

St Matthew's
MAIL

**Suggested
Donation**

£1.00

News from the Parish of Kingsley, Northampton

MARCH 2025



www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Services at the Parish Church of St Matthew

Sundays

10.15am	The Parish Mass (sung)
5.30pm	Evensong — according to The Book of Common Prayer

First Sunday in the month

10.15am	All Age Mass for the Parish Family
5.30pm	Choral Evensong

*When the choir is on holiday (coinciding with school holidays and half terms)
Choral Evensong is replaced with Congregational Evensong*

Second Sunday in the month

10.15am	Laying on of hands and Sacrament of Anointing is offered in the Lady Chapel
5.30pm	Congregational Evensong

Third Sunday in the month

5.30pm	Choral Evensong and Benediction
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Fourth and Fifth Sundays in the month

5.30pm	Congregational Evensong
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Weekdays *(During the winter months of November to March, held in the Parish Centre)*

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

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

Tuesday Currently suspended

Wednesday 9.30am Mass

Thursday 9.30am Mass

Friday 12 noon Mass

Saturday 9.30am Mass

(Mass of Our Lady of Walsingham followed by a Cell Meeting on the second Saturday of the month)

Major Feast-Days Procession and Sung Mass at 7.30pm

(Always held in church. The morning Mass may be cancelled — refer to literature in church and on website)

Sacrament of Reconciliation, commonly known as Confession, is celebrated in the Lady Chapel by appointment with the clergy. They are also available for advice and guidance on any matter of concern.

All aspects of the sacrament are in confidence.

Worship Calendar for March

<i>Date</i>	<i>Observance</i>	<i>Intention</i>
1	S David, B	
2	THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT	
3	Feria	The Ministry of Healing
4	Feria	Giving up and taking up in Lent
LENT 2025		
5	ASH WEDNESDAY	
6	Feria	Our spiritual keeping of Lent
7	Feria	Ecumenical stations of the cross
8	Of OLW	Preparations for the forthcoming parish pilgrimage
9	THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	
10	Feria	What peace might look like in Ukraine
11	Feria	For those who feel dispirited
12	Feria	The Parish Lent Course
13	Feria	Addressing the knife crime epidemic
14	Monthly Requiem	The Faithful Departed
15	Feria	Safeguarding and decision making in the Church
16	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	
17	S Patrick, B	The people of Ireland North and South
18	S Cyril of Jerusalem, B, Dr	The Jewish nation and leadership
19	S Joseph, Husband of the BVM	The Parish Lent Course
20	S Cuthbert, B	For Bishop Debbie and John
21	Feria	A just peace in the Middle East
22	Feria	The Sacrament of Confession
23	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	
24	Feria	Leadership within the Church of England
25	ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	
26	Feria	Working in co-operation with God
27	Feria	The Parish Lent Course
28	Feria	Gaza and a two-state solution
29	Feria	Ecumenical stations of the cross
		Offering ourselves in the service of the Church
30	THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Mothering Sunday)	
31	Feria	Those facing financial difficulties

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

March Pastoral Letter from the Vicar

Time for reflection

On Ash Wednesday the Church invites us to embark on a journey, the journey of Lent, which is a journey towards Easter. We are a baptised people but haven't yet lived fully the life of a Christian. Lent calls us to a change of heart and a fuller living of the Gospel. How might we respond and fulfil our vocation?

Jesus spent forty days in the desert, reflecting and praying. The desert may be a harsh place, but it's an ideal place for prayer and reflection.

This desert experience came at a crucial moment in the life of Jesus, a time of great awakening. As a result he grew to love solitude, and made a habit of seeking it at difficult moments in his life. When people and events threatened to engulf him, he would steal off to a lonely place to recover and rededicate himself to the Father. What he was doing was deepening this first desert experience.

We too need a lonely place for reflection. Often we live foolishly and unspiritually, driven on by stupid desires and imprisoned by selfish habits. We are surrounded by noise and constant activity. We get our priorities wrong. We are unable or unwilling to be alone, to be silent, to be still. And we wonder why we aren't happy, why we don't find it easy to get on with others, and why we can't pray.

We need solitude. In solitude we begin to stand on our own feet before God and the world, and accept full responsibility for our own lives. The hermit goes into the desert, not to lose himself, but to find himself. In solitude we meet our demons, our addictions, our lust, our anger, and our need for recognition and approval.

