

St Matthew's **MAIL**

**Suggested
Donation**

£1.00

News from the Parish of Kingsley, Northampton

NOVEMBER 2025



www.stmatthewsnorthampton.org.uk

Services at the Parish Church of St Matthew

Sundays

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

First Sunday in the month

10.15am	All Age Mass for the Parish Family
5.30pm	Choral Evensong
<i>When the choir is on holiday (coinciding with school holidays and half terms) Choral Evensong is replaced with Congregational Evensong</i>	

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 November

<i>Date</i>	<i>Observance</i>	<i>Intention</i>
1	Feria	The homeless and rough sleepers
2	ALL SAINTS SUNDAY	The prayers of the heavenly host
3	ALL SOULS	The Faithful Departed
4	Feria	For a just peace in the Middle East
5	Feria	Thanksgiving for the ministry of retired clergy
6	S Leonard, Rel	Those who live alone
7	Feria	The threat of cyber crime
8	Of OLW	The Shrine and the Society
9	THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT	The Parish
	(Remembrance)	
10	S Leo the Great, Pp, Dr	The Ministry of Healing
11	S Martin of Tours, B	Our support of humanitarian and aid agencies
12	Feria	Learning to recognise Christ in our neighbour
13	Monthly Requiem	The Faithful Departed
14	Feria	For Bishop Debbie & the assistant bishops
15	Of the BVM	Those in women's refuges
16	THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT	The Parish
17	S Hugh, B	For General Synod
18	S Elizabeth of Hungary, Rel	Those who suffer mental and physical abuse
19	S Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, Rel	For religious educators
20	S Edmund, K, M	Relation between Church and State
21	Presentation of the BVM	Witnessing to our faith with our families
22	S Cecilia, V, M	For all church musicians
23	THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING	The Parish
24	Feria	Those unable to pay utility bills
25	S Catherine of Alexandria, V, M	Giving an account of our faith
26	Feria	Those who use our parish centre
27	Feria	Our preparations for Advent
28	Feria	Preparations for the Christmas Fayre
29	Of the BVM	Saying 'yes' to God
30	THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	The Parish

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

November Pastoral Letter from the Vicar

Dear friends,

As the Christian year draws to its close, November invites us into a deep season of remembrance, reflection, and renewal. The light fades early, the air sharpens, and creation itself seems to slow and pause – inviting us to look both backward with thanksgiving and forward in hope.

We begin the month with the Feast of All Saints (Sunday 2nd), giving thanks for the great company of men and women in every generation who have borne faithful witness to Christ. Their lives remind us that holiness is not a rare achievement but a calling for us all – the quiet, steady work of love, prayer, and service often in ordinary places. In them we glimpse the glory of God's kingdom already breaking into our world.

The following day brings All Souls' Day, the 'Commemoration of the Faithful Departed', (Monday 3rd, 7.30pm), when we remember before God those we have loved but see no longer. This year, as in past years, we shall hold our Requiem Mass to pray for the departed, for the repose of their souls, and especially to uphold the recently bereaved, whom we have invited personally to join us. These moments of remembrance, of memories treasured, hold together both sorrow and thanksgiving, as we commend our loved ones to the mercy and peace of the risen Christ.

Midway through the month we gather for Remembrance Sunday, when our parish keeps silence and solemn thanksgiving for all who have given their lives in the service of others. During the Act of Commemoration, the names of Kingsley's 168 Fallen, listed in our Memorial Chapel, will again be read aloud before the Silence. Each name represents a unique story of courage and loss, woven into the fabric of our community. In remembering them, we pray also for peace – and renew our resolve to relearn past lessons, and be makers of peace in our own time.

November's liturgical rhythm also carries a thread of kingship throughout – not the worldly kind that seeks power or privilege, but the reign of Christ, whose throne is the Cross and whose crown is love. This theme reaches its fulfilment on the Feast of Christ the King, the final Sunday of the Church's year. On that day we proclaim that all things find their meaning and completion in him – that Christ is Lord not only of the Church, but of all creation, all history, all hope.

And then, as one liturgical year closes, another begins. On Sunday 30 November, the First Sunday of Advent, we begin again the journey of waiting and watching for the coming of our Lord – both in the manger throne of Bethlehem and in the fullness of his kingdom yet to come. Advent's quiet expectancy calls us to renew our faith, deepen our prayer, and open our lives afresh to God's transforming and freely offered life.

