls people by name and still brings healing, hope, and new beginnings.

The Feast of St James the Apostle follows on 25 July. James was a fisherman before he became a disciple. In an age when many communities connected with agriculture and fishing face uncertainty and challenge, his feast invites us to pray for all whose livelihoods depend upon the land and sea. James also learned, sometimes painfully, that discipleship is not about seeking the places of honour but about learning the way of service.

Finally, towards the end of the month, we celebrate Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. Few families in the Gospels feel quite so recognisable. Martha is busy organising, Mary is listening at the Lord's feet, Lazarus quietly occupies the middle ground, and before long someone is having a robust discussion about priorities. It all feels wonderfully familiar. Yet theirs was a home marked by friendship, hospitality, learning, faith, and love. Their story reminds us that Christ is often encountered not only in church but around dining tables, in conversations, in acts of welcome, and in the ordinary business of family life.

All of these themes find their place in the life of St Matthew's this month. Our Summer Fête, the All Age Mass, the Healing Mass, the ministry of anointing, the Walsingham Cell, and our regular worship all seek, in different ways, to help us encounter Christ in community.

As schools break up and many begin their summer travels, I encourage you to make time for rest, for family, for friendship, and for prayer. God himself rested on the seventh day, and experience suggests that most vicars eventually discover they are not more indispensable than the Almighty.

May this summer be for you a season of refreshment. May Christ strengthen your faith when it is tested, deepen your hope when the world feels uncertain, and fill your heart with the peace that only he can give.

Your sincere friend and parish priest,

Fr. Nicholas

The Parish Church of St Matthew

Sunday 5 July

10.15am

**All Age Mass
for the Parish Family**



**5.30pm
Choral Evensong**

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.

Wednesday	1	Isaiah 24.1-15	1 Corinthians 6.1-11
Thursday	2	Job 7	Matthew 7.21-29
Friday	3	Job 42.1-6	1 Peter 1.3-12
Saturday	4	Job 28	Hebrews 11.32-12.2
Monday	6	Exodus 32.1-14	Colossians 3.1-11
Tuesday	7	Proverbs 9.1-12	2 Thessalonians 2.13–3.5
Wednesday	8	Isaiah 26.1-9	Romans 8.12-27
Thursday	9	Jeremiah 8.18–9.6	John 13.21-35
Friday	10	2 Samuel 5.1-12	Matthew 27.45-56
Saturday	11	Hosea 11.1-11	Matthew 28.1-7
Monday	13	Exodus 40.1-16	Luke 14.15-24
Tuesday	14	Proverbs 11.1-12	Mark 12.38-44
Wednesday	15	Isaiah 33.2-10	Philippians 1.1-11
Thursday	16	Job 38	Luke 18.1-14
Friday	17	Job 42.1-6	John 3.1-15
Saturday	18	Ecclesiastes 9.1-11	Hebrews 1.1-9
Monday	20	Numbers 23.1-12	1 Corinthians 1.10-17
Tuesday	21	Proverbs 12.1-12	Galatians 3.1-14
Wednesday	22	Zephaniah 3.14-end	Mark 15.40–16.7
Thursday	23	Hosea 14	John 15.1-17
Friday	24	2 Samuel 18.18-end	Matthew 27.57-66
Saturday	25	Jeremiah 26.1-15	Mark 1.14-20
Monday	27	Joel 3.16-21	Mark 4.21-34
Tuesday	28	Proverbs 12.13-end	John 1.43-51
Wednesday	29	Isaiah 55.8-end	2 Timothy 2.8-19
Thursday	30	Isaiah 38.1-8	Mark 5.21-43
Friday	31	Jeremiah 14.1-9	Luke 8.4-15

If you are online, a new facility lately introduced on our website is on the Weekday Scripture Readings page – you can now click onto an individual reading and it will pop up for you without you having to search through your bible (in the New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised Catholic Edition).

A season of transition

July is a season of transition.

For many of our young people it's time for well-earned break after exams and the anxious wait for results – with all that can mean.

For others of us, it may be time for a holiday; or finding space to recharge our batteries.

For a few in our churches, those being ordained deacon or priest, it marks both an end and a beginning: the conclusion of a long period of preparation, study and formation; and then coming to terms with a new role, new expectations and new responsibilities.



