

St Matthew's **MAIL**

**Suggested
Donation**

£1.00

News from the Parish of Kingsley, Northampton

OCTOBER 2025



www.stmatthewsnorthampton.org.uk

Services at the Parish Church of St Matthew

Sundays

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

First Sunday in the month

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

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

Second Sunday in the month

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

Third Sunday in the month

5.30pm	Choral Evensong and Benediction
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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 October

<i>Date</i>	<i>Observance</i>	<i>Intention</i>
1	Thérèse of Lisieux, V, Dr	The call to holiness of life
2	The Holy Guardian Angels	
3	Feria	Those serving through leadership
4	S Francis of Assisi, Rel, Dcn	Seeking God's wisdom
5	HARVEST THANKSGIVING	
6	Feria	The healing ministry
7	Feria	Our politicians and political discourse
8	Feria	For Pope Leo
9	S John Henry Newman, Pr	Our spiritual journey
10	Feria	Our stewardship of creation
11	Of OLV	The Shrine and Society
12	THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 23)	
13	S Edward the Confessor, K	For King Charles III
14	Feria	For prisoners and captives
15	S Teresa of Avila, V, Dr	For theological educators
16	Monthly Requiem	The Faithful Departed
17	S Ignatius of Antioch, B, M	Those who suffer for their faith
18	S Luke, Ev	Those misled by false gods of this present age
19	THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 24)	
20	Feria	Our need of respectful relations
21	Feria	Those looking for forgiveness
22	Feria	For peace in the Middle East and Ukraine
23	Feria	The leaders of the free and reformed churches
24	Feria	The oppressed, lonely and bereaved
25	Of the BVM	Strengthening our discipleship
26	THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 25)	
27	Feria	All who are hungry
28	Ss Simon and Jude, Aps	Fidelity to the faith of the apostles
29	Feria	The new Archbishop of Canterbury
30	Feria	Those struggling with broken relationship
31	Feria	Living our baptismal responsibilities

The Church prays for the community daily.

Please include these topics in your daily prayers.

October Pastoral Letter from the Vicar

Dear friends,

October comes with the beauty and richness of autumn. The days shorten, the air cools, and we see once more the changing and rhythm of the seasons. These patterns remind us of God's ordering of creation, a cycle of growth, fruitfulness, rest, and renewal. At Harvest, we pause to acknowledge this rhythm, to give thanks for the bounty of the earth, and to reflect on our dependence upon God's sustaining hand in every season of our lives.

On Sunday 5 October, we shall celebrate our Harvest Thanksgiving with an All Age Mass at 10.15am, and later with a joyful Songs of Praise at 4.00pm, followed by a Harvest meal in church. These gatherings allow us to offer our thanks to God for his generosity in creation: the sun and the rain, the seed and the soil, the hands that sow, and the labour that reaps. Harvest reminds us that we live from God's abundance, not our own making. Each loaf of bread, each piece of fruit, each meal we share is a sign of his boundless love.

This year, our Harvest also coincides with the Church of England's Generosity Week, which reminds us that gratitude leads naturally to generosity. As we rejoice in God's gifts, we are called to mirror that generosity in our own lives. We think not only of how we care for the environment and steward creation wisely, but also of how we support the life of our parish. Like many others, we face an uncertain financial future. Our giving – whether of time, talent, or money – sustains our worship, our buildings, and our mission in this community. To give is not merely to keep the lights on; it is to join in God's work of light and life in this place.

At the same time, Harvest thanksgiving cannot be complete without remembering those who go hungry, whether in our own town or across the world. As climate change and global warming disrupt weather patterns, the poorest and most vulnerable often suffer first and most. We are challenged to live responsibly and compassionately, ensuring that the fruits of creation are shared justly, and that our own habits of living do not deprive others of life's necessities.