As we move through this month of remembrance and kingdom hope, may we hold before God the whole communion of saints – those who have gone before us, known and unknown, those with whom we walk now, and those yet to come. And may the love of Christ, who reigns over all things, guide us as we continue the mission entrusted to us here at St Matthew's: to be a community of faith, welcome, and witness in the heart of Kingsley and beyond.

Your sincere friend and parish priest,

F. Nicholas

Probationers become full Choristers

Tom Moore

At Mass on Sunday 28 September, the day of our Dedication Festival here at St Matthew's, these two young members of the church choir received their whites – the surplices that sit over their cassocks – in recognition of them becoming full choristers in the choir. Whites are awarded once a chorister has been through a period when they are known as 'probationers'. This is a time of learning musical skills, demonstrating commitment, good attendance, excellent punctuality and a range of other life skills that all choristers need in order to be successful members of the choir. Well done Theo and Vera and thank you for the part you play in the worship at St Matthew's.



Remember, Remember...

Remember, Remember... That is, of course, the beginning of the children's rhyme about the gunpowder plot of 1605.

But Remember is a very good summing up word for the month itself.

November brings us a season of remembering. All Saints followed by All Souls as we remember those who have gone before us. The Saints of old whose lives inspire us in our Christian journey and the local, maybe only known to us, souls who have walked with us in faith.



Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day call us to remember the horrors of war so that in remembering we might avoid such actions as lead to these tragedies.

November also marks the end of the Church year and as with every time of ending and beginning we remember what has been and we look to what will be. The church year ends with the Sunday before Advent when we remember what is important to us. We keep it as the feast of Christ the King remembering that it is in Jesus Christ that all things are held together, that it is Jesus who the saints follow and it is the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, laying down his life for us, that inspired those who lay down their life for peace.

That Sunday is also often known as 'Stir up Sunday' from the collect rather than from the Christmas pudding and cake stirring in the kitchen! The Book of Common prayer Collect leads us to pray "Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord."

So in this month of November I pray that we will remember...

Those who lived faithful Christian lives (and do so too), those who we love as see no longer (cherishing our loved ones now), those who sacrifice for peace (and commit ourselves to work for peace) and finally Jesus Christ, God who left the glory of heaven to be one of us.

In our remembering may we be inspired to action, to be stirred up, faithful Christian people known for the fruit of Good Works. Amen.

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

The Venerable Alison Booker
Archdeacon of Oakham

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Weekday Scripture Readings for November

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	Isaiah 40.27-end	Revelation 19.6-10
Monday	3	Esther 3.1-11,4.7-17	Matthew 18.1-10
Tuesday	4	Ezekiel 18.21-end	Matthew 18.12-20
Wednesday	5	Proverbs 3.27-end	Matthew 18.21-end
Thursday	6	Exodus 23.1-9	Matthew 19.1-15
Friday	7	Proverbs 3.13-18	Matthew 19.16-end
Saturday	8	Deuteronomy 28.1-6	Matthew 20.1-16
Monday	10	Isaiah 40.21-end	Romans 11.25-end
Tuesday	11	Ezekiel 34.20-end	John 10.1-18
Wednesday	12	Leviticus 26.3-13	Titus 2.1-10
Thursday	13	Hosea 6.1-6	Matthew 9.9-13
Friday	14	Malachi 4	John 4.5-26
Saturday	15	Micah 6.6-8	Colossians 3.12-17
Monday	17	Micah 7.1-7	Matthew 10.24-39
Tuesday	18	Habakkuk 3.1-19a	1 Corinthians 4.9-16
Wednesday	19	Zechariah 8.1-13	Mark 13.3-8
Thursday	20	Zechariah 10.6-end	1 Peter 5.1-11
Friday	21	Micah 4.1-5	Luke 9.28-36
Saturday	22	Isaiah 10.33-11.9	1 Timothy 6.11-16
Monday	24	Jeremiah 30.1-3, 10-17	Romans 12.9-21
Tuesday	25	Jeremiah 30.18-24	John 10.22-30
Wednesday	26	Jeremiah 31.1-9	Matthew 15.21-31
Thursday	27	Jeremiah 31.10-17	Matthew 16.13-end
Friday	28	Jeremiah 31.31-37	Hebrews 10.11-18
Saturday	29	Isaiah 51.17-52.2	Ephesians 5.1-20

Chippings from the Vicar's Work Bench

The Feast of All Saints

This year we will keep the Feast of All Saints on Sunday 2 November. Our 10.15am worship will be an All-Age Parish Mass for the whole church family, and our celebrations continue at 5.30pm with Solemn Choral Evensong, followed by the annual Ron Gates Organ Recital, given this year by our own Director of Music, Thomas Moore. The Feast of All Saints is one of the great festivals of the Christian year. It is a day to give thanks for the many lives of faith that have inspired and shaped us – for all those who have followed Christ in word and deed, and whose prayers continue to join with ours in praise of God. Let's make every effort to be part of this joyful celebration together.