Whatever July means for us personally, in the Church's calendar it's just a fragment of ordinary time; with none of the drama we associate with Christmas or Easter, of Pentecost, (just as of course, for many of us, July will not bring any respite from our regular routine).

Nevertheless, God is with us in the ordinary moments as well as in the times of crisis, he is with us in stability as well as in change. When we rest, he is the still point of the turning world, when in times of change or trial he sustains and upholds us.

As the psalmist puts it: 'If I take to the wings of the morning and settle in the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me and your right hand shall hold me fast.' (Psalm 139: 9-10)

Whatever July means for you, may you find Christ's peace at the heart of it all.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Dalliston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Very Revd Chris Dalliston

Dean of Peterborough

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Chippings from the Vicar's Work Bench

July has arrived, and with it comes that curious point in the year when some of us are wondering where the time has gone, whilst others are wondering how the children can possibly have another six weeks of holiday just around the corner! There is much happening in the life of our parish over the coming weeks, and I hope you will find an opportunity to take part in some of it.

The Summer Fête – Saturday 4 July

The first item in the diary is our annual Summer Fête on Saturday 4 July, from 1.00pm until 4.00pm. It promises to be a wonderful afternoon for all ages. There will be stalls and games galore, a bouncy castle, face painting, model railway displays, candy floss, ice cream, a barbecue, vintage tea room, folk music, an organ recital in church, and, of course, our grand raffle with a first prize of £100 in cash. Fr Nicholas will go in the stocks for nothing less than a three-figure sum!

Events such as these do far more than raise money. They bring people together, strengthen friendships, introduce neighbours to one another, and remind us that church life is about community as well as worship. If the weather is kind, all the better. If it is not, we shall simply demonstrate once again that Northamptonshire people are made of sterner stuff! Please come along, bring family and friends, and help us make it a memorable afternoon.

An Invitation to Our All Age Mass

The very next day, Sunday 5 July at 10.15am, we celebrate our final All Age Mass of the academic year. The theme comes from some of the most comforting words Jesus ever spoke: "Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." If that sounds as though it might apply to you, then you are certainly not alone. The service has been planned especially so that young and old can worship together. There will be familiar hymns, opportunities for participation, a simple and engaging exploration of the Gospel, and worship which helps us hear afresh the invitation of Christ to find rest, hope, and peace in him.

One of the great joys of parish life is seeing the whole family of God gathered together: children, parents, grandparents, regular worshippers, occasional visitors, and those simply curious to see what goes on inside the church. If you have never attended one of our All Age Masses, this would be an excellent opportunity to do so. And if you are feeling weary, burdened, worried, overworked, or simply in need of a little spiritual refreshment, then this particular Gospel was written with people exactly like us in mind.

Mass for Healing and Wholeness

On Monday 6 July at 7.00pm we gather in the Lady Chapel for our monthly Mass for Healing and Wholeness. The service offers a quiet opportunity to pray for our own need of healing, for those who are sick, hospitalised or housebound, and for the healing of our troubled world. In an age that often seems anxious and fractured, such prayer is not a luxury but a necessity.

The Healing Ministries

A gentle reminder that on the second Sunday of each month the laying on of hands and the sacrament of anointing are available during the Parish Mass. After receiving Holy Communion, or a blessing, worshippers are invited to make their way to the Lady Chapel if they wish to receive these ministries. Some come carrying their own needs; others come holding someone else in their hearts and prayers. All are welcome.

Supporting Our Churchwardens

The Admission of Churchwardens takes place this year at All Saints' Church, Northampton, on Monday 13 July at 7.30pm. Our own churchwardens, Gary Drinkwater and Dave Wilson, have kindly agreed to serve for another year and will be among those admitted. Churchwardens carry a great deal of responsibility, often quietly and without much fuss, and we owe them our gratitude and prayers. If you are able, do come and support them.

House Group

Our next House Group gathering will be on Wednesday 15 July at 2.00pm at the vicarage. We usually reflect on a recent homily as a starting point for open and enriching conversation. Those who attend have found these sessions deeply nourishing. Why not come and see for yourself? You would be most welcome.

