

St Matthew's **MAIL**

**Suggested
Donation**

£1.00

News from the Parish of Kingsley, Northampton

June 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 June

<i>Date</i>	<i>Observance</i>	<i>Intention</i>
1	S Justin M	The Ministry of Healing
2	Feria	Giving to God what is his
3	The Martyrs of Uganda	Our witness for Christ
4	Feria	Gospel values and worldly values
5	S Boniface, B, M	Those who preach and persevere
6	Our Lady on Saturday	For survivors of abuse
7	CORPUS CHRISTI	Thanksgiving for the Holy Eucharist
8	Feria	Peace making and seeking justice
9	S Columba, Ab	Our care of one another
10	Feria	The gods of our own making
11	S Barnabas, Ap	For those who foster vocations
12	Feria	Following God's lead
13	Of OLW	The Shrine, Society and Parish Cell
14	THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 6)	The Parish
15	Feria	The value of personal integrity
16	S Richard of Chichester, B	According dignity to God in worship
17	Feria	Improper self-seeking
18	Monthly Requiem	The Faithful Departed
19	Feria	The machinations of the powerful
20	Our Lady on Saturday	Access to treatment for infertility
21	THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 7)	The Parish
22	Feria	The virtue of being nonjudgmental
23	S Etheldreda, Ab	Our life of prayer
24	The Birth of S John the Baptist	God's plan for the world's redemption
25	Feria	Building our house on rock
26	Feria	Poverty as openness to God
27	Our Lady on Saturday	Parental responsibility
28	S PETER, APOSTLE	The Parish
29	Feria	Sin as a rejection of God
30	Feria	Spiritual indifference

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

June Pastoral Letter from the Vicar

The Call to Unity and Peace

June brings before us two great festivals of the Church which, in different ways, invite us to reflect upon the heart of our Christian faith and the cost, privilege, and calling of discipleship.

On Sunday 7 June we shall celebrate Corpus Christi, not strictly a feast-day but a 'Day of Thanksgiving for Holy Communion'. In recent years we have transferred this observance from its traditional place on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday to the following Sunday, so that a greater proportion of our worshipping community may have the opportunity to reflect upon the central act of our parish life: the celebration of the Holy Eucharist – the Mass.

This year's celebration will take the form of an All Age Eucharist, presenting both a challenge and a precious opportunity. We live at a time when many people, not least the young, are searching for meaning, belonging, and spiritual depth. The Church's sacramental life speaks directly into that longing. In the Eucharist, Christ gives himself to us under the outward signs of bread and wine: a sacred meal, spiritual nourishment for the journey of this earthly life, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for God's faithful people.

At the heart of this gift stands the command of Christ himself: "Do this in remembrance of me". The Eucharist is not merely a recollection of something long ago, but a living participation in the saving love of Christ, offered for the life of the world. It is my hope that many of our younger members will take part in the liturgy with fresh understanding this year, and perhaps witness for the first time the beauty and devotion of the Corpus Christi procession and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Such moments can leave a deep and lasting impression upon the soul, awakening wonder and reverence before the mystery of God's presence among us.

Then, towards the close of the month, on Sunday 28 June, we celebrate the Feast of St Peter. Peter, so often impetuous and flawed, was nevertheless called by Christ to be the "rock" upon which the Church would be built. His story is a reminder that the Church rests not upon human perfection, but upon God's grace working through fragile human lives surrendered to Christ.

The ministry of Peter continues in the Bishops of Rome, and so this feast naturally invites us to pray for Pope Leo and for the unity of Christ's Church throughout the world. In an age marked by fragmentation, suspicion, and division, the call to Christian unity remains urgent. We may not yet share full

visible communion between our churches, but we can and must pray and work for that unity for which Christ himself prayed on the night before his passion: “that they all may be one”.

Both Corpus Christi and St Peter’s Day also remind us that faithfulness to Christ is never without cost. Christ gave himself sacrificially in the Eucharist. Peter bore witness to Christ ultimately through suffering and martyrdom. Their witness speaks powerfully into our own troubled times.