The following Sunday, 12 October, will be another day of joy as we admit new members into the Society of Our Lady of Walsingham and our Parish Cell. This is a sign of growth in our parish's spiritual life, and we give thanks for those committing themselves afresh to prayer and devotion. We also recall with gladness our recent pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, where we drew close to Christ in the prayers of Mary's holy house.

Pilgrimage teaches us, too, about the rhythm of life: a time to journey away, to

So let October be for us a month of rhythm, gratitude, and generosity: the rhythm of creation and worship, the gratitude for God's gifts, and the generosity that flows from knowing his love. May our thanksgiving this month not only lift our hearts in praise, but also shape our lives in Christlike service, generosity, and joy.

Your sincere friend and parish priest,

Fr. Nicholas

Brand New Christian

At St Matthew's on Sunday 20 July Zayla Anne Claire Liburd-Hawkins was baptised and, as Fr Nicholas tells us, for that one split second she became the newest Christian family member in the whole world. Her proud parents are Constantia Liburd and Ryan Hawkins. On Sunday 7 September at the All Age Mass, Zayla Anne Claire received her Baptismal Welcome and of course, a round of applause!



Friends of St Matthew's Music SATURDAYS AT 4



Saturday 25th October 2025 at 4:00pm
Charlotte Brett and **Clare Robertson-Hughes** (Sopranos)

Tickets **£10**

FSMM Subscribers **£8**

Under 18s **FREE**

Farewell in Christ

As fourteen years of ministry in the Diocese draw to a close, our overwhelming sense is of thankfulness. Elizabeth and I are so grateful to God for the privilege of my being called here to serve as one of your Bishops, the warmth of your welcome and the kindness of your support. We have been upheld by your prayers, humbled by your appreciation and thrilled by your willingness to serve Christ. It has been deeply moving to see God at work in our communities, churches and ministries. Thank you all so much.



Throughout my Christian life, I have been sustained by the bible verse printed on a bookmark that I attached to my bedside cupboard whilst growing up. It had God's words of reassurance to Joshua as he took over leadership from Moses and read "*Be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed, for I, the Lord thy God, will be with thee whithersoever thou goest*" (Joshua 1.9).

I love the beautifully challenging prayer attributed to Sir Francis Drake:

*Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely because we sailed too close to the shore.*

*Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst for the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life, We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision of the new Heaven to dim.*

*Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.*

*We ask You to push back the horizons of our hopes;
And to push into the future in strength, courage, hope, and love.*

Please continue to pray for us as we will continue to pray for you, as the Diocese grows under Bishop Debbie's inspiring leadership.

A handwritten signature in black ink, preceded by a small cross symbol.

The Rt Revd John Holbrook
Bishop of Brixworth

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Weekday Scripture Readings for October

Our weekday scripture readings, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament, taken from the 'Additional Lectionary' which was constructed by the Church of England principally for use in Cathedrals at weekday Evensong.



Wednesday	1	Proverbs 2.1-15	Colossians 1.9-20
Thursday	2	Genesis 1.1-13	John 1.1-18
Friday	3	Deuteronomy 7.7-16	1 Corinthians 1.18-end
Saturday	4	Jeremiah 1.4-10	Luke 2.41-end
Monday	6	Genesis 21.1-13	Luke 1.26-38
Tuesday	7	Ruth 4.7-17	Luke 2.25-38
Wednesday	8	2 Kings 4.1-7	John 2.1-11
Thursday	9	2 Kings 4.25b-37	Mark 3.19b-35
Friday	10	Ruth 1.1-18	John 19.25b-30
Saturday	11	Exodus 15.19-27	Acts 1.6-14
Monday	13	Exodus 19.16-end	Hebrews 12.18-end
Tuesday	14	1 Chronicles 16.1-13	Revelation 11.15-end
Wednesday	15	1 Chronicles 29.10-19	Colossians 3.12-17
Thursday	16	Nehemiah 8.1-12	1 Corinthians 14.1-12
Friday	17	Isaiah 1.10-17	Mark 12.28-34
Saturday	18	Isaiah 61.1-6	Colossians 4.7-end
Monday	20	2 Samuel 22.4-7, 17-20	Hebrews 7.26-8.6
Tuesday	21	Proverbs 22.17-end	2 Corinthians 12.1-10
Wednesday	22	Hosea 14	James 2.14-26
Thursday	23	Isaiah 24.1-15	John 16.25-33
Friday	24	Jeremiah 14.1-9	Luke 23.44-56
Saturday	25	Zechariah 8.14-end	John 20.19-end
Monday	27	Isaiah 42.14-21	Luke 1.5-25
Tuesday	28	Jeremiah 3.11-18	Jude 1-4, 17-end
Wednesday	29	Haggai 1.1-11	Mark 1.1-11
Thursday	30	Isaiah 35	Matthew 11.2-19
Friday	31	2 Samuel 11.1-17	Matthew 14.1-12