Remembering the Faithful Departed

Our monthly Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Lady Chapel on Friday 17 July at midday. Praying for the faithful departed has always been an important part of the spiritual life of St Matthew's. Many of us carry within our hearts the memory of those we love but see no longer. If a loved one's anniversary falls during July, do make a special effort to join us if you can.

Walsingham Cell Mass

Members of our Walsingham Cell, together with friends and visitors, gather on Saturday 11 July at 9.30am in the Lady Chapel for a Mass of the Holy House, followed by a meeting and fellowship. The title of this month's Mass, The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth, reminds us that Christian pilgrimage always sends us out to encourage and support one another.

The End of the School Year

By the time this magazine appears, many younger members of our community will already be counting down the days until the summer holidays. Their teachers may be counting down even more enthusiastically! As schools break up, please remember in your prayers all children and young people, their parents and carers, those awaiting examination results, and those preparing to move on to new schools, colleges, training, or employment. May the summer be a time of refreshment, growth, happiness, and safety for all.

Looking Ahead

A reminder to members of the Standing Committee that we meet on Wednesday 29 July at 4.00pm in the Parish Centre. Please come armed with both papers and diaries.

Finally, a note for your calendars: I shall be on annual leave from Monday 3 August until Sunday 23 August inclusive. During that time Fr Nicholas Gandy will kindly undertake the specifically priestly ministries of the parish. Details of weekday Masses will appear in the weekly notices and on the parish website.

Until next month, may God grant you rest when you are weary, courage when you are anxious, companions when you are lonely, and joy in the ordinary blessings of summer.

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 12 JULY

Editor: Dorrie Parker

Layout and production: Gary Drinkwater

Prayer Labyrinth

Gary Drinkwater

A prayer labyrinth is a single, winding path leading to a central point and back out, designed as a tool for walking meditation and embodied prayer. Unlike a maze, there are no tricks or dead ends. Today, it serves as a quiet refuge for spiritual reflection and stress relief in our busy modern lives. The practice dates back centuries and gained popularity in the Middle Ages as a symbolic pilgrimage for Christians who could not travel to Jerusalem. Today, labyrinths are found in churchyards, retreat centres, parks, and even as small, handheld wooden boards. Walking the path generally involves three stages, often called the "Three R's":

Releasing: As you walk toward the centre, you focus on letting go of daily distractions, worries, and ego.

Receiving: Upon reaching the centre, you pause to rest, pray, and listen for divine guidance or peace.

Returning: As you walk back out along the same path, you carry your insights and renewed spirit back into your daily life. Anyone can walk a labyrinth, and there is no 'wrong' way to do it. You can walk at your own pace, recite scripture, focus on your breath, or simply enjoy the physical movement.

Heather Korbey writes of her labyrinth experience:

I'm fairly new to the idea of walking a Labyrinth, taking time to unwind and distress whilst following a path.

As a child I remember getting lost in a maze – and having brothers, the humiliation of it.

So it's never occurred to me to actually go looking for a Labyrinth.



In moving to Northampton I discovered that this was something I should try, and in doing so I realized it's something that I enjoy doing.

The first time that I walked around the path to the middle and back again I was wondering what people on the outside were thinking about me; as time has passed I now consider a question as I'm entering the labyrinth which often has an answer or several new possibilities by the time I've walked it!



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

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

Number **30**, held by **Michael Bell**



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

All Age Corpus Christi

The Feast of Corpus Christi was celebrated at St Matthew's on Sunday 7 June, the first time it came to be kept on the same day as our monthly All Age service. Notwithstanding the challenges, it was a worthwhile and rewarding opportunity to be able to involve our younger members in particular and their families.

The Presentation, led by Fr Nicholas, involved volunteers from the choir, beavers and cubs. As they were asked to hold up props of a loaf of bread ("I am the Bread of Life" – Christ is the food for our journey), a torch ("I am the Light of the World" – he is our guide on the way), a bunch of grapes ("I am the Vine" – he gathers us together into one family, lots of us together, all different), an individual piece of a jigsaw, and finally the jigsaw itself, into which the piece was fitted (he gives us all a place in his great picture and we all matter to him), we learned that when we receive Christ in communion he then sends us out into the world to proclaim him. Working with children inevitably involves a degree of unexpected humour and the cub, after listening intently, when it came to handing back the props, asked if he could keep the bread! Hopefully by their participation they will have received an insight into the meaning of the central and most precious act of worship we offer within our parish.