Ashes of Heather Gooding

After the 10.15am service on 2 November, we will be burying Heather Gooding's ashes. Please keep Ian Rivett and his family in your prayers. All are warmly invited to attend the short service and to join us for refreshments in the parish centre afterwards.

All Souls

Our Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls) will take place on Monday 3 November at 7.30pm, with a Sung Requiem. During the service, the names of our departed loved ones will be read aloud in remembrance. If you wish to have someone remembered, please PRINT their Christian name and surname clearly on the sheets provided in the church display area. Those recently bereaved, and whose loved ones' funerals were held at St Matthew's, have been especially invited. As in previous years, we will share a thanksgiving toast together after the service.

Clergy Study Day

Our diocesan clergy will be attending a conference on Monday 3 November, 10.00am–3.30pm, at Highgate House Christian Conference Centre, Creaton. The theme of the day is "Flourishing in Ministry – A Focus on Wellbeing." Please do remember to pray for our clergy as they meet together.

PCC Meeting

A reminder to all PCC members that our next meeting will be held on Friday 7 November at 7.30pm in the parish centre. Please come prepared, having read the circulated papers and bringing your diaries. Apologies for absence should be sent to Sarah.

Weekday Masses

Our Wednesday and Thursday Masses now take place at midday, following requests from those who prefer a slightly later start. Early signs are encouraging, with attendance increasing – though amusingly, not yet among those who asked for the change! You know what to do!

Remembrance Sunday

We will mark Remembrance Sunday on 9 November (The Third Sunday before Advent) at 10.15am. During the service, we will honour those who gave their lives in the two World Wars and in subsequent conflicts. The reading of the Kingsley Roll of Honour will lead into the Silence at 11.00am, joining with the Nation in solemn remembrance.

House Group

Our next House Group gathering will be on Wednesday 12 November 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.

Monthly Requiem

Our Monthly Requiem will be held on Thursday 13 November at midday, as we remember our departed loved ones. This month, we will be joined by clergy from the local chapter of the Society of the Holy Cross, who will remain for lunch and a meeting in the parish centre afterwards.

Visit of the Bishop of Peterborough

We are delighted to welcome Bishop Debbie Sellin, Bishop of Peterborough, on her first visit to St Matthew's on Sunday 16 November. She will be preaching at the Parish Mass at 10.15am. Please stay afterwards for a chance to meet and chat with her in the hall.

Funeral of Marcel Bogle

Please note that Marcel Bogle's funeral will take place at St Matthew's on Monday 17 November at 11.30am, followed by burial at Towcester Road Cemetery.

Greater Northampton Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod representatives are reminded that the next meeting will be on Wednesday 26 November at 7.30pm. The venue will be confirmed shortly.

Christ the King

We celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King, the final Sunday of the Church's year, on 23 November. There will be a Procession at the Parish Mass (10.15am) and Solemn Choral Evensong at 5.30pm. Please make every effort to join us for this significant day in the Christian calendar.

Dressing for the Conditions

As the weather turns colder, please come to church prepared – not only spiritually, but thermally! The church's ambient temperature reflects our care for both the building and our energy use. Heating costs around £60 per hour, so the thermostat is set modestly to balance comfort with stewardship. Those not wearing a winter coat and who expect "living-room warmth" may find their case for complaint less persuasive!

Year A Begins

From Sunday 30 November, we begin Year A of the lectionary readings.

The Advent Procession

Our beautiful Advent Procession by Candlelight will take place on Sunday 30 November at 4.00pm, followed by refreshments in the parish centre. This moving service introduces the ancient and reflective season of Advent – a time to prepare spiritually for the celebration of our Saviour's birth. Please come and share in this special occasion.

Real Advent Calendar and Worksheets

On the First Sunday of Advent (30 November) choristers and other children present will receive a 'Real Advent Calendar' containing Fairtrade chocolate and a Christian resource to guide them through the season. There will also be Advent worksheets to help children engage with the themes of hope and preparation as we journey toward Christmas.

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 November

10 November Speaker: Jackie Allen
*Prepare for Christmas: Scarves, Hats, Accessories etc,
and a Demonstration of scarf tying*

24 November Christmas Auction with mince pies and mulled wine

The full Autumn/Winter 2025 programme is on our website:
Click on the 3-bar menu, go to News & Events
and then St Matthew's Ladies Group

Christmas Cards...