Chippings from the Vicar's Work Bench

Parish Centre Refurbishment

Many of you will be aware that the project to update and upgrade our Parish Centre is now well advanced. Much has already been achieved, and work continues to bring this valuable facility up to contemporary standards.

The Centre has been redecorated throughout, with the upper portion of the hall scheduled for completion during the Christmas holiday following a recent ceiling inspection. New curtains have been fitted in the Garden Room, Blue Room, and office, and the carpet tiles in the Garden Room will shortly be renewed. The hall floor – faithful in service since 1968 – will be sanded and sealed, giving it a new lease of life.

In addition, some of the double glazing has been replaced, repairs to the roof covering carried out, and solar panels successfully installed on the roof. We also hope to explore the possibility of cavity wall insulation in due course.

A new exterior noticeboard will soon be affixed to the wall beside the main entrance, bringing to an end the unsightly practice of sticking posters to windows.

Our aim is to ensure that the Parish Centre not only serves our community well but is also attractive and efficient as a venue for hire, providing a much-needed source of revenue to support the ongoing life and mission of our parish.

Ministry of Healing

Our monthly Eucharist, with prayers for wholeness and healing for those who have asked our intercessions, will take place on Monday 6 October at 7.00pm in the Lady Chapel.

Parish Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham

The monthly Mass of the Holy House will be celebrated on Saturday 11 October at 9.30am in the Lady Chapel, followed by a Cell meeting and discussion. All are most welcome to come and see.

Monthly Requiem

We shall pray for our departed loved ones, and for all the faithful departed, on Thursday 16 October at 9.30am. Do join us, especially if you have family or friends you would like to be commemorated.

A New Archbishop of Canterbury

It is expected that the name of the new Archbishop of Canterbury will be announced during October. Whoever is chosen, please keep that person in your prayers. The responsibility is immense, and all who wish the Church well will want to uphold our new Archbishop with prayer and support.

British Summer Time Ends

Clocks go back one hour at 2.00am on Sunday 26 October. Please remember to adjust your timepieces before going to bed on Saturday night.

Off Duty

Please note that Fr Nicholas will be off duty during the Half Term week, from Sunday 26 October to Saturday 1 November inclusive. Further details will be available in the weekly notices.

All Saints' Sunday

The Feast of All Saints will be celebrated on Sunday 2 November. The 10.15am service will be an All-Age celebration. In the evening, the annual Ron Gates Organ Recital will take place at 6.30pm.

All Souls' Day

The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed will be observed on Monday 3 November at 7.30pm. Those attending are invited to print clearly the names of departed loved ones they would like remembered on the sheets available in church, so that they may be read aloud during the service.

Weekday Mass times

Please note that from **week beginning Monday 6 October** there will be a change to weekday mass times. This will be for an initial experimental period of six months, as follows:

Monday	7.00pm Mass (on Bank Holidays at 9.30am)
Tuesday	Currently suspended
Wednesday	12 noon Mass
Thursday	12 noon Mass
Friday	12 noon Mass
Saturday	9.30am Mass

This pattern will hopefully prove more convenient and attractive to a greater proportion of our worshipping community.