We look around the world and see the terrible consequences of hatred, prejudice, and religious intolerance. The continuing conflicts in the Middle East have exposed deep wounds – political, cultural, ethnic, and religious – with suffering borne above all by ordinary people, families, and children. We have also witnessed with sorrow the growth of antisemitism and hostility towards people of faith in many places, including within our own society. As Christians, we are called to resist every temptation towards hatred or careless speech. Our vocation is not to inflame division, but to seek truth, peace, reconciliation, and the dignity of every human person. This does not mean ignoring injustice or abandoning conviction, but it does require us to speak truthfully, charitably, and prayerfully. The Gospel calls us always towards de-escalation rather than bitterness, towards understanding rather than caricature, and towards peace rooted in justice.

In the Eucharist we receive the Prince of Peace himself. In St Peter we see a disciple transformed by grace into a servant of reconciliation and steadfast witness. May these observances renew in all of us a deeper love for Christ, a greater devotion to his Church, and a renewed commitment to be instruments of his peace in a wounded world.

Your sincere friend and parish priest,

Fr. Nicholas

Mark Gibson RIP

Many of our readers will have known Mark Gibson, who was a friend to many of us here through the Northampton Bach Choir. He was a mainstay of the choir for nearly 60 years, and had served as Chairman and Concert Manager.

Mark had been seriously ill of late and died peacefully in NGH after a fall on Friday 1 May. The Bach Choir have posted a lovely tribute to him on their website: www.northamptonbachchoir.org.uk

Beginnings and Endings

As June arrives, perhaps some of us sense a gentle invitation to pause and notice where we are. The weeks ahead carry a particular energy for me, a feeling that something is drawing to a close, even as new possibilities begin to open up. For many households, June marks the end of exams and years of study, bringing a heady mix of relief, tiredness and excitement.



This year, that feels especially close, as my son Noah comes to the end of his GCSEs. Like many families, we've lived with revision timetables, quiet encouragement, lots of snacks and prayers, all held alongside that familiar question: *what comes next?*

Across our communities, others will be marking different endings and beginnings too. The school year begins to wind down, projects reach their conclusion, and routines soften as summer draws closer. Even the natural world joins in. Spring's freshness gives way to the smell of barbecues and freshly cut grass. Days stretch long into the evening, gardens flourish, and light seems to linger as if reluctant to leave.

In every season of life, God remains our constant. While our circumstances shift and change, God's faithful presence does not. Scripture reminds us that God walks with us through endings and beginnings alike, offering hope when outcomes are still unknown, peace while we wait, and reassurance as new possibilities unfold.

Christian hope is not about having all the answers, but about trusting the One who holds them. As we journey through June, my prayer is that we may notice what is ending, celebrate what is beginning, and step forward with confidence and joy, trusting that God is already there, welcoming us into all that lies ahead.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Becky Dyball".

The Revd Becky Dyball
Bishop's Missioner

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Weekday Scripture Readings for June

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.

Monday	1	Zechariah 2.10-end	John 3.25-30
Tuesday	2	Exodus 2.11-end	Acts 7.17-29
Wednesday	3	Exodus 3.1-12	Acts 7.30-38
Thursday	4	Exodus 6.1-13	John 9.24-38
Friday	5	Exodus 34.1-10	Mark 7.1-13
Saturday	6	Exodus 34.27-end	2 Corinthians 3.7-end
Monday	8	Genesis 3.1-11	Romans 12.9-end
Tuesday	9	Genesis 41.15-40	Mark 13.1-13
Wednesday	10	Genesis 42.17-end	Matthew 18.1-14
Thursday	11	Ecclesiastes 12.9-end	Acts 9.26-31
Friday	12	Genesis 47.1-12	1 Thessalonians 5.12-end
Saturday	13	Genesis 50.4-21	Luke 15.11-end
Monday	15	Isaiah 32	James 3.13-end
Tuesday	16	Proverbs 3.1-18	Matthew 5.1-12
Wednesday	17	Judges 6.1-16	Matthew 5.13-24
Thursday	18	Jeremiah 6.9-15	1 Timothy 2.1-6
Friday	19	1 Samuel 16.14-end	John 14.15-end
Saturday	20	Isaiah 6.1-9	Revelation 19.9-end
Monday	22	Exodus 13.13b-end	Luke 15.1-10
Tuesday	23	Proverbs 1.20-end	James 5.13-end
Wednesday	24	Malachi 4	Matthew 11.2-19
Thursday	25	Isaiah 57.14-end	John 13.1-17
Friday	26	Jeremiah 15.15-end	Luke 16.19-31
Saturday	27	Isaiah 25.1-9	Acts 2.22-33
Monday	29	Ezekiel 34.11-16	John 21.15-22
Tuesday	30	Proverbs 6.6-19	Luke 4.1-14

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).