Dorrie Parker

Yes, it's time for this year's Parish Christmas Card Scheme!

For those who haven't joined in before, the idea of it is that you're virtually giving a card to 'the St Matthew's congregation' and what's more, you get a personalised card from 'the congregation' to take home and display with cards from your other friends and family. It started off as fundraising for our church, but more than that it's the fellowship that's important – we're a Christian family and it's good to send Christmas greetings to each other.

So how does it work? Cards with a quality religious image are given an insert which is personal to each recipient and includes the names of all parishioners in the Scheme. Parishioners sign up by means of a form which I will hand out in person as you leave after Mass on Sunday 26 October, Anita will have in the Office (please check opening hours!) from Monday 27 October, and it will be mailed out to those who have the magazine by post. I will also have forms on me on Sundays after Mass throughout November. So don't panic that you'll be missed out!

All contributions from you to the Scheme go in full to St Matthew's. The signing-up form says: "It's a fundraising opportunity, whilst bringing together the congregation's circulation of Christmas greetings among one another into a fellowship scheme. Consider how much you might have spent on individual cards for people in the congregation, then make this your donation to the Scheme (though of course you are welcome to give more!). Each person/family group who joins the Scheme then gets a personalised Christmas card to take home, containing greetings from all the other people who join."

It's such an easy and lovely (and painless) way to contribute to much-needed fundraising for our church, and you get a quality personalised Christmas card from St Matthew's too.

The Scheme runs this year from Sunday 26 October, closing on **Advent Sunday, 30 November**. That is the deadline (you'll have had five weeks to sign up...) and I start work producing the insert early the following day so that you will get your card in time. You do not have to wait till deadline day to return your form and donation! The signing-up form gives full details of the Scheme and what you need to do. Maybe you'll join us for the first time this year? I can show you examples of previous years' cards to explain it further.

32nd St Matthew's Multi-Aged Girlguiding

Mandy Ludlow

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides have been fully immersed in the 'Be Well' Theme Award, with activities and achievements that highlighted our commitment to wellbeing.

The last few weeks have been hands-on with first aid sessions run by Sooty Owl, aka Bethany, where everyone learned the importance of basic emergency skills. The girls practised bandaging, learned how to treat minor scrapes, and discussed when to seek help from adults. Each girl brought in their teddy who acted as a patient. Our girls were keen to ask questions and showed real interest in looking after themselves and others. The girls went outside to look at the defibrillator and learnt what and how it is used. The girls then discussed about how we can all help in a crisis, no matter our age.

Alex received a special award for her consistent helpfulness and kindness, and Ava completed her Charities badge by working with and for Animals in Need.

In the summer Girlguiding brought out a series of new interest badges; in pursuit of the Book Reviewer badge, the Brownies shared their favourite stories and crafted handmade bookmarks. They then chatted and discussed the books they had brought in with them. Some of the Brownies have already completed this as they had taken part in the reading challenge run by Northampton Library.

Changes are underway for Guides! The group moved to the Garden Room, offering plenty of space for activities and games. New patrols have been formed, and leadership roles have been assigned. We now have Dolphin, Starfish and Penguin Patrols.

The Guides requested to do some crafts using clay, and they created animals, noughts and crosses games and little trinket dishes, plus imaginative sculptures. Teamwork was at the heart of the activity, with everyone sharing ideas and helping one another. Once dry, the crafts are now being painted ready to be taken home.

As with Brownies, Guides too have more new interest badges. Friendship was chosen by the girls and to start this they have started making friendship bracelets using embroidery in a variety of colours. Once finished they will share with friends.

As Sparkle Owl, aka Paula, was on holiday, Mark came to help and the Guides got hands-on with a torch-making activity, letting their imaginations run wild. Using LED bulbs and batteries and cardboard, the Guides each made a unique and fully functioning torch to take home.

Our annual Harvest collection was a resounding success. The girls, with help from their families, gathered donations for the Hope Centre, supporting those in need in our community. We are also grateful to the Wednesday Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, the Cubs, Beavers and Scouts, plus the choir and congregation of St Matthew's. The centre expressed their gratitude and thanks for all our generosity, and the girls learned about giving and working together to make a difference.

A heartfelt thank you goes to Amelia's mum, who has stepped in to help with Brownies; this will make all our activities possible – and more fun for everyone.