The Parish Church of St Matthew

Sunday 5 October

Harvest Thanksgiving

10.15am

All Age Mass
for the Parish Family



Sunday 5 October

Harvest Songs of Praise and Supper



in Church at 4.00pm

Ticket £10 includes Ploughman's Supper
Licensed bar selling beer and cider,
soft drinks also available

Tickets available from Tom Moore until Thursday 2 October

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 19 October 2025

The Parish Church of St Matthew

2 November

All Saints' Sunday

10.15am

All Age Mass
for the Parish Family



In Praise of Tomatoes!

Jean Duncan

Sometime before the summer fete, tomato plants were on sale at the back of the church, the proceeds of which were to go to the summer fete funds. I enjoy growing some of my own vegetables, tomatoes being among them, so I purchased two Gardener's Delight and two Moneymakers. (I'm not sure if I have remembered these names correctly but it was something like that.) Once planted (in large pots) I watered them regularly and fed them once. My plan to give them regular feeds did not materialise. Somehow I never really found the time.

Much to my delight they flourished into strong healthy plants and I was soon picking my own tomatoes regularly. The little cherry tomatoes were so flavoursome I found myself picking a few when I was in the garden and eating them instantly. You can't get them much fresher than that! The larger tomatoes were big enough to slice and put in salads. In fact I had enough produce to be able to give some away to the neighbours. I haven't bought any for weeks. Sadly, they have come to the end and yesterday I picked the few remaining little ones.

I wish now I had kept a running total of how many I picked. I should have taken photos or recorded the weight.

So thank you Paul and Tanya for growing the plants. Your effort was much appreciated and I hope helped the summer fete funds. I will be looking forward to your next year's plants. You have certainly set yourselves a high bar!

Thank you both very much.

Hymns for Christians 75 years+

Found by Sarah Oughton

Precious Lord, Take my Hand, And Help Me Up

Just a Slower Walk with Thee

Go Tell in on the Mountain, But Speak Up

Nobody Knows the Trouble I Have Seeing

Blessed Insurance

Hope you like them!



Ride+Stride 2025

Dorrie Parker

On Saturday 13 September St Matthew's took part in the annual 'Ride+Stride for Churches', 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.

Roger, Tony and I manned St Matthew's over the four hours we were open, from 10am to 2pm, to record the riders and striders who came through our doors doing their bit to raise money on behalf of their own churches. All churches taking part get half of the sponsorship money back from the Trust.

Our first visitors were as usual hot off the mark, from Kingsley Park Methodist Church across the road, who always come in a group – five of them this year. Some years people have been queuing at the door waiting to be let in! People normally turn up usually in groups of two or three, and tend to be in, get registered, and out – there is a desire to get to as many churches as they can while they're open. Some support their own church alone.

Not many actually want to have a look around, but we always offer them our Welcome leaflet, which they often willingly accept anyway. Regular visitors I guess have already been here, done that, bought the T-shirt! They all stop for a chat though, and many say how much they always enjoy the day and what a good cause they are pleased to do it for. Some are quite colourful characters; we had one man in his 70s who had started off at Moulton Church to enjoy their 8am Men's Breakfast (he had walked from his house in The Headlands), then walked back into Northampton and was still going strong when he came to us at 12.10pm. He stayed chatting until 12.30pm (not even sitting down) before moving on to get more churches in... I recommended that when he had done his last church he should get the bus home from there – no need to walk after he'd finished!

As the time goes on the visitors tend to thin out, and after 1.15pm we thought

we'd seen the last visitor. On the stroke of 2pm I approached the front door, keys in hand to lock up, and another four people arrived! So of course they came in, very apologetic for it being so late, and these people did want to have a quick look around – they had travelled from Bedfordshire and specially wanted to see St Matthew's.