Chippings from the Vicar's Work Bench

Healing Mass

Our monthly Healing Mass takes place on Monday 1 June at 7.00pm in the Lady Chapel. Within the Holy Eucharist we shall offer prayers for healing and wholeness for body, mind and spirit. All are welcome, whether seeking prayer for themselves or on behalf of others. Prayer requests may also be submitted in confidence.

First Meeting of the New PCC following the APCM

The first meeting of the newly elected Parochial Church Council takes place on Thursday 4 June at 7.30pm in the Garden Room. Members are asked to bring their diaries and to have read any circulated documentation in advance of the meeting. Apologies for absence should be given to the churchwardens. Please pray for those beginning a new period of service on the PCC, that they may be given wisdom, patience and grace in discerning God's will for the life and mission of our parish.

Corpus Christi – Sunday 7 June

This year Corpus Christi falls on the first Sunday of the month, and we shall mark the feast with an All-Age Parish Mass at 10.15am. This wonderful feast celebrates the gift of the Holy Eucharist – the sacred meal at which Christ gathers us around his table and gives us his Body and Blood as food for our journey. The service will provide a particular opportunity to explore together, in an accessible and engaging way, the meaning of the Eucharist and why it lies at the heart of our life as Christians. The Mass will be followed by Café Guides refreshments, offering an opportunity for fellowship and conversation.

Monthly Requiem

We remember the Faithful Departed at our monthly Requiem on Thursday 18 June at midday in the Lady Chapel. Whilst all are welcome, we particularly invite those whose loved ones have anniversaries during June, and those who have been recently bereaved. “Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.”

Northampton Symphony Orchestra

Please note that the Northampton Symphony Orchestra will be rehearsing in church on Wednesday 17 June from 7.00 to 10.00pm. Their summer concert takes place on Saturday 20 June at 7.30pm. Further details regarding tickets and programme information will be available separately. Please support this valued use of our church building and the rich musical life of our community.

Parish Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham

Members of the Parish Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham will gather this month to give thanks for our recent pilgrimage and for the many blessings received during our time at the Shrine.

Pilgrimage always reminds us that the Christian life itself is a journey: we travel to holy places in order to return renewed and strengthened for the ordinary paths of daily discipleship. Those who travelled to Walsingham carry back not simply memories, but prayers offered, friendships deepened, and fresh encouragement in faith.

Please continue to pray for the work of the Cell and for all pilgrims, that Our Lady may continue to lead us ever closer to her Son.

Whilst on pilgrimage, Cell members also reflected on our pattern of meeting. Some time ago, in response to enquiries from those interested in joining us but unable to attend on Saturdays, we altered our meeting day on an experimental basis for six months. Unfortunately, the revised arrangements have not proved successful, and those who had sought an alternative meeting time have not subsequently joined us.

We have therefore agreed to return to our former and more familiar pattern of meeting on the second Saturday of each month (with the exception of August). There is a simplicity in this arrangement that makes it easier to remember and establish as part of our regular rhythm of prayer.

Accordingly, the Cell will next meet on Saturday 13 June, beginning with a Mass of the Holy House at 9.30 am in the Lady Chapel, followed by the Cell meeting. New members and enquirers are always very warmly welcome.

House Group

Our monthly House Group resumes this month at the Vicarage on Wednesday 17 June at 2.00 pm. During our time together we shall be reflecting on some of the recent feast days of the Church and considering what they might say to us in our own lives of faith and discipleship. There will be opportunity for discussion, prayer and fellowship in an informal setting. All are warmly welcome, whether you have attended before or are thinking of joining us for the first time.

St Peter's Day – Sunday 28 June

On St Peter's Day we give thanks for the witness of the Apostle Peter – impulsive, faithful, flawed, courageous – the disciple called by Christ to “feed my sheep”. Peter reminds us that God works not through perfect people but through willing hearts. Despite his failures and denials, Peter became a rock upon which Christ built his Church. As we keep this feast, let us pray for the Church throughout the world, for bishops, priests and deacons, and for all who are called to serve Christ and his people.