And we don't go into the wilderness to escape from others, but to find them in God. 'Only in solitude and silence can I find the gentleness with which I can love my brothers and sisters.' (Thomas Merton)

Lent is a precious and essential time given to us in order that we may reorientate our lives, change our priorities, and draw ever closer to Christ and his loving purpose in us. May we resolve to use it well.

Your sincere friend and parish priest,

Fr. Nicholas

March... in like a lion and out like a lamb

– so they say!

I am not sure how much truth is in that saying but I have always been fascinated about the connections between this and the way we talk about God.

'Lion' and 'Lamb' are both images we use for Jesus.

The Bible speaks of 'the Lion of Judah' which we see reflected in hymns and modern worship songs. CS Lewis gives us the story of Narnia where Aslan, the Lion, is killed on the stone table and then seen again. Death and Resurrection.



The 'Lamb of God' is used by John the Baptist about Jesus directly, the idea of sacrifice, the lamb given on behalf of others.

There is a gentleness about this image, hence with March it stands as the opposite to the roaring lion. This Lamb of God, this Jesus, is however not a helpless creature taken against his will, this is God who willingly gives himself as an offering for all.

The final Sunday this month takes us to Mothering Sunday, a good time to celebrate all who 'mother' others. A time also to celebrate the church family who 'mother' others and both of those a reflection of God's Love. God who is Lion and Lamb. God who willingly made the sacrifice necessary to 'mother' us, as Jesus shows us, God who longs to gather us to safety as a mother hen gathers her chicks, if only we are willing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Booker'.

The Venerable Alison Booker
Archdeacon of Oakham

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Evensong Homily Sunday 9 February

Ray Douglas

New Life in Christ

As I stand before you here this evening at St Matthews on the 9th of February, allow me to invite you to step aboard my imaginary Time Machine, my Tardis if you like. Let me take you back to late August 1977, to the deck of HMS Newcastle, a naval vessel under construction at the Neptune Shipyard by the banks of the River Tyne.



It is about 4:15pm on a Friday late afternoon, and I am about to leave forever my former life as a Shipyard Welder. So, I carefully remove my Welders visor that protected my eyes from the intense ultraviolet light that otherwise would have blinded me. Next, I remove my thick leather welders' jacket that protected me from the molten metal and spatter that used to rain down on me when I was welding an overhead butt joint. My equally thick leather gauntlets, I also laid down, alongside my welding torch and a packet of blue .8mm welding rods. Then, with a last look back, I walked down the gangplank onto the quayside, then out of the gates of the Neptune Yard, never to return. Because, you see, a new life awaited me.

A new life that would see me rock up at Cliff College the following Monday morning. Cliff College is a Methodist lay training college that lies in the deepest dales of Derbyshire, to embark on a future that I had absolutely no idea where it would lead. Yet, it was something this young 21-year-old felt he had to do. Radical as this change in life was to this very nervous, but excited, ex welder.

Why am I telling you all this? Because, in the passage we have just read from Colossians (chapter 3 vs1-22), the Apostle Paul is inviting the Christians in Colossae in Eastern Turkey to consider the radical change in their lives that faith in Christ entails. Or should entail perhaps. In the previous two chapters of Colossians, Paul has been warning of various heresies that were threatening the pure faith in Christ in which the Colossian Christians had put their trust. But, having done that, Paul now challenged them, and us, as to how all this was to play out practically in their day to day lives as Christian Believers.

You see, filling your head with sound Christian doctrine, good as that is, needs to be balanced as to how this practically works out in our daily lives. Our American friends have a phrase to describe this, it is "When the rubber hits the road". Time, as Paul might say, to "Get real". RC Lucas puts it like this: "Paul refuses to teach the doctrines of the faith without insisting that they be translated into corresponding behaviour and conduct". Or as James chapter 1 v22 puts it, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only".

So, in verses 5-8 of Colossians chapter 3, we are invited to put to death or lay aside various vices from our past lives. In a similar way to the day I laid aside my former life as a Shipyard Welder, and the clothing that went with it, so Paul encourages us to lay aside all those things incompatible with a new life in Christ. This is not easy! But we should be encouraged. As Paul says elsewhere in Philipines 1 v6: "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring to completion at the day of Christ Jesus". Or as Captain Taggart, in that spoof Star Trek film *Galaxy Quest* puts it: "Never give up, never surrender!"