Café Guides Recipe for November

All Souls' Day Cakes

These little cakes are a cross between a biscuit and a scone, and are traditionally made for All Souls' Day which is on the 2 November, and were originally given to the poor by the rich. Packed with currants and mixed spice, these lovely little cakes are delicious with an afternoon cuppa. I came across this recipe whilst visiting the National Trust property at Blickling Hall.

Ingredients

- 175g butter (6ozs)
- 175g caster sugar (6ozs)
- 3 egg yolks
- 450g plain flour (1lb)
- 2 teaspoons mixed spice
- 100g currants (4ozs)
- a little milk to mix

Method

1. Pre-heat oven to 180C/375F/Gas mark 5.
2. Cream the butter and sugar together and then beat in the egg yolks, one at a time.
3. Sift the flour into another bowl with the mixed spice and then add them to the butter, sugar and egg yolk mixture.
4. Stir in the currants and add enough milk to make a soft dough, similar to scones.
5. Roll the dough out and cut out little cakes with a biscuit cutter. Mark each cake with a cross and then place them on a greased and/or lined baking sheet.
6. Bake the cakes for 10 to 15 minutes, or until golden brown.
7. Cool on a wire rack and then store in an airtight tin for up to 5 days.



Coast to Coast: A Journey Across England

Six years ago, as I bade farewell to full-time employment, I shared an ambition with my colleagues: one day, I would walk Alfred Wainwright's legendary Coast to Coast footpath. The 192-mile route from St Bees to Robin Hood's Bay had captured my imagination, and now, finally, the time had come.

The decision to walk alone came easily. I wanted the freedom to set my own pace, though I knew from my research that the summer trail would bring plenty of company along the way. For weeks, I pored over maps and booking websites, carefully planning fifteen days of walking across sixteen nights of varied accommodation: youth hostels, hotels, village pubs, and Air B&Bs. Initially, I'd envisioned carrying my own gear, but wisdom prevailed. Having never walked with a full pack, I arranged for Packhorse, a Sherpa company, to transport my luggage between stops.



On a glorious 14th of July, I set off from Long Buckby, changing trains at Rugby, Crewe, and Carlisle before finally arriving at St Bees. After settling into my accommodation, I explored the village and discovered the beautiful Priory church with its impressive Norman doorway, apparently home to a very fine organ.

Morning brought an unwelcome surprise: torrential rain and fierce winds greeted day one. Undeterred, I made my way to St Bees beach, collected the traditional pebble, and began the fifteen-mile trek to Ennerdale

Bridge. The coastal path led me up dramatic cliffs before turning inland, rain hammering down relentlessly. At Cleator, halfway through, I found refuge in a church porch alongside two German ladies and two Norwegian women, all of us grateful for sandwiches eaten in the dry. By evening, I arrived at Ennerdale Bridge rather bedraggled but was warmly welcomed at the Shepherd's Arms. Over an excellent dinner, I chatted with a fascinating couple (she English, he German, both living in Australia). All eight rooms were full that night, each occupied by fellow Coast-to-Coasters.

The second day transformed everything. After a hearty breakfast, I walked towards Ennerdale Water under perfect skies, the Lake District unfolding in all its glory. The path hugged the lake's northern shore before entering miles of conifer forest. Eventually, I emerged at Black Sail Hut, the Lake District's most remote youth hostel, a former shepherd's bothy now closed, but perfect for lunch. A young Belgian man arrived just after me, soon followed by others seeking the same respite.



The afternoon brought a challenging climb up stone steps, where three men were working to repair the path, their materials airlifted by helicopter. The summit rewarded us with breathtaking views before we descended past an old slate mine toward Borrowdale Youth Hostel. That evening, I shared supper with the German ladies from the church porch, while the Belgian chap pitched his tent nearby.

Another beautiful morning dawned as I tackled Lining Crag and Greenup Edge. The climb was steep, the views spectacular, the descent tricky and exhausting. Reaching Grasmere felt like an achievement. My husband Fabian had been evacuated there during the war, staying with siblings while their uncle served as vicar, so I sought out the church and what I believe was the old vicarage, apparently where Wordsworth was born.



Two more days carried me through the Lake District, culminating in the toughest day yet: an eleven-hour, eighteen-mile marathon from Glenridding to Shap. The rough terrain around Ullswater reservoir tested every muscle, though the stunning views from The Knott and Kidsty Pike made every step worthwhile. When my Air B&B hostess rang at 6pm,

concerned for my whereabouts, I was still walking. I finally stumbled in at 7pm, utterly exhausted.