This year we had 25 visitors at St Matthew's – of course, you choose which churches to visit, there is not a set route to follow, and as many or as few as you are able. Disappointingly, no-one had volunteered to ride or stride for us though. Before arthritic knees etc called time on us, we had a little band who enjoyed the social aspect of going for a walk on a Saturday with church friends and raising money at the same time, seeing inside churches that may not be open otherwise apart from services. They are all interesting and different. We had a coffee and cake stop further down the Kettering Road, and a lunch break in town. From that Happy Band, just Roger and myself are still going strong, but now in a sitting-down role. There is the NHCT Annual Report 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?

Thanks to our own generous sponsors, St Matthew's has raised £255 at the time of writing this article, £95 short of what we raised last year. There is still time to make that grow before I send it off – so if you've been meaning to but haven't yet, please see me without delay!

Christmas Fayre



Save the date:

Friday 5 December, 7-9pm

Planning has now started for our Christmas Fayre

This is always a popular community event,
but we need help to pull it off!

Please speak to Denise or Nick Bailey
if you can help in anyway, or sign the form at the back of church

Thank you!

Ann Walker Magazine Article February 1976

Sarah Oughton

My late mother, Ann Walker, had a treasured set of archives which I was recently looking through; it included a beautiful letter written to her by my father Colin on their wedding day, 12 April 1955.

I also found a copy of St Matthew's Parish Magazine from February 1976. The Revd John I Morton had recently joined as Vicar in December 1975.

There is an article in the magazine written by my mother which I found very moving, and I would like to share this with you exactly as it was published 49 years ago:



My Faith and My Work

An article by a Nursing Sister who is a member of our Congregation and is in charge of the Intensive Care Unit at the General Hospital:

A human being in severe physical illness is entirely dependent upon other human beings. That illness may be of the body, but to a Christian a person is also made of mind and spirit. We believe that we are made in the likeness of God, and He sent his only Son into the world that we should believe, and for our redemption.

It is my privilege to minister to the sick in their hours of greatest need and in the belief that I was given at birth the ability to use my hands, my head and my heart to the glory of God and in the service of my fellow men. The doing of God's will is what gives meaning to every situation whether it is happy or revolting, and I have been given the good fortune of a happy team of fellow workers all with the devotion that must go with such work.



Normally in great suffering it is not possible to see any good that can ever come out of it. Exactly how God makes use of our service we can never understand fully, and often have no clue at all. The Christian faith makes possible an attitude to suffering in virtue of which it is not wasted experience and useless pain, but a giver of life. All experience refused is a waste of time and there follows an impoverishment of the personality. This experience will encompass

in my work the support of a patient as he dies – or as he recovers from severe illness; the support of relatives in bereavement or joy with them in the recovery of a loved one; and the support of fellow members of staff at times of particular stress. But not in my strength – we cannot forget the haunting sense of belonging to God and to one another. My husband and my family and the grace we receive week by week at the altar of God in the Holy Eucharist encourage and support us each and every day.

When we pray for someone in the name of Christ we are standing within God's redemptive purpose and asking that that purpose may reach out and enfold him, and at the same time we are affirming our desire that we, if possible, may be used to bear God's mercy to him. We may well be used directly, but the situation may be one in which we cannot be used in some act of direct service, and we go on in the sure and certain hope that the loving purpose of God is being worked out. We are aware of the multiple nature of God's will. We need to learn our dependence on Him and on each other.