But, then in verses 9-17, Paul invites us to put on a new set of clothing to replace the ones we seek to leave behind. And what a beautiful suit of clothes they are! No "Emperor's New Clothes" these! Who would not want things like compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience! And on top of all that Love, that as Paul says, "Binds us together in perfect harmony"! Who would not want that? To have that peace of Christ to rule in our hearts? And perhaps, that is why I left the Shipyards that day to pursue this path? A path I am still treading. Even as I stand in these robes and blue scarf today. A bit different from the welding jacket I left hanging on that scaffolding strut. Back in that now closed Neptune Yard, on the banks of the bonny Tyne.

We know, in our hearts do we not, that without the great tailor, without Jesus, the new clothes we are invited to put on, they will always be ill fitting and will pinch. They will always expose all that we are not yet. Yet, if we allow the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, these clothes will fit ever better, till, one day, they will fit perfectly. In Glory.

Do you want that? I know I do.

Amen

What to do on a cold Saturday in January

Gary Drinkwater

On a cold Saturday at the beginning of January I was part of a group of thirty people who went to The Straw Bear Festival in Whittlesea Cambridgeshire. Due to the early morning minus four temperature, we were all wrapped in thick coats and several in blankets as we travelled on a 1960s coach with no heating. Some of us took it in turns to keep the windscreen inside wiped of condensation so the driver could see ahead.



Straw Bear Origins

In Whittlesea, from when no-one quite knows, it was the custom on the Tuesday following Plough Monday (the first Monday after Twelfth Night) to dress one of the confraternity of the plough in straw and call him a 'Straw Bear'. A newspaper of 1882 reports that '... he was then taken around the town to entertain by his frantic and clumsy gestures the good folk who had on the previous day subscribed to the rustics, a spread of beer, tobacco and beef'.



The bear was described as having great lengths of tightly twisted straw bands prepared and wound up the arms, legs and body of the man who was unfortunate enough to have been chosen. Two sticks fastened to his shoulders met a point over his head and the straw wound round upon them to form a cone above the 'Bear's' head. The face was covered and he could hardly see. A tail was provided and a strong chain fastened around the armpits. He was made to dance in front of houses, and gifts of money or of beer and food for later consumption was expected. It seems that he was considered important, as straw was carefully selected each year, from the best available.



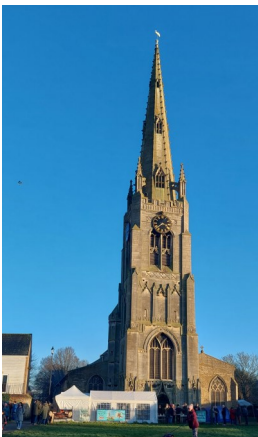
The tradition fell into decline at the end of the 19th century, the last sighting being in 1909 as it appears that an over-zealous police inspector had forbidden 'Straw Bears' as a form of cadging.

Straw Bear Revival

The custom was revived in 1980 by the Whittlesea Society, and for the first time in seventy years a 'Straw Bear' was seen on the streets accompanied by his attendant keeper, musicians and dancers, about 30 in all. Various public houses were visited around the town as convenient places for the 'Bear' and dancers to perform in front of an audience – with much needed refreshment available!

The procession now contains over 250 dancers, musicians and performers from various parts of the British Isles performing traditional 'Molly', 'Morris', 'Clog' and 'Sword'. There is also American-style 'Appalachian' dancing, street performances and Mummers plays. A decorated plough is pulled by 21st century plough boys and is now an established part of the procession.

The event also featured folk music sessions and storytelling, attracting both participants and spectators. On the final day, the Straw Bear costume is ceremoniously burned in a symbolic gesture of renewal. Although largely local in focus, the festival draws attendees from beyond Whittlesea, contributing to the preservation of rural traditions and adding a touch of colour to the otherwise quiet January landscape.



Pictures top to bottom on p 6 are

The Coach

The Straw Bear and Straw Cub minus their heads.

The Straw Bear and Straw Cub.

On p7 top to bottom on right are

The Straw Bear dancing with the Chiltern Hundreds.

The Straw Bear and Cub having their last dance.

The Straw Bear Costume being burnt. To the far left is St Mary's Church with the beer tent in front which raises funds for them.