The Yorkshire Dales brought easier going: twenty miles of glorious moorland walking to Kirby Stephen. Arriving around 6pm on Sunday, I discovered that only an Indian restaurant was serving food. There, I joined six other walkers, all of us sharing tales over curry.



The following day took us past Ravenseat Farm (famous from "Our Yorkshire Farm"), though sadly no teas were being served. Beyond Keld, I walked alongside limestone cliffs and the wide River Swale, where swimmers were enjoying the cool water. The Keld Lodge Hotel proved excellent, its dining room overlooking the dales and filled with fellow walkers.

The next four days brought gentler, low-level walking beside the River Swale. After the first day of torrential rain, we enjoyed merely occasional showers, a welcome improvement. I walked to Reeth, then Richmond through drizzle that clouded the views, and on to Danby

Wiske's solitary pub. From there, I reached Osmotherley, where I'd booked a hostel alongside two ladies from Devon who'd become familiar faces on the trail.

From Osmotherley, the North York Moors rose before us. The steep climbs and tricky descents of the Cleveland Way offered spectacular views, the distant coast finally visible. At Chop Gate near Clay Bank Top, a hill farmer collected me for the night. The evening spent on their working farm was memorable.



Morning brought me to an old ironstone railway track leading toward Blakey Ridge, fairly easy walking that eventually revealed the Lion Inn, a remote moorland pub that would be my night's refuge. Arriving at lunchtime, I found the place heaving with Sunday crowds: bikers and day-trippers enjoying drinks and lunch. Five fellow walkers had already claimed their spots.

The penultimate day took me to Grosmont and the Railway Tavern, an easy, pleasant walk.



Then came the final day. Soon, Whitby Abbey appeared on the horizon, visible for mile after mile, drawing me onward. At last, I descended the steep hill into Robin Hood's Bay and walked down to the shore where we all took our ceremonial photographs. Remarkably, one couple had started the same day I had and finished alongside me.

The next morning, I caught a bus to Scarborough, then trains through Huddersfield, Manchester Piccadilly, Rugby, and finally home to Long Buckby.

It was a remarkable experience, filled with memories I'll treasure: the people encountered, the churches discovered, the landscapes traversed. Walking from one coast of England to the other gave me an immense sense of achievement and a deeper appreciation for this beautiful part of the country.

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 DECEMBER magazine is SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER

Editor: Dorrie Parker

Layout and production: Gary Drinkwater

The Parish Church of St Matthew

2 November All Saints' Sunday

10.15am

All Age Mass
for the Parish Family



Junior Church

Every Third Sunday of the Month



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

The next Junior church session is on
Sunday 16 November 2025

The season of golden hues and cosy sweaters has arrived.

CAFE GUIDES

SUNDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2025
11.30AM - 12.30PM
ST MATTHEW'S PARISH CENTRE, 27A THE DRIVE, NORTHAMPTON NN1 4RY

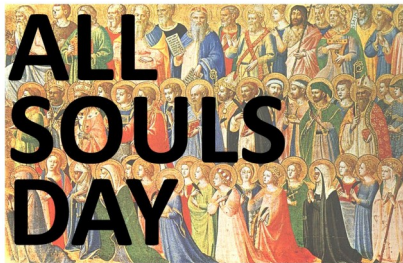
SERVING JACKET POTATOES, BACON ROLLS, SAUSAGE BAPS, A SELECTION OF TEAS AND FRESHLY BREWED COFFEE, LATTE AND CAPPUCCINO, AS WELL AS YUMMY HOT CHOCOLATE
PLUS OUR POPULAR LUNCHTIME SPECIALS

FOOD HYGIENE RATING
5
VERY GOOD

Free entry, with a retiring collection

The Parish Church of St Matthew

**Monday
3 November**



**7.30pm
Sung Requiem Mass**

The Parish Church of St Matthew

**Sunday
9 November
REMEMBRANCE
SUNDAY**



**10.15am
The Parish Mass
with healing ministries**

**5.30pm
Congregational Evensong**

The Parish Church of St Matthew

**Sunday
23 November
The Solemnity of
CHRIST THE KING**

**10.15am
Procession and
Parish Mass**

**5.30pm
Solemn
Choral Evensong**



The Parish Church of St Matthew

**Sunday
30 November
The First Sunday
of Advent**

**10.15am
The Parish Mass**



**4.00pm
The Advent Procession**





Thank you!

Dorrie Parker

The sponsorship money for **Ride+Stride** has now been sent off to the Trust; £285 was the grand total (half of which, £142.50, will come back to St Matthew's). Those who gift aided their contribution added another £35 for the Trust too. Thank you so much for your generosity.