Northampton Philharmonic Choir – The Sprig of Thyme: A Celebration of John Rutter

The Northampton Philharmonic Choir, directed by Thomas Moore, is performing at St Michael and All Angels Church on Saturday 20 June at 7.00pm. Their concert, entitled The Sprig of Thyme: A Celebration of John Rutter, marks the recent 80th birthday of Sir John Rutter, one of the most widely loved and performed composers of choral music of our time. The programme promises an enjoyable evening celebrating the beauty and warmth of his music, much of which has become deeply familiar within the life of the Church and beyond.

Tickets are available to book online through the parish website, or may be purchased on the door: Adults: £17.50 Under 16s: £6.00. Please do support this wonderful evening of music-making in a neighbouring parish.

Post-Choral Evensong Organ Recital

Following Choral Evensong on Sunday 21 June, there will be an organ recital at 6.30pm, given by Stephen Moore, Director of Music at Llandaff Cathedral and formerly Director of Music at St Matthew's Church. Many within the parish will remember Stephen with affection from his time at St Matthew's, and it will be a real pleasure to welcome him back among us. We look forward to hearing him once again at the organ in what promises to be an excellent recital. Admission is free, with a retiring collection in support of music at the church.



Caption Competition

Nothing attracts more witty entries than a photo of the vicar...

So how about this one, taken in Walsingham Pilgrimage week?

Email your entries to magazine@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk or leave a hard copy in an envelope in the 'P' pigeon hole in church or with Anita in the office, addressed to Dorrie Parker, by SUNDAY 14 JUNE.

Good luck!

The Importance of Voluntary Workers in Our Church

Gary Drinkwater

Our church would not be what it is without the dedication of voluntary workers. Week by week, people generously give their time, skills, and energy to support worship, care for others, and keep church life running smoothly. Much of this work happens quietly, but its impact is felt by everyone.

Volunteers serve in many ways: welcoming at services, helping with children's activities, supporting music and worship, serving, organising events, and working behind the scenes. Their willingness to serve ensures that the church remains active, welcoming, and responsive to the needs of both the congregation and the wider community.

Volunteering also strengthens our church family. Working together builds friendships and encourages a sense of belonging. It reminds us that church is not something provided for us, but something we build together, each playing a part.

For many, volunteering is a practical way of living out faith. It reflects Christ's example of service and love for others. Through simple acts of kindness and commitment, volunteers offer a powerful witness that faith is lived through action.

Those who volunteer often discover new gifts and grow in confidence and faith. At the same time, their service enables the church to reach beyond its walls – supporting local outreach, caring for those in need, and showing God's love in practical ways.

We give heartfelt thanks to all who serve our church so faithfully. Your commitment makes a real difference. If you are not yet involved take this as an invitation to consider how your gifts might be shared for the good of our church family.



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

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 JULY magazine is SUNDAY 14 JUNE

Editor: Dorrie Parker

Layout and production: Gary Drinkwater

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

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

Number **22**, held by **Pamela Rawlinson**



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 Mass

Jean Duncan

On Sunday 3 May, when it was our usual All Age Mass we were invited by Heidi Moore, who was the leader on that occasion, to join in with some of the very young children in a Pictionary game, based around the gospel reading of the day (*John 14:1-14*) and the words Jesus said at the Last Supper, "I am the way, the truth and the life".

The children did some illustrations and the congregation was invited to come up with some answers for the drawings. It was challenging for all concerned, but Heidi, remarkably, managed to get the children to draw the appropriate pictures. It was really good and we all felt included.

My main reason for writing this is to commend Heidi on the way she 'managed' this rather difficult concept. To conclude the presentation she read a lovely poem by Bob Hartman to us. I had never heard this poem before and I suggested to Heidi that it would make an excellent contribution to *St Matthew's Mail*. For those of you that missed it, and for others, like myself, who thought we might like to hear it again, I have included it here:

I Am the Way by Bob Hartman

"I'm going to my Father," said Jesus to his friends.
Said Jesus, "I'm going away.
But there are rooms in his house,
More rooms than you can count,
And I promise to take you there, one day."