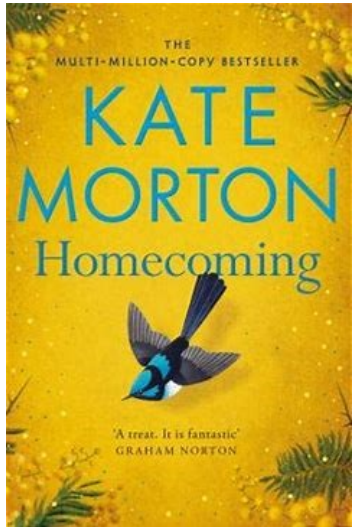
Left is the Straw Bear in procession with his keeper.

On the Bookshelf

Dorrie Parker

It's Christmas Eve afternoon 1959, and in South Australia Percy Summers, the local small town grocery shop owner, was making his way home after a last-minute delivery in the blazing heat on his horse. He decided to give the horse a cooling swim in the creek and detoured off the road into a neighbour's estate, as he had often done.

He noticed the family having a picnic under the willow tree near the creek and went over to say hello. But a sixth sense told him all did not seem right... as he came closer he saw they all seemed to be sleeping – the mother, two daughters and the son. The new baby's wicker basket was hanging on a low branch. But they were dead. The baby was missing.



It's the beginning of December 2018, and in London Jess, an Australian who had been working as a journalist in London for the past 20 years, receives a phone call from Sydney to tell her that her beloved grandmother Nora has had a fall and is seriously ill. Jess should get back quickly.

The circumstances of her grandmother's fall are odd, and something Nora says while in a semi-conscious state sets Jess on a path to find out more about her family and its link to the tragedy in 1959 of which she had been totally unaware...

So the book alternates between the impact and aftermath of the 1959 tragedy and Jess in 2018 hunting for more information about it through the internet and various other parties. This is a murder mystery that will keep you intrigued till the very last page, and don't assume you know how it's going to work out, there are twists to throw you off course... But it's also a story about mother and daughter relationships, keeping secrets and damaging lives, and how the truth can finally bring people together.

I heartily recommend this book: **Homecoming** by **Kate Morton**. I'd not read any of her previous novels, but I certainly want to now.

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 March

10 March Speaker: David White – *Migratory Beekeeping*
(Honey products on sale)

24 March Speaker: Jackie Allen – *Fashion Show*
(Clothing and accessories on sale)

The full Spring/Summer 2025 programme is on our website:

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

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.

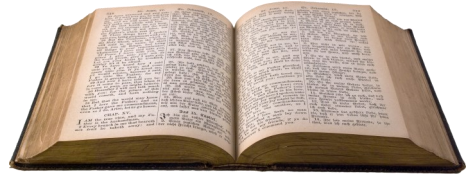
Deadline for the April magazine is SUNDAY 16 MARCH

Editor: Dorrie Parker

Layout and production: Gary Drinkwater

Weekday Scripture Readings for March

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.



Saturday	1	Jeremiah 1.4-10	Matthew 10.16-22
Monday	3	2 Kings 2.13-22	3 John
Tuesday	4	Judges 14.5-17	Revelation 10.4-11
Wednesday	5	Isaiah 1.10-18	Luke 15.11-end
Thursday	6	Genesis 2.7-end	Hebrews 2.5-end
Friday	7	Genesis 4.1-12	Hebrews 4.12-end
Saturday	8	2 Kings 22.11-end	Hebrews 5.1-10
Monday	10	Genesis 6.11-end, 7.11-16	Luke 4.14-21
Tuesday	11	Deuteronomy 31.7-13	1 John 3.1-10
Wednesday	12	Genesis 11.1-9	Matthew 24.15-28
Thursday	13	Genesis 13.1-13	1 Peter 2.13-end
Friday	14	Genesis 21.1-8	Luke 9.18-27
Saturday	15	Genesis 32.22-32	2 Peter 1.10-end
Monday	17	1 Chronicles 21.1-17	1 John 2.1-8
Tuesday	18	Zechariah 3	2 Peter 2.1-10a
Wednesday	19	Genesis 50.22-end	Matthew 2.13-end
Thursday	20	2 Chronicles 29.1-11	Mark 11.15-19
Friday	21	Exodus 19.1-9a	1 Peter 1.1-9
Saturday	22	Exodus 19.9b-19	Acts 7.44-50
Monday	24	Genesis 3.8-15	Galatians 4.1-5
Tuesday	25	Isaiah 52.1-12	Hebrews 2.5-end
Wednesday	26	Genesis 9.8-17	1 Peter 3.18-end
Thursday	27	Daniel 12.5-end	Mark 13.21-end
Friday	28	Numbers 20.1-13	1 Corinthians 10.23-end
Saturday	22	Isaiah 43.14-end	Hebrews 3.1-15
Monday	31	2 Kings 24.18-25.7	1 Corinthians 15.20-34