Ann Walker



Nene Valley Community Band

A night to Remember

Conducted by **Matthew Faddock**  Cello soloist by **Steven Hunt**

4th October 2025

An Evening of Music from Stage, Screen & Cinema

Music of Webber and Williams, Sousa & Shore, Simons & Morricone and much, much, more

With Special Guests From our friends and Colleagues from the Nascby village Band

Tickets: Adults: £16 Concession £7.50 Child (under 16) £5.00	Tickets on at 6.30pm for 7.00pm start	St Matthews Church Northampton NN1 4EY	Performance by: Nene Valley Community Band
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Choir Tour to Llandaff Cathedral

Ellen, a young chorister

On the Llandaff Cathedral tour, we made lots of brilliant music every day, but in the spare time we had, we went out and did things. Some of the activities included a day at Barry Island beach, St Fagan's National Museum of History and a tour of Cardiff Bay BBC TV Studios. In one of the studios, it was like a house. There was a bedroom, a living room and a deadroom where they recorded outdoor scenes. It had carpet on the ceiling so it didn't echo.



We stayed in university accommodation with double beds, en-suites, and a huge desk in each room. We ate breakfast in the flats, made packed lunches after rehearsal and had our evening meal in Prebendal House, which is kind of like their Parish Centre.

It was my first choir tour and I was a bit nervous but it turned out it was amazing, not scary.

Special thanks to the catering team who made the food filling and healthy and also to Mr Moore. We couldn't have done it without you!



Come and be a Chorister!



- i** Boys and girls aged 7 and upwards are invited to experience a day in the life of a chorister! Join the choir for rehearsal, make new friends, sing in Sunday Mass, enjoy lunch, and discover what being a chorister is all about.

📅 Sunday 12th October 2025

📍 St Matthew's Church, Kingsley, Northampton

🎵 9:00am - Arrival and rehearsal with the full choir

✝ 10:15am - Sung Mass

🍷 Refreshments and information for parents after Mass

🍴 Followed by lunch in the Parish Centre

🏠 1:00pm - Finish

27A The Drive, Kingsley, Northampton, NN1 4RY.
Telephone : 01604 791251

For further information please visit
www.stmatthewsnorthampton.org.uk/choristers

Scan the QR Code
for more information



A Walk Round the Monopoly Board

Sue Robertson

Having joined the Ramblers in January to do some longer day walks, I spotted that the local Northampton group had advertised a 'Monopoly Board Walk' in London on 4 September. It sounded like an interesting day out, although at 17 miles, not a short one.

I set off by train from Long Buckby. We arrived a little late into Euston, where we met our walk leader, Chris, on platform 4. From there, we made a brief detour via St Pancras to pick up anyone arriving there. Our group numbered 11 as we left the station, with two more joining us about half an hour later.

We began along Euston Road, setting off to walk the Monopoly board (not in order, of course). Along the way, I chatted with a woman from Brighton and a younger walker from Canary Wharf, who was taking photos of every location. Towards the end, she admitted she would be going home to sleep for three days; she was completely exhausted.

We paused frequently to regroup and to tick off each Monopoly location, and the route took us past many notable landmarks beyond the game board itself.

One highlight was walking through Spitalfields, where we came across the Herd of Hope: a group of bronze elephants representing real orphaned elephants cared for by the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (pictured).

We continued on to Liverpool Street Station, passed the Tower of London (which was 'in jail' for the purposes of the game), and crossed Tower Bridge for a long trek to Old Kent Road, the only Monopoly property south of the river. After passing the Shard, we returned north via London Bridge and walked along part of the Embankment, before passing St Paul's Cathedral (pictured), and then the Old Bailey, which stood in for 'Go to Jail'.



Other memorable stops included Covent Garden, Piccadilly Circus, Carnaby Street and Park Lane.

The weather held for most of the day, although we did have to shelter under an awning during one particularly heavy downpour. We took a couple of short breaks, around 20 minutes each, and finally reached Marylebone Station, the last location on the board, at around 6pm.



It was a very enjoyable, if tiring, day. But walking remains one of the best ways to discover London and cities like it.

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 NOVEMBER magazine is SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER

Editor: Dorrie Parker

Layout and production: Gary Drinkwater

32nd St Matthew's Multi-Aged Girlguiding

Mandy Ludlow

We have now returned back from the long summer vacation. We finished in July, and we were going home with the sun still shining, light nights and feeling warm (sometimes too warm!). Our first meeting was on 8 September and when we left it was dark with a definite chill in the air.