But how will we get there?" asked Jesus' friend Thomas.
Said Thomas, "Show us we pray.
Don't leave us alone.
We don't know where you're going!
So how can we know the way?"

"I am the Way," said Jesus to his friends.
Said Jesus, "I am the Way.
The Father's Life
And the Father's Truth
Is in all I do and say."

"Then show us the Father!" said Jesus' friend Philip.
Said Philip, "Then all will be well!"
"If you've seen me," said Jesus,
"You've seen him, too!
We've been together for years, can't you tell?"

“I’m in the Father,” said Jesus to his friends.
Said Jesus, “He’s in me too.
In the words I say,
In the stories I tell,
In the miracles you’ve seen me do.”

“You will not be orphans,” Jesus said to his friends.
Said Jesus, “You won’t be alone.
My Father will send you
Another companion
So you will not be on your own.”

“His Spirit will live within you,” said Jesus.
Said Jesus, “Within you he’ll be.
Then we’ll all be one,
Father, Spirit, Son –
Together for eternity.”

Brand New Christians

On Sunday
19 April we
welcomed
two new
members to
the fold when
Annabel Eva
Kinchella and
Melisa
Kitajeva were
baptised
during the
Parish Mass.

You may
recall that
their

mothers, Sintija and Kristine, were themselves baptised in February this year so that they might be godparents to one another’s children.

Here they are pictured with their families after the Mass – Annabel is third from the right with her mother Sintija, and Melisa is central with her mother Kristine directly behind. Congratulations to them both!



Funeral homily – for Robert Wilson

A mourner at Robert's funeral on Friday 8 May has asked for Fr Nicholas' homily to be included in the magazine:

Today we gather with sadness, yes – but also with gratitude, and even with a smile or two – because it is simply impossible to speak honestly about Robert “Bertie” Wilson without warmth and a certain lightness of spirit. How good it is to be joined by Robert's siblings – Richie, Lily, Maura and Ken, his daughter Sarah, and grandchildren Maisie and Josh, and their loved ones. We are also joined online by family and friends in Ireland. And of course with Bob who has known and loved Bertie for more than fifty years. Welcome to you all.

St Paul writes in our first reading that *“the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus.”* And he goes on to speak about how, even as the outward nature wastes away, the inward nature is being renewed day by day. Those words feel very close to home for us today. Many of you watched Bertie's steady decline. That is never easy. It can feel as though life is narrowing, diminishing. And yet St Paul invites us to see something deeper: that God is at work even then – quietly, faithfully – preparing something eternal, something that does not fade.

And if ever there was someone who lived with a sense that life was to be lived fully, right up to the last, it was Robert. He took pride in his appearance – immaculate, dapper, always well turned out. One suspects that even now, he would want us to note that this is a well-dressed congregation. He had that wonderful gift of presentation – not just in how he looked, but in how he carried himself: with dignity, charm, and just enough mischief to keep things interesting.

And yes – it would be dishonest not to mention – he had a certain attentiveness to his health. Some might say... a *keen interest*. Others might use the word *hypochondriac*. But perhaps the kinder way to put it is this: Bertie paid attention to life. To his own, and to others'. He noticed things. He cared.

In the Gospel, Jesus says: *“Do not worry about your life... consider the lilies... consider the birds.”* At first glance, that might seem at odds with someone who noticed every ache and pain. But the heart of that teaching is not about ignoring life – it is about trust. Trust that beneath everything, God holds us. And in his own way, Bertie did trust life. He said yes to it. He embraced it. He filled it with conversation, connection, and colour. He loved interacting with people.

And people loved him – because he had time for them. He would talk to anyone. Truly anyone. A walk was never just a walk – it was a series of conversations waiting to happen. A quick trip to the shops could become a social occasion. He was never lost for words – and yet he also knew how to listen. That is a rarer gift than we sometimes realise.

Psalms 92 tells us: *“The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree... they shall still bear fruit in old age.”* That is a beautiful description of Bertie. Even in later years, he was still bearing fruit – still connecting, still encouraging, still showing interest in others. Right up until that final Friday walk, still out there, still among “his people”. He was happy to be here Easter morning, people came to him and were good with him, though I could tell it had taken a considerable effort.