Northampton Theological Society

The Abbey Centre Chapel
Overslade Close, East Hunsbury, Northampton NN4 0RZ

Tuesday 18 March 2025

7.30 pm

"Resting in God's Love through the eyes of Julian of Norwich and Teresa of Avila"

Speaker: Rev Dr Samantha Gillard

(Samantha is a minister in the Northampton Methodist circuit)

There will be a brief AGM at 7.30pm

Next Meeting

Tuesday 20 May

Speaker: Rev Dr Daniel Pratt Morris-Chapman

"An Amazonian Liberation Theology? A theological response to the crisis in Cameroon"

(Daniel is a lecturer at Wesley House, Cambridge)

Visitors: £5 Members: £15 annual subs due



A COURSE FOR THE CHRISTIAN JOURNEY

Six Lent Group Meetings

Wednesdays 2pm – 3.30pm

Venue: Parish Centre Garden Room

The Pilgrim Course approaches issues of faith, not through persuasion, but by participation in a pattern of reflection and discussion in the company of a small group of fellow travellers.

We will be following the Course module ‘Church and Kingdom’

What does it mean to live as a child of the kingdom of God and follow in the way of Christ each day as a member of his Church? How does it affect our life at work as well as at home? How does it affect what we do with the gifts we have been given, especially those gifts of time and talents, passions, resources and money? How does it affect our relationships with others? And how does it affect our relationship with the world? How is the Christian faith changing us and shaping us so that we become more like Jesus?

The Sessions

Wednesday 12 March Session One: Praying through Life

This session looks at the importance of prayer, particularly daily prayer as foundational for the Christian life.

Wednesday 19 March Session Two: At Home and at Work

In this session we are beginning to look at how we live out our faith every day and at the importance of Sabbath.

Wednesday 26 March Session Three: Living Generously

In this session we are looking at what it means to reflect the generosity of God in our own lives.

Wednesday 2 April Session Four: In all my Relationships

In this session we are looking at how faith in the God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit shapes and changes all our relationships.

Wednesday 9 April Session Five: Confronting the injustices of the World

In this session we are looking at how the Christian life requires us to be involved in the affairs of the world and to witness to God's kingdom of peace and justice every day.

Wednesday 16 April Session Six: Treading lightly on the Earth

In this session we are looking at our relationship with the Earth itself.

Further details about the Lent Group will be given in due course on the weekly Pew Sheet and Parish Website

The Parish Church of St Matthew

Sunday 2 March

**SUNDAY NEXT
BEFORE LENT**

**10.15am
The Parish Mass**

**5.30pm
Service of
Preparation
for Lent**



The Parish Church of St Matthew

5 March

**ASH
WEDNESDAY**



**9.30am
Mass
with Imposition of Ashes**

**7.30pm
The Parish Mass
with Imposition of Ashes**



The Parish Church of St Matthew

Tuesday 25 March

ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

7.30pm The Parish Mass



The Parish Church of St Matthew

Sunday 30 March

MOTHERING SUNDAY

10.15am

All Age Mass
for the
Parish Family



**HELLO
SPRING**
CAFE GUIDES
LUNCH SPECIALS
JACKET POTATO, HOT
TOPPING
WITH A PIECE OF CAKE AND
EITHER A HOT OR COLD
DRINK £5.00
AFTER THE ALL AGE SERVICE ON
30TH MARCH

**HELLO
SPRING**
CAFE GUIDES
NEW LINES BEING ADDED ALL THE
TIME!!
NOW serving Latte and Cappachino
coffees plus flavoured coffees and
hot chocolates
also pannini's and toasties
come and see us after the All Age
Mass on 30th March - stay a while,
stay a few minutes. Enjoy good
food and some company

32nd St Matthew's Multi-Aged Girlguiding

Mandy Ludlow

This time of the year there is not really a lot going on and we concentrate on doing the Guiding programme of Unit Meeting Activities and Skillsbuilders. These all add up towards girls, in all sections, achieving their Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

All sections have this term been concentrating on 'Express Myself' – Innovate, and are doing well. The Guides have already completed the Media Critic interest badge, whilst Brownies have only one Clause left of their Baking Badge to do.