The annual 'Ride+Stride for Churches' is organised by the county Historic Churches Trust – voluntary organisations that raise money for the restoration and maintenance of historic churches and chapels, supported by the national Churches Trust. The NHCT Annual Report can be found in the bookstall area, highlighting various churches/chapels and why they have received their grants over the past year, and at the back details reports from various churches from last year's event, and includes one from our own Nick Bailey. Do have a look and maybe be inspired to give it a go next year?

This year's report of our efforts in the October magazine can still be seen on our website.

Harvest Thanksgiving

On Sunday 5 October, we celebrated Harvest Thanksgiving with an All Age Mass in the morning, at which the congregation and uniformed organisations brought goods to donate to the Hope Centre Food Bank.

In the afternoon we celebrated further with a Harvest Songs of Praise and Supper. We sang favourite harvest hymns and listened to a talk from Andrew, the farmer in our choir. Afterwards we enjoyed a buffet Harvest Supper of a ploughman's and hot pudding, organised by Heidi and Helen. A licensed bar sold beers and cider, and soft drinks were also available.

Funds raised went to the Friends of St Matthew's Music.

(Photos of the Supper supplied by Adam)



90th
Anniversary



NORTHAMPTON BACH CHOIR

DA VINCI REQUIEM

Mendelssohn Hebrides Overture
Brahms Schicksalslied (Song of Destiny)
McDowall Da Vinci Requiem

15 | SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 2025

7.00pm Doors open 6.30pm

St Matthew's Church
Kettering Road, Northampton, NN1 4RY

Conductor - Simon Toyne | Northampton Bach Choir | Bach Camerata

Soloists: REBECCA BOTTONE, JAMES OLDFIELD



SUPPORTING
EDUCATION
THROUGH
MUSIC

Tickets: Nave £20 Side aisles £17

Those in full time education: £10

NBC friends priority booking NOW OPEN. Public booking opens 26.9.25

Bookings: Scan QR or visit www.trybooking.com/uk/FHJP (booking fee applies)

Tickets cash or card on the door +£1 fee per ticket

Complementary programme included in price



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NEW OPENING TIMES

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

Friends of St Matthew's Music 100+ Club

Congratulations to the lucky winner of £50 in our OCTOBER draw —
Number **62**, held by **Girlie Franklin**



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

'St Matthew's Mail' Magazine Subscription 2026

In order that St Matthew's can claim Gift Aid on your subscription, we'd like to ask you to make a 'donation' of, say, £1 a copy, so a donation from you of £12 for the entire year would also be able to give the church £3 extra because we can claim that back from the tax you pay to HM Government.

Sign up here and you could also get a hard copy of the magazine posted to you each month!

*PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY IN BLOCK CAPITALS AND RETURN TO **DORRIE PARKER,**
St Matthew's Parish Office, 27A The Drive, Kingsley, Northampton NN1 4RY*

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Please tick box(es) as applicable:

- ☐ I enclose cash for my donation (£12 suggested)
- ☐ I enclose a cheque, made out to 'St Matthew's PCC' for my donation (£12 suggested)

If you would like the magazines to be **posted** to you, we shall require, along with this form, a book of 12 First/Second Class stamps with your name clearly printed on the cover.

- ☐ I enclose a book of 12 stamps with my name printed on the cover

In order that we can claim Gift Aid on your donation:

- ☐ I would like St Matthew's Parochial Church Council to reclaim tax on this donation (and any future sum). I confirm that I will have paid an amount of UK income or capital gains tax equal to any tax reclaimed.

Signature: _____ *Date:* _____

St Matthew's Church

Christmas Fayre



**Friday
5 December**

**Doors open at 7.00pm
Lots of fun till 9.00pm**

in the Church (Kettering Rd/Collingwood Road corner)

Adults £1 / Children FREE

❄ **Northampton School for Boys Band** ❄

❄ **Santa's Grotto** ❄ **Carol Singing** ❄

❄ **Christmas Food & Drinks** ❄

❄ **Tombolas** ❄ **Raffles** ❄ **Games & Stalls** ❄

My memories of Dame Patricia Routledge

Gary Drinkwater

I first met Patricia when I was fourteen years old. I was on the Peterborough Diocesan Youth Committee when her brother Graham Routledge was the Diocesan Chancellor. I had no idea who she was even though she had a Tony Award. As far as I was concerned, she was visiting her brother for a few days at the same time as we were meeting at Canonry House as The Deanery was then called.