The Feast of Corpus Christi falls on the Thursday following Trinity Sunday. In many countries, the celebration is transferred to the following Sunday, to enable more of the congregation to participate, and this is our custom at St Matthew's.

Celebrating the institution of the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper, the phrase *Corpus Christi* comes from Latin, literally meaning 'Body of Christ' – referring specifically to the belief that Jesus Christ is truly present in the consecrated elements of the Eucharist.

By the time this magazine is published the video will have expired, but you can always catch the last three Sunday Masses at www.youtube.com/



Siân Millard Update

Jean Millard

You may have noticed that Siân's name is off the Prayer List. This is because she is having a break, but will be returning to South Sudan in October for one year.

I am most grateful for all your prayers and concerns for her welfare. She has loved the experience and is very much looking forward to her return in October.

[You may remember that Siân wrote an article for us in the April Magazine describing her work in a camp with Sudanese refugees who have fled conflict and instability in their home country.]



Friends of St Matthew's Music
SATURDAYS AT 4



Saturday 11th July 2026 at 4:00pm
The Lebedek Duo
Music for Accordion and Violin

Tickets £10	FSMM Subscribers £8	Under 18s FREE
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Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham, May 2026

Michael Bell, on behalf of the St Matthew's pilgrims

This year's parish pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham brought together eleven pilgrims from St Matthew's for several days of prayer, worship, fellowship and reflection in England's Nazareth. While I was the only member of our group visiting Walsingham for the first time, I felt fortunate to be travelling alongside those so familiar with the Shrine. Whether sharing its history, recounting memories and traditions, or simply pointing out details that might otherwise have gone unnoticed, I was never short of a guide, and for that I am very grateful. It was also great to learn that, despite his many previous visits to Walsingham, this was Father Nicholas Gandy's first time making the journey as part of a parish pilgrimage. I hope we managed not to let him down!

Our journey began on the morning of 18 May with Mass in the Lady Chapel at St Matthew's, celebrated by Father Nicholas, followed by the Blessing of Pilgrims before the eleven of us departed in four cars towards the Slipper Chapel, with a welcome stop for lunch at the Brother in Arms pub in Wisbech along the way.



Upon arriving at the Slipper Chapel, dedicated to St Catherine of Alexandria, there was a great sense of arrival, and not just because those of us who had been driving were beginning to feel the journey. We learned that for centuries it has welcomed pilgrims making their way to England's Nazareth, serving as the traditional starting point for the final stage of the journey into Walsingham. We also discovered that the chapel takes its familiar name from the custom of pilgrims removing their shoes before walking the final Holy Mile barefoot. While our group continued the short distance by car to our destination at the Anglican Shrine, it was difficult not to reflect on the generations of pilgrims who had made that same journey before us.

Having checked into our accommodation in the Milner Wing, we made our way to the Shrine Church for our first visit to the Holy House. Earlier in the day, Father Nicholas had remarked to me, "It's a house within a house, in a sense... but you'll see." Being unfamiliar with the layout of Walsingham, I was intrigued to discover what he meant. It soon became clear: the reconstructed Holy House stands within the



Shrine Church itself, preserving the tradition of the original Holy House and the devotion that made Walsingham such an important place of pilgrimage. It really is something that needs to be experienced firsthand. Throughout the week we returned there often, including to pray for the intentions entrusted to us by members of St Matthew's. It was therefore especially fitting that, just as our pilgrimage began with our First Visit, it would conclude with Mass in the Holy House and the Last Visit before we made our journey home. The evening concluded with supper, Evening Prayer and, of course, fellowship in Norton's Bar.



As the days unfolded, we quickly settled into the rhythm of pilgrimage. Morning Prayer in the Barn Chapel was mentioned by many as a particular highlight, with our parish naturally finding a shared tone and cadence as we prayed the psalms together and took our turn in



the readings. Evening Prayer in the Shrine Church offered a rather different experience. Its pace and liturgical structure took some getting used to, particularly for those of us less familiar with it, but it nevertheless provided an opportunity to join with the wider Shrine community in prayer.