The Rainbows spent a lovely evening making lanterns in which we put battery-operated tea lights – once the room lights went out, they really looked effective.

Another activity was 'funny faces' – where the girls had to think of different emotions and pull the faces that matched.

Rangers is the section where numbers fluctuate, and we are now back in the position of having them as a separate section as girls have moved through from Guides. Rangers basically run themselves, with the support of a leader. They spent a productive evening planning what they want to do for the next few weeks. One of these was to create a Ranger scrapbook. I was firmly told they did not want me to get the materials as they knew what they wanted! Would the girls bring it the next week? Yes, they did, and a very productive evening was spent putting it all together, creating and decorating the cover and planning what they want to put in it; I am told it is photographs of the Rangers. Next, they did some painting onto canvasses and lastly, they have made pizza from scratch including the dough.

Unfortunately, due to leaders' illness we had to put the Rainbows and Brownies together for one evening and we had a very rare games evening, with lots of running around.

Café Guides is still going and growing; our winter warmers have proved popular with some of the congregation, enjoying some hot food before going home. We are constantly thinking of ways we can improve and increase our offering. Last month we added lattes and cappuccinos to our range. The only sad part of Café Guides is the negative comments, and in some cases rudeness. This is probably not the place to mention. The majority of people who come and visit us have lots of positive things to say but there is a small number who do not – hence why you may have seen our signs that say

please be patient, please be kind, we are doing our best. The leaders and girls are doing their best, we are learning all the time; we try to limit the time people have to wait by trying different methods. If you know what you would like, you could always pre-order as some others do, and we can it have ready for when you get to the Parish Centre. We are always open to constructive suggestions.



Café Guides Recipe for March

Spring is almost upon us and people are looking for something a little lighter to eat. We are now in the midst of Lent; however, Mothering Sunday is on 30 March – Refreshment Sunday. This simple recipe is also a little bit special using early asparagus (if you can find it!). This could be served on Mothering Sunday, or indeed perhaps Easter. Easily halved to serve just one or doubled for a family. If like me, you do not like lemon in savoury dishes, only add the zest and leave the rest out.

Chicken and Asparagus Traybake

Ingredients

- 350g new potatoes, halved
- 3 tsp rapeseed or olive oil
- 2-4 whole garlic cloves, flattened
- 6 spring onions, trimmed
- 1 x 250g bunch asparagus, trimmed
- 2 x 125g skinless chicken breast fillets
- 1 lemon



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C /fan 180°C /gas 6, with a medium to large baking tray inside to get hot.
2. Boil the potatoes for 10 minutes until starting to soften. Drain and toss with 1½ teaspoons of the oil, seasoning, and the garlic cloves. Tip onto the hot baking tray and roast for 10 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, toss the spring onions and asparagus with 1 teaspoon of oil to coat them lightly. Cut 3 shallow slashes in each chicken breast and season lightly. Finely grate the zest from half the lemon and sprinkle most of it over the chicken. Cut that half into wedges for serving, then thinly slice the second half of the lemon.
4. When the 10 minutes are up, stir the potatoes and garlic around on the tray and add the spring onions and asparagus, the chicken and lemon slices. Drizzle ½ teaspoon of oil over the chicken and return to the oven to cook for 15 minutes or until the chicken is cooked through. Serve scattered with the remaining lemon zest, with the wedges to squeeze over.

Junior Church

Every Third Sunday of the Month



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

The next Junior church sessions are:
Sunday 16 March 2025
Sunday 20 April 2025

Games Evening

Here are a few of the photos contributed by Adam taken at the Friends of St Matthew's Music Games Evening on Saturday 8 February:



Annual advertising costs

for St Matthew's Mail

A5	Full page	£100.00 per annum
A6	Half page	£60.00 per annum
A7	Quarter page	£40.00 per annum
A8	Eighth of a page	£25.00 per annum

Spaces are available – please contact

Anita, Parish Administrator, at the Parish Office



NBC 90th Anniversary Concert

Saturday 22 March 2025, 7.00pm at St Matthew's Church

This year marks a momentous milestone for the Northampton Bach Choir as it celebrates its 90th anniversary. It was founded in 1935 by Denys Pouncey in 1935, the then St Matthew's Director of Music, and gave its first concert in the church on Palm Sunday that year. The choir has grown to become the largest and one of the most prestigious choral groups in the county, known for its dynamic range and emotive performances. In honour of this significant anniversary, the choir is set to present a special concert at St Matthew's that promises to be a highlight of the musical calendar.