Just because it is the summer holidays Guiding does not stop. We know that for many of our girls they would not be going on holiday or having days out; therefore we try to arrange a day out to Jubilee, the Girlguiding camp site at Castle Ashby. On Tuesday 5 August we took Brownies and Guides to Castle Ashby, as always. We went by coach, leaving the Parish Centre at 9.30am, and on arrival we soon got activities underway, one of which was to create a 'person' out of natural items they found in and around the campsite. Again, using leaves and flowers that they could find, bracelets were made, and this was followed by a natural scavenger hunt. After lunch the girls played games before collecting wood, preparing and lighting our campfire. We were so lucky with this, the weather had been hot and dry for a number of weeks and not long after we had been there, the Estate and fire brigade banned all fires. Once the fire was lit, it was time to make s'mores – always a treat and something the girls look forward to.



Back in February this year we had a new leader join us. Her first experience of Café Guides was in March, and when she saw what we did, her words were "Have you got a food hygiene rating?", to which we replied "No, but we haven't killed anyone in 13 years!" Conversations and discussions followed whereby she told us about her Mum's church in Stoke-on-Trent where she does something similar, and they have had to get a food hygiene rating. Once we decided "Yes, we needed to register ourselves and get inspected",

the hard work began. Two leaders (Mark and Martin) now have their Level 1 Food Hygiene Certificates, whilst Bethany, Yasmin, Paula and I all have Level 2 and Georgina has Level 3. Paula and I both have Allergy Training Certificates, and I have HACCP. Mark has gained certificates as a Fire Warden, COSSH as well PAT Testing. All of us have First Response and Bethany also has HSE First Aid at Work.

With the training done, next was to make a very long list of equipment we should have, knives and scissors for food preparation in yellow, blue, green, white, red and purple, all to be used for different food, the same for chopping boards, food probes to make sure food is kept and served at the right temperatures, frying pans and food containers. Thermometers for the refrigerator and freezer. Not only do our food utensils need to be colour coded but also our cleaning equipment – buckets, mops, brooms, dustpans and brushes, dish cloths disposable, dish cloths washable, as well as spray bottles for our cleaning products. Each of these items being in red, yellow and green – kitchen, toilets and public areas all having its own colour.

All our cleaning products must be 'professional' and meet the necessary BN... Numbers. There are cleaners and sanitisers for all areas, and we now have to keep all chemicals in a COSSH cupboard with the appropriate COSSH sheets.

In addition to all of the above there is the documentation that needs to be completed, pages and pages of it. All the products we serve have to have an allergy 'recipe card', our menus have to have allergy advice on them, our pre-packed cakes have to be appropriately labelled. Even what we wear must be documented.

Usually, the inspection is done as a spot check; however because they were coming to the Parish Centre, they had to give us some notice so that we could let them in. With less than 48 hours' notice, an inspector from West Northamptonshire Environmental Health came to visit. They inspected our certificates, where we kept our dry goods, both our cooking and cleaning equipment, checked our documentation, asked lots of questions. An hour after they arrived we were awarded a 5-star rating; although we only do Café Guides once a month, plus the Church Fete and Christmas Fayre and our Craft Fairs, she was very impressed and commented that we had a very professional set up. At this moment in time on the Food Standards Agency website it states we are awaiting inspection; we are just waiting for our rating to go live.

It was a lot of hard work, learning undertaken to get leaders accredited and certificated, a mound of documentation to be completed, not to mention the ordering of equipment and supplies, but it was worth it.

Café Guides Recipe for October

The weather has now got that autumnal feel to it in the mornings and late evening. Creamy chicken, apples and cider – what's not to love for a cosy supper. Comfort food at its best.