One afternoon, we visited the Priory, where Sister Carol and Sister Angela of the Society of St Margaret welcomed us. Sister Carol showed us their chapel and spoke about the daily rhythm of prayer and service that shapes their community life, both within the Shrine and in the wider local area, offering great insight into their vocation and ministry. We were also pleased to meet another currently discerning a vocation with the community, a comforting reminder that religious life continues to inspire new generations. Some of the group were equally fortunate to spend time with Brother Simeon, a Franciscan friar from Glasshampton Monastery. His generosity in sharing his own story of discernment and religious life led to some meaningful conversations during our stay.



Alongside the worship and daily offices, there was time to explore the surrounding area. At Father Gandy's suggestion, some of us visited Blickling Hall, enjoying its remarkable collections of art, manuscripts and books, Jacobean architecture and beautiful grounds. Dave, Gary and I also found ourselves drawn to the RAF exhibition, which proved to be a particular highlight. Others spent the afternoon exploring the village, taking a ride on the local heritage railway or simply enjoying a quieter pace. Shared meals, conversations over coffee and evenings together strengthened friendships and added to the joy of the pilgrimage.



Among the most memorable moments were the Service of Sprinkling at the Well, Benediction and the Healing Ministries, together with walking the Stations of the Cross through the peaceful Shrine grounds. Steve and I were privileged to serve as acolytes during the procession alongside pilgrims from Cheltenham who carried the image of Our Lady. It was also great to see Father Nicholas, Father Gandy and Dave taking active roles in the liturgies alongside Father Ben, Father Graham and the Shrine servers, making the occasion a real collaboration between our parish and the wider Shrine community.



For me personally, one especially unexpected blessing came during the Pilgrim Mass, where I was received into the Society of Our Lady of Walsingham by Father Ben. I understand this was the first time such a welcome had taken place during the Pilgrim Mass itself and something the Shrine is hoping to continue to do. My only



advice to future recipients would be not to hastily pin your Society badge onto your jacket before it has been blessed. Believe me, they are far more securely attached than you might expect!

Looking back, I left Walsingham with a strong sense of gratitude. I found peace, discovered a renewed rhythm of worship, returned home with friendships strengthened within our parish community, and gained a deeper appreciation for England's Nazareth and its place in our spiritual



heritage. If you have ever considered joining the parish pilgrimage but were unsure what to expect, I would very much encourage you to come along. You may arrive with curiosity and questions, but I suspect you will leave with lasting memories and a desire to return.

THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM 

PILGRIMAGE FOR HEALING AND RENEWAL

MONDAY 31ST AUGUST 2026

12.00 noon Sung Mass
Principal Celebrant: The Rt Revd
Jonathan Baker Bishop of Fulham

2.30pm Sermon, Sprinkling and Healing Ministries
Preacher: The Rt Revd Jonathan Baker
Bishop of Fulham



www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk

Walsingham Pilgrimage for Healing & Renewal takes place on Bank Holiday Monday 31st August. Hanslope and Castlethorpe have once again invited us to join their coach. Cost will be a maximum donation of £30 per adult. It will leave at 7.50am from the bus stop on the B526 East of Queen Eleanor Roundabout. In order to ensure viability bookings must be made by 12 July. Please see the poster and sign the list in the information area should you wish to come. *Dave Wilson Cell Secretary*

Christian Aid Week 2026

Girlie Franklin

A huge thank you to everyone for their input into this year's **Christian Aid Week**.

There was only one event this year, a coffee morning held in the Parish Centre on Saturday, 23 May. The familiar red envelopes were given out in church the next day.

A total of **£471.71** was raised. This is the lowest amount raised since I took over from Jean Duncan about 16 years ago, but it will go a long way toward helping others less fortunate than ourselves.

Thanks to the catering team, as always, and to Jonathan for setting up the tables and chairs, getting the room ready, and helping to clear up afterwards.



RESERVE A TABLE

ITALIAN CUISINE

ITALIAN CUISINE

NOW OPEN



LA TIELLA

LA TIELLA

Monday 15:00 - 23:00

Tuesday Closed

Wednesday to Sunday 15:00 - 23:00



St Matthew's Church

SUMMER FETE



Saturday 4 July | 1.00pm till 4.00pm

We can still accept last minute donations for our Summer Fete – so find all those unwanted gifts and items you've been meaning to clear out, now!