The centrepiece of the celebration will be a performance of Bach's *St Matthew Passion*, sung in English. This monumental work, renowned for its depth and expressiveness, will showcase the choir's versatility and commitment to bringing classical masterpieces to life. Accompanying the choir will be professional soloists and a period-instrument orchestra, ensuring an authentic and powerful rendition of Bach's composition.

Over the years, the Northampton Bach Choir has not only entertained and inspired audiences but has also contributed significantly to the cultural fabric of the region. From its first concert in 1935 to today, the choir has nurtured talented musical directors and collaborated with leading orchestras, including the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The choir's repertoire spans from sacred music to contemporary pieces, reflecting its adaptability and broad musical interest.

The anniversary concert offers an opportunity for both long-standing supporters and new audiences to join in celebration of the choir's 90-year legacy. It's a testament to the choir's enduring passion for choral music and its role in enriching the community's cultural life. As the choir continues to welcome new members and explore new musical territories, this concert will undoubtedly mark the beginning of another exciting chapter in its history.

Tickets from £20.00 to £10.00 are available to purchase online using a Credit/Debit card at www.northamptonbachchoir.org.uk



Bach's statue outside St Thomas' Church in Leipzig by Mark Gibson

90th
Anniversary



NORTHAMPTON BACH CHOIR

St Matthew Passion

JS Bach

The Crucifixion by Graham Sutherland reproduced with kind permission from St. Matthew's Church, Northampton



22 | SATURDAY
MARCH 2025 7.00pm

St Matthew's Church Northampton, NN1 4RY

Conductor - Simon Toyne | Northampton Bach Choir | Orchestra - Charivari Agréable
Evangelist - JAMES OXLEY; Christ - GARETH BRYNMOR JOHN
Soloists: HANNAH DIENES- WILLIAMS; HELENA PAISH; JOSEPH HANCOCK; ALLYN WU
The Choristers of All Saints' Church, Northampton



Tickets: (Nave) Numbered £22 / £20* (Side aisles) Unreserved £17 / £15*
£10 (Students) *Early Bird ticket offer available until 28.2.25

Bookings: Scan QR or visit www.trybooking.com/uk/EKEM
Online booking fee applies • Tickets on door +£1 fee per ticket



We can recycle...

Used **postage stamps** from your envelopes
Your redundant **spectacles** (not the cases though)
There are receptacles in the bookstall area in which to put them
Thank you!





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

Congratulations to the lucky winner of £50 in our FEBRUARY draw —
Number **78**, held by **Kay Warçaba**



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

Olde England Public House

199 Kettering Road
Northampton NN1 4BP
01604 619285



NEW OPENING TIMES

Monday:	Closed
Tuesday:	5.00pm – 11.00pm
Wednesday:	5.00pm – 11.00pm
Thursday:	5.00pm – 12.00am
Friday:	4.00pm – 12.00am
Saturday:	3.00pm – 12.00am
Sunday:	1.00pm – 11.00pm



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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).

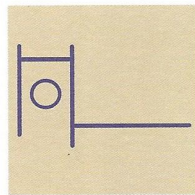
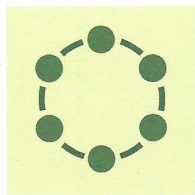
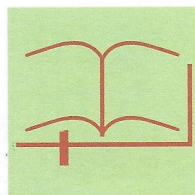
There are two methods of payment available: by a banker's direct debit or by weekly-numbered envelopes via the collection plate. The amount that you give is entirely confidential and is known only to the lay people who administer the Scheme.

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 or as below.

Polly Matthews

<office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk>

Tel. 01604 846074



PARISHGIVINGScheme

Parish Office

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

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

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

Ministry Team

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

Parish Officers

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

St Matthew's Trust

Ben Drouet
chairman@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Particular Responsibility

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

Music Department

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

Walsingham Cell

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