Robert had a creativity and a generosity of spirit that shaped so much of what he did. Here at St Matthew’s, that showed itself in all sorts of ways – fundraising, organising, bringing ideas to life, helping things happen. He understood how to gather people, how to lift a room, how to make something joyful out of the ordinary. Whether it was a fete, a raffle, or simply being present and involved, he brought energy and imagination with him.

More than that, he had a way of making people feel noticed – valued. That quiet gift of drawing others in, of helping them feel part of something, is no small thing in a church community. It is, in its own way, a reflection of the welcome of God.

And beyond here, in his work and creativity, he did something similar. He helped people remember – helped them reconnect with moments of joy and identity. He brought life where it might easily have faded. There is something deeply Christ-like in that – restoring dignity, awakening joy, reminding people who they are.

And he loved joy. Holidays – Benidorm many times over. Travel, theatre, meals out, dancing, conversation. He understood that life is to be enjoyed, shared, celebrated. He loved this parish too. St Matthew’s wasn’t just a place he attended – it was somewhere he belonged. A place of friendship, of laughter, of contribution. He was part of its life, and its life is richer for that.

And, like all of us, he lived a life that was not without complexity. There were joys and there were sorrows. There were deep relationships, and moments of hurt. There were things fully understood, and things perhaps not fully resolved. And here, gently, the Gospel speaks again: *“Do not keep striving... do not keep worrying... your Father knows.”* God knows the whole story, the truth of it. Not just the parts we see, or the parts we understand – but all of it. The love, the effort, the misunderstandings, the generosity and its lack, the frailty. And God holds it all with mercy.

Because a funeral is not about pretending someone was perfect. It is about entrusting a real, human life into the hands of a loving God. And we do that with confidence. Because Bertie was a man who loved. He loved his family deeply – so proud of each one of you. He spoke of you often. Your achievements were his joy. He loved his friends – those who travelled with him, laughed with him, stood by him, cared for him so faithfully when he needed it most. That quiet, daily care – that is love in its truest form.

And he loved life. So today, alongside our grief, there is also thanksgiving. Thanksgiving for laughter shared. For conversations that went on longer than expected. For stories – so many stories. For kindness given freely. For a life that brought warmth wherever it went.

And we hold onto the Christian hope. St Paul speaks of a “house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens”. That is the promise we cling to today – that this life is not the end, but a doorway. Bertie believed that. He spoke of reunion. Of meeting again those who have gone before.

And so we trust that even now, he is at home with God – perhaps already striking up conversation, already bringing a little of that familiar sparkle to heaven itself. And if that is so, I suspect heaven has become a slightly more sociable place.

So we commend him to God. We give thanks for his life. And we honour his own wish – that today, though there are tears, there should also be something of a celebration. Not because death is easy – but because love is stronger. And love, as we see in Jesus Christ, does not end.

May he rest in peace.



St Matthew's Church

SUMMER FETE



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

The Sprig of Thyme

A celebration of John Rutter



Saturday 20 June at 7:00pm

St Michael and All Angels, Perry Street

An evening of summer music in celebration of John Rutter following his 80th birthday in September last year.

The programme includes a performance of *The Sprig of Thyme*, a collection of eleven traditional folk songs from the British Isles arranged by Rutter, along with a selection of his anthems.

Musical Director: Thomas Moore
Director of Music at St Matthew's Church

Tickets *Adult* *£17.50*
 Under 16 *£16*

Book online at www.northamptonphilharmonicchoir.co.uk
or pay on the door



Billy Lockett records at St Matthew's

Billy Lockett, the local singer songwriter, known to some of us at St Matthew's who follow his musical journey, hired the church on the evening of Thursday 30 April to record a video with Northants Sings Out Choir (*Britain's Got Talent* 2024 Finalists).

We stewarded the filming of his video in church and Anita asked for permission to take a couple of photos at the end to use on our social media and in the magazine. They were just of Billy though as the choir had already left... They will send us a link to the video when it's been completed. Billy is now on tour and is gaining radio plays with his new songs on Radio 2 this month. You can read more about him at <https://billylockett.com>

An advertisement for La Tiella restaurant. The background is a dark, warm-toned image of the restaurant's interior, showing a bar area and tables. The text is in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. At the top, it says "RESERVE A TABLE". Below that, "NOW OPEN" is written in a larger font. Underneath, the restaurant's name "LA TIELLA" is displayed with a stylized logo. The opening hours are listed: "Monday 15:00 - 23:00", "Tuesday Closed", and "Wednesday to Sunday 15:00 - 23:00". A QR code is located in the bottom left corner of the advertisement.