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 this week 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

SUMMER FETE



St Matthew's Church

SUMMER FETE



Saturday 4 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 ✿ Coconut shy ✿
- ✿ Model railway displays ✿
- ✿ Organ recital in church ✿ Irish dancing ✿
- ✿ Folk group ✿ Candy Floss ✿
- ✿ 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 4 July
1.00pm till 4.00pm

Special events during the afternoon:

- ⚙ BB's Bouncy Castle
- ⚙ Model Railway displays
- ⚙ Raggle Taggle Folk Group
- ⚙ Bell Ringing
- ⚙ Fire Engine and Crew*
- ⚙ Irish Dancing by SLT Academy of Irish Dance
- ⚙ Organ Recital in church
- ⚙ Mario's Ice Cream Van
- ⚙ 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.

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Saturday 4 July | 1.00pm till 4.00pm



Cakes please!

The Catering Committee are organising the cake stall.

Please do donate cakes – they can be home baked, but if you are not a baker, bought cakes are equally welcome.



They can be any shape, size or flavour, all will be gratefully received!

They can be delivered to the Parish Centre the day before, as I will be there, or on the day itself to the stall.

If you are buying cake with a reasonable expiry date, these can be delivered to the Parish Centre during opening hours* at any time.

Thank you very much!

Sarah Oughton
Catering Committee Chairman



*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

SUMMER FETE





ST MATTHEW'S-TIDE FÊTE

ON

Saturday 15th Sept. 1984

at
ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH
 KINGSLEY PARK, NORTHAMPTON
 10.30am-4pm

Your support will be greatly valued.



Just in contrast...

Olive has rooted out a Fete handout from 1984 – back in a time before personal computers, when we used a typewriter and drew the graphics by hand.

As you can see, we used to have a September fete in those days, and it lasted for **5½ hours...!**

10.30am. OPENING OF FETE

Coffee until 12 Noon

12 Noon - 2pm. Ploughmans Lunch

2.30pm. Fancy Dress Under 5's/over 5's

3pm - 3.30pm Pitt Draffen Academy of Dancing

3.30pm. Teas

4pm. Raffle and prizes

The Church Tower will be open to the public and there will be a display of Vestments and flowers in the Church.



STALLS

Caledonian Market

Plants etc.

Cakes

Tombola

Skittles

Darts

Hoopla

Handicrafts

Home produce

Household goods



AND MANY OTHER ATTRACTIONS.

32nd St Matthew's Multi-Aged Girlguiding

Mandy Ludlow

Outdoor Adventures and Badge Fun at 32nd St Matthew's Guiding

From bee water stations to campfire songs, our girls have been learning, growing and having fun.

As the lighter evenings arrive, our Rainbows and Brownies have been making the most of the wonderful outdoor space at St Matthew's. The church grounds have been a brilliant setting for exploring, trying new things and enjoying lots of hands-on activities together.

We are very proud that two Rainbows have completed their Eco Award and received their badges, with three more Rainbows well on their way to completing their Bee Rescuer and Nature interest badges. As part of their activities, the girls headed outside to identify leaves, and it was fantastic to see just how many different types they could discover around the church grounds.

The Rainbows and Brownies have also been busy making wildflower seed balls. Using compost, powdered clay, water and wildflower seeds, they mixed everything together into something that looked rather like a very large mud pie! Once dried, the seed balls were packaged into eco-friendly boxes, ready to be planted and enjoyed.

Another favourite activity was making bee water stations for gardens at home. The girls used upturned flowerpots with saucers fixed on top, then decorated them with bee stickers and waterproof acrylic pens. These will give bees a safe place to drink during warmer weather and are a lovely reminder of how small actions can help us care for nature.

Nature has also been an important part of the Brownie programme this term. Alongside many of the activities enjoyed by the Rainbows, the Brownies have completed their Birdwatching badge, developing their observation skills and learning more about the birds around them.

The Guides have been building their outdoor skills too, putting up a tent, cooking a meal and learning new campfire songs. It has been lovely to see all the girls growing in confidence, working together and making such good use of the beautiful space we have at St Matthew's.

As we look ahead to the final few weeks of the academic year, there is still plenty to look forward to. We are especially excited about our outing to Gravity for trampolining, as well as our end-of-term fun night, which will be a great way to celebrate everything the girls have achieved this year.