As I was representing St Lawrence Church Towcester, Canon Graham took me to see a corner of the Cathedral Precinct, to show me the remains of what was once a Chapel dedicated to St Laurence. A double piscina and the columns of the Chancel arch remind us of what was once a place of prayer and refreshment for the sick and elderly members of the Benedictine abbey. St Laurence was a second century martyr, a Deacon in Rome, who famously met his painful end (roasted on a gridiron) under the persecutions of the Emperor Valerian. As with so many ancient saints, the stories got embellished and it seems unlikely that he said: "I am cooked on that side; you can turn me over"! What he is also alleged to have said and done, do however make very fitting last words for a saint. Challenged by the authorities to hand over the 'treasures of the church', he gathered the poor and frail members of the community, whom he served, and led them from the building saying: "Behold the treasures of the Church". Patricia was with us and suggested we pray that we follow his example.

On our way home Reverend Harry Waite who was giving us young ones a lift back told us who she was. I don't remember being particularly impressed. I guess this was because the type of performances she had done were not my usual choice of entertainment and there was no YouTube or even internet to look her up.

Having met her I began to take an interest in her work and thoroughly enjoyed the Alan Bates monologues that she did during the eighties and Kitty on the Victoria Wood Show.



In the early nineties I was going past Christchurch Church and Hall and saw tv cameras, so being the curious (nosey) person that I am I made it my business to find out what was going on. I was told by the Vicar that it was an unnamed BBC series starring Patricia Routledge. Of course we now know this as *Keeping Up Appearances* with Mrs Bucket ("it's pronounced Bouquet!") as the central character. When they were next filming around Abington I hovered around and eventually caught sight of her. I called her name, and she threw a wave and hello back at me then said hang on and came over, with a production assistant hurrying behind her. Her words to the assistant were, "Don't worry, I know him," I was very surprised she had remembered me as this was six or seven years after our meeting and we hadn't seen each other in between. Anyway, we had a quick conversation and I wished her well with the new show.



Fast forward to the late nineties when I was working for a supported housing charity in Wellingborough and looking for ways of funding a new house. Somebody suggested a Candlelit Supper as a fundraising event. I sent a letter to Patricia Routledge via her agent. In it I reminded her of my connection with her late brother and our meeting. I asked if she would be willing to host a Candlelit Supper in the style of Mrs Bucket. She sent a lovely letter back refusing my invite but said she would be willing to attend an event and give a talk about her life. I wrote back saying what a good idea. We set a date, and I invited all the local business and 'money' people I knew of. When Patricia arrived, she had a private meeting with the Trustees, staff and clients. During this time she apologised that she couldn't fulfil my original request saying Hyacinth Bucket was the type of person that she despised. After eating, Patricia gave a witty, entertaining talk and by the end of the evening we had promises of donations totalling £23k including a very generous one from Patricia herself.

I was present as a guest of my godson when Patricia accepted her honorary doctorate at the University of Chester graduation ceremony at Chester Cathedral in 2019. Her acceptance speech in which she reflected on her own education and work was so inspiring. This can be viewed on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zK-R-YhERjY0>



Dame Patricia's enduring career is a testament to her passion, humility, and work ethic. She has inspired generations of performers with her professionalism and her ability to find humanity and humour in every role. However, I remember her for her warmth, modesty, and generosity of spirit.



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Parish Giving Scheme

The Parish Giving Scheme exists to allow members of the St Matthew's community to support the life and work of the Parish, and the upkeep of our church, through regular giving. It provides our principal source of income and helps us meet our main financial commitments, including our contribution towards the Diocesan Common Fund (the 'Parish Share') and the costs of our employees.



THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST MATTHEW • NORTHAMPTON

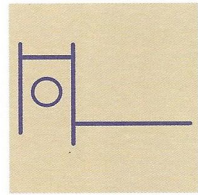
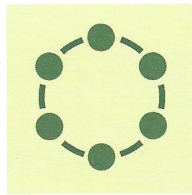
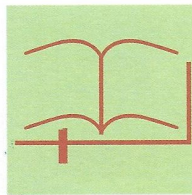
The Scheme is the most tax efficient way of contributing to the church because contributions may be eligible for Gift Aid (raising your donation by 25% at no cost to either you or St Matthew's).

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

If you are interested in learning more or in joining the Scheme, please speak to our Stewardship Recorder Polly Matthews. She can be contacted via the Parish Office as below.

Polly Matthews

<office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk>



TM

PARISH GIVING SCHEME

Parish Office

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

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

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

Ministry Team

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