ITALIAN CUISINE

ITALIAN CUISINE

RESERVE A TABLE

NOW OPEN

LA TIELLA
LA TIELLA

Monday 15:00 - 23:00
Tuesday Closed
Wednesday to Sunday 15:00 - 23:00





Mezzo-soprano soloist Rachel Roper
The Northampton Bach Choir
The Choir of Malcolm Arnold Academy

Tickets £15 Adult
£12 Concession
£5 18 and under
www.nso.org.uk

7.30pm
St Matthew's Church



The *Petite Messe Solennelle* remains a unique jewel in the choral repertoire, blending sacred tradition with operatic flair. The Northampton Bach Choir is thrilled to revisit this masterpiece - a rare opportunity to hear Rossini's final major work in all its vibrant colour and expressive depth, inviting audiences to experience its blend of seriousness and joy, profundity and playfulness.

7.00pm
St Matthew's Church
Book tickets at
www.northamptonbachchoir.org.uk

The Parish Church of St Matthew

Sunday 7 June

10.15am

All Age Mass
for the Parish Family:

Corpus Christi

Thanksgiving for the Holy Eucharist



The Parish Church of St Matthew

Sunday 28 June

SAINT PETER, Apostle

10.15am

The Parish Mass



5.30pm

Solemn Congregational Evensong

**SUMMER
CAFE GUIDES**

SUNDAY 7TH JUNE
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.25TMATTHEWSGUIDING.CO.UK

FOOD HYGIENE RATING
5
VERY GOOD

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)

St Matthew's Church

SUMMER FETE

Saturday 4 July | 1.00pm till 4.00pm

We are now asking for donations for our Summer Fete. So if you haven't yet started looking through your cupboards and garages for all those unwanted gifts and items you've been meaning to clear out, now is the time!

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

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

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

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

Many thanks for your continued support.

Denise

summerfete@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Note Parish Office opening hours are:

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

The office is closed on Wednesdays

St Matthew's Ladies Group

Meetings are on Monday afternoons from 2.00pm till 4.00pm

in the Parish Centre, on the second and fourth Mondays of the month.

Meetings in June

8 June Jackie Allen – *Summer Fashion Show*
(there will be items for sale)

22 June Afternoon Tea at Kingsthorpe Golf Club

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

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

DECEMBER 18TH
ST MATTHEWS



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



THE GEORGE MICHAEL SINGERS

YOU HAVE BEEN LOVED



FEATURING MUSIC FROM
FAITH LIVE

32nd St Matthew's Multi-Aged Girlguiding

Mandy Ludlow

Creativity, Community and Challenge at St Matthew's Girlguiding

From eco projects and birdwatching to geocaching, community fundraising and an award-winning challenge team, the girls of 32nd St Matthew's Girlguiding have been full of energy, creativity and care this term.

The 32nd St Matthew's Girlguiding units have been as busy as ever, with every section working hard on interest badges, Skills Builders and Unit Meeting Activities. The Rainbows, though, have added an extra splash of colour this term by taking on the Rainbow Eco Award. They have been learning about saving water and electricity, thinking about when it is better to walk than drive, exploring practical ways to help the environment and committing to a four-week project. It has been wonderful to see just how much these five- and six-year-olds already understand about caring for the world around them.

There has also been plenty of hands-on creativity. The girls made butterflies, ladybirds, bees and snails from air-drying clay before painting them in bright colours. To support the real creatures in our gardens, they also had enormous fun making wildflower seed balls – essentially gloriously messy mud pies made from compost, powdered clay, wildflower seeds and water, rolled up like pastry and left to dry. These will be boxed up and given as gifts. Over the same four weeks, the Rainbows have also been collecting bras for our bra bank and are now preparing those for collection too.

The bra bank remains one of our ongoing projects at the Parish Centre, alongside the period poverty box in the ladies' toilet. The bra bank supports breast cancer charities as well as women in developing countries, so it continues to make a real difference in more ways than one. If you are having a clear-out of your underwear drawer, please do remember us and bring any old or unwanted bras to the collection point in the Parish Centre storage area. We are very grateful to Dorrie and her friend for the support they give to this project. Breast cancer can affect anyone, male or female, and support like this really matters.