If you know a girl who would like to join the adventure, make new friends and take part in activities like these, we would love to welcome her to Rainbows, Brownies or Guides. For enquiries, please contact the Parish Office where you will be redirected to my Guiding email or mobile.

We would also like to say a heartfelt thank you to the church community for their continued support for Café Guides. Your encouragement and generosity are greatly appreciated and help us to give the girls opportunities to learn, grow, have fun and make a positive difference.

SUMMER
CAFE GUIDES

SUNDAY 5TH JULY
11.15AM TO 12.30PM
ST MATTHEW'S PARISH CENTRE
27A THE DRIVE, NN1 4RY

SERVING HOME COOKED FOOD,
JACKET POTATOES, BACON ROLLS,
SAUSAGE BAPS, HOME MADE CAKES
FILTER COFFEE, LATTE, CAPPUCCINO, A
WIDE SELECTION OF TEAS, YUMMY HOT
CHOCOLATE WITH CREAM AND
MARSHMALLOWS

OUR LUNCHTIME SPECIALS TOO

Thank you

WWW.32STMATTHEWSGUIDING.CO.UK

FOOD HYGIENE RATING
5
VERY GOOD

Café Guides Recipe for July

Easy Warm Greek-style Roasted Cherry Tomato Salad for One

A quick, flavour-packed salad for one with sweet roasted cherry tomatoes, creamy feta, olives, and oregano. Serve it warm as a simple lunch, light supper, or side dish.

Ingredients

- 150g cherry tomatoes
- 1/4 small red onion, thinly sliced
- 50g feta, crumbled
- 5 to 6 Kalamata olives
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 small garlic clove, finely grated
- 1 1/2 teaspoons lemon juice
- Salt and black pepper, to taste
- A small sprinkle of fresh parsley or dill (optional)

Method

1. Heat the oven to 220°C (200°C fan). Put the cherry tomatoes and red onion on a small baking tray.
2. Drizzle with the olive oil, then add the oregano, garlic, a pinch of salt, and a few grinds of black pepper. Toss everything together.
3. Roast for 18 to 20 minutes, until the tomatoes are soft and beginning to burst.
4. Transfer the hot tomatoes and onions to a serving bowl, including all the roasting juices.
5. Add the olives, crumble over the feta, and drizzle with the lemon juice.
6. Finish with parsley or dill, if using, and serve warm.

Serving tip: For a more filling meal for one, serve this with a slice of toasted sourdough or a small piece of grilled chicken or salmon.

June's Caption Competition

Many thanks to the Wits in the congregation who sent in these great entries :

- 1 Sanding room only
- 2 "We're duned!"
- 3 Darth Wader
- 4 The Holy SEE
- 5 If the sand was any coarser, he would have got shingles
- 6 FOUND – Moses among the bullrushes!
- 7 The day after the 'Jonah and the Whale' incident

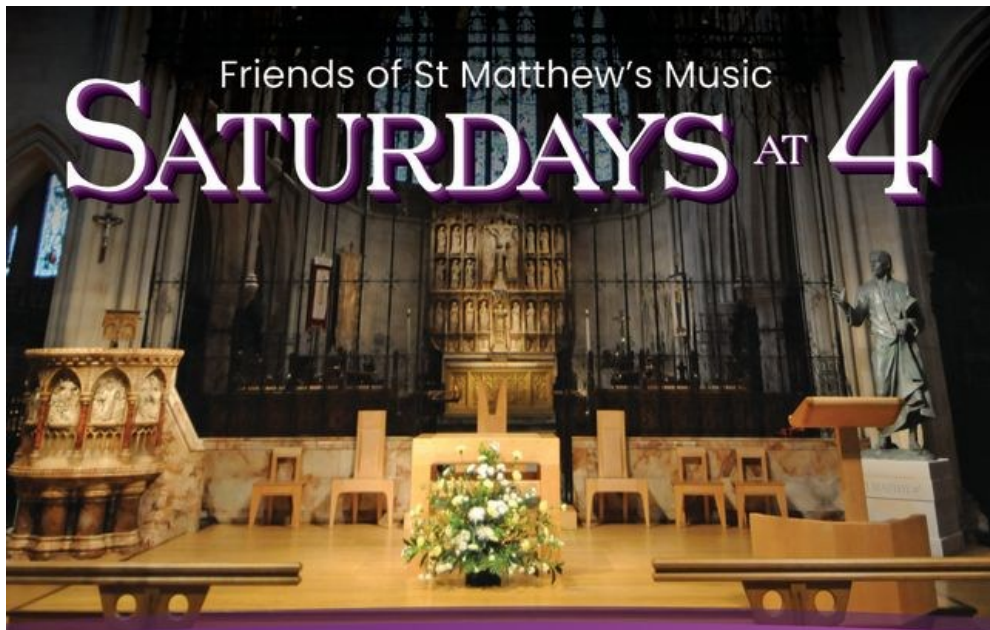


Our independent adjudicator, Dave Wilson, has chosen no.6 as the Winner – unfortunately this entry was signed 'from the Mystery Worshipper' so we have no idea who to congratulate,,, But well done – only you know who you are!

In view of this, Dave's second choice was no.7, which we can tell you was Jonathan Starmer.



Friends of St Matthew's Music SATURDAYS AT 4



Saturday 9th May 2026 at 4:00pm

Thomas Moore (*Piano*)
The music of Jacek Glenc



Saturday 13th June 2026 at 4:00pm

Rachel Capper (*Soprano*)



Saturday 11th July 2026 at 4:00pm

The Lebedek Duo (*Music for Accordion and Violin*)



Saturday 8th August 2026 at 4:00pm

TAPESTRY (*Saxophone and piano duo*)

Tickets **£10**

FSMM Subscribers **£8**

Under 18s **FREE**

Tickets available on the door via cash or card.

For further information please visit www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk.



Post-Choral Evensong

ORGAN RECITALS

at St Matthew's Church Northampton

Evensong at 5.30pm sung by the church choir,
with organ recitals starting at approx. 6.30pm



Sunday 31 May

Anthony Gray (St Wilfrid's Church Harrogate)
Programme includes Hans Zimmer "Interstellar"

Sunday 21 June

Stephen Moore (Llandaff Cathedral)

Sunday 19 July

Thomas Moore (St Matthew's Northampton)

Also coming up...

Saturday 19 September at 7.30 pm

"Phantom of the Opera" silent movie
Darius Battiwalla (Leeds City Organist)

(See separate details for this performance on the church website)



SATURDAY
19th SEPTEMBER
2026 at **7:30pm**

DARIUS
BATTIWALLA
Leeds City Organist

Tickets £10

**A Silent movie screening
accompanied on the magnificent
1895 Walker Organ in St Matthew's**
Pre-concert drinks will be served from 6:45pm

"THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA"



Tickets available on the door via cash or card or online at www.eventbrite.co.uk.
For further information please visit www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk.



DECEMBER 18TH
ST MATTHEWS



"THE VOICES BEHIND
GEORGE MICHAEL
RETURN FOR A DEEPLY
PERSONAL TOUR"



THE GEORGE MICHAEL SINGERS

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FEATURING MUSIC FROM
FAITH LIVE



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The Old Laundry, Bedford Road, Northampton NN4 7AD

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.

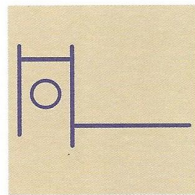
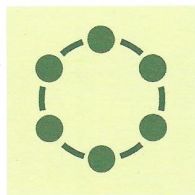
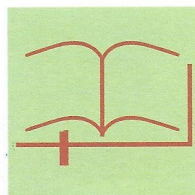
The Scheme is the most tax efficient way of contributing to the church because contributions may be eligible for Gift Aid (raising your donation by 25% at no cost to either you or St Matthew's).

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

Parish Priest	The Revd Canon Nicholas Setterfield	Tel: 01604 604412
	vicar@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk	
Assistant Priest	The Revd Canon Nicholas Gandy	OGS

Parish Officers

Churchwardens	Gary Drinkwater churchwarden@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk Dave Wilson churchwarden@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
PCC Secretary	VACANT pcc-secretary@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
PCC Treasurer	Donald Cran treasurer@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
Stewardship Recorder	Polly Matthews

St Matthew's Trust

David Waller
trust@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Particular Responsibility

Safeguarding Officer	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
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