So what about the other sections? The Brownies have been flocking to the new Birdwatcher badge. They have made a variety of bird feeders from recycled materials, played bird beetle and bingo, and kept watch in their own gardens to identify the birds they could spot. We have even introduced some parents to the Merlin app, which listens to birdsong and identifies the species it can hear. It is a delight to stand in the garden or any out-

door space and discover just how many birds are around us. We would encourage anyone to give it a try.

The Guides, working with Georgina, have been learning campfire songs and games, regrouping and renaming their patrols, and getting started on their geocaching badge. It is something we tried some years ago and it was so popular that the current girls chose to do it again. So, if you happen to spot what looks like a random takeaway container hidden in the church grounds, don't assume it is someone's abandoned noodles – it may well be a Guide geocache, complete with a number and a few small items connected with the unit.

Café Guides is continuing to go from strength to strength, and we are now becoming very familiar with our digital till, which is helping service run much more smoothly. We will be back on 7 June with our famous bacon rolls and jacket potatoes, so please do come along, enjoy some lunch and spend time catching up with friends. The money raised allows us to support the church in a meaningful way each month and also helps us provide transport for outings, making sure that every girl has the chance to take part.

Stop press! On Saturday 16th May, the Abbey Centre hosted a Division event featuring a Rainbow Fun Morning and a Brownie Challenge afternoon. In the morning, our Rainbows joined others from across the Division for a lively session of activities, and we are delighted to say we had 100% attendance. A lovely morning was had by all.

In the afternoon came the Brownie Challenge, a competition for teams of six girls whose combined ages must not exceed 50. The challenge includes six activities, some completed as a team and others individually, with points awarded not only for performance but also for manners, teamwork, politeness, tidying away and smart appearance. Last year St Matthew's won the Catherine Huckell Brownie Challenge Shield by a large margin, though this year's team was different because of the age rules. As the scores were counted, all the teams were close, but in the end our girls achieved a tremendous 398 points and once again emerged as the winners – a full 20 points ahead of the team in second place. Very well done to all of them on a thoroughly deserved success.



Café Guides Recipe for June

Summer Vegetable Tart

A light and colourful vegetarian main course that makes the most of summer vegetables. This tart is ideal for lunch, a picnic table or a bring-and-share meal, and can be served warm or at room temperature.

Ingredients

- 1 sheet ready-rolled puff pastry
- 200g soft cheese or ricotta
- 1 egg
- 1 small courgette, thinly sliced
- 150g cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 small red onion, thinly sliced
- 1 yellow pepper, cut into small pieces
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tsp dried mixed herbs
- 50g grated Cheddar or vegetarian hard cheese
- Salt and black pepper, to taste

Method

1. Unroll the puff pastry place it on a baking tray. Score a border about 2cm in from the edge, taking care not to cut all the way through.
2. Mix the soft cheese or ricotta with the egg and a little seasoning, then spread it evenly inside the border.
3. Toss the courgette, cherry tomatoes, red onion and pepper in the olive oil and herbs, then arrange over the cheese mixture.
4. Sprinkle with the grated cheese.
5. Bake at 200°C (180°C fan) for 25–30 minutes until the pastry is golden and crisp.

Serving tip: Serve with a green salad and new potatoes. This tart is also excellent cold, making it a useful summer recipe for gatherings.



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

To be Announced
Please visit the St Matthew's Church website for details



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.





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**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

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.

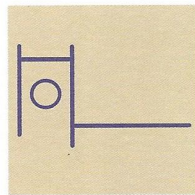
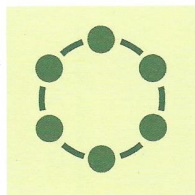
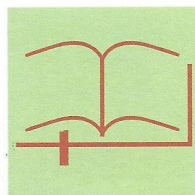
The Scheme is the most tax efficient way of contributing to the church because contributions may be eligible for Gift Aid (raising your donation by 25% at no cost to either you or St Matthew's).

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 vicar@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk	Tel: 01604 604412
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	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

David Waller trust@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk
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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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