Somerset Chicken (As served at Café Guides in September)

Ingredients

- 6 boneless chicken breasts, skin on
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 75g/2½oz butter, plus extra to serve
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 2 onions, peeled and sliced
- 4 tbsp plain flour
- 2 tbsp wholegrain mustard
- 2 dessert apples, peeled, cores removed, sliced into batons
- 110g/4oz button mushrooms, sliced
- 250ml/9floz chicken stock
- 300ml/10½floz cider
- 1 tbsp finely chopped fresh sage
- 250ml/9floz double cream
- 300g/10½oz cheddar, grated
- 6 baked potatoes, to serve
- butter, to serve

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas 6.
2. Season the chicken breasts with salt and freshly ground black pepper.
3. Heat a large frying pan until smoking, then add half of the butter and oil. Fry the chicken breasts in batches, skin-side down first, for 1-2 minutes on both sides, or until golden-brown all over.
4. Transfer the chicken breast to a deep-sided roasting tray and roast in the oven for 25 minutes, or until the chicken is cooked through (NB: the chicken is cooked through when the juices run clear when the thickest part is pierced with a skewer.) Keep warm.
5. Return the pan to the heat and add the remaining butter and oil. Add the onions and cook for 4-5 minutes, or until softened but not coloured. Stir in the flour and the mustard and cook for a further 1-2 minutes. Add the apples and mushrooms and cook for a further minute, then pour over the chicken stock.

6. Bring to the boil, then add the cider and return to the boil. Cook for 1-2 minutes, then lower the heat, add the sage and stir in the cream. Simmer for a further 5-6 minutes, then season to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper.
7. Pour the sauce over the chicken so that it is completely covered.
8. Preheat the grill to high.
9. Sprinkle the cheddar cheese over the chicken and place under the grill for 4-5 minutes, or until the cheese is melted, golden-brown and bubbling.
10. To serve, place a baked potato topped with a knob of butter on each serving plate. Spoon the chicken alongside and serve. A green vegetable and some carrots would complete.





32nd St Matthew's Rainbows,
Brownies and Guides

Harvest Collection for the Local Food Bank

Join Us in Sharing the Harvest!

Give Thanks — Give Back

As the season of abundance arrives, let's come together as a community to ensure everyone has enough on their table. This Harvest, we invite you to join our collection drive in support of the local food bank.

What We're Collecting

- Tinned Goods: Vegetables, beans, soup, fruit, fish, meat, and more (please check expiry dates)
- Packet Foods: Pasta, rice, noodles, cereals, biscuits, tea, coffee, long-life milk, long-life fruit juices, microwaveable puddings, pasta sauces, snack bars, cereals, custard, vegetarian options, baby foods and other non-perishables (please check expiry dates)
- Toiletries, shower gel, shampoo, feminine hygiene products, toilet rolls

How You Can Help

- Gather unopened, in-date tinned or packet foods from your home
- Encourage friends, family, and neighbours to join in
- Bring your donations to the collection point at the back of Church by

SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER

Why It Matters

Every tin or packet you give helps local families facing hardship. Together, our small acts of kindness can make a big difference.

Spread the Word!

Let's make this Harvest a time of generosity and hope. Please share this message and help us fill every basket, so no one in our community goes hungry.

Thank you for your support!



Friends of St Matthew's Music

HALLOWEEN & Bonfire Night

Friday 31st October 2025

At St Matthew's Church, Kingsley

Gates Open at 6:00pm

Halloween Fancy Dress Competition
(Judging at 6:30pm in the Parish Centre)

7:00pm – Bonfire & Fireworks

**8:00pm – Traditional
Bonfire Night Supper**



Tickets £10

Tickets available from the Parish Centre.
27A The Drive, Kingsley, Northampton, NN1 4RY.
Telephone : 01604 791251

For further information please visit
www.stmatthewsnorthampton.org.uk.



History Talks

Join us this Autumn for a warm and engaging series of history talks, in person and online, with world-renowned historians and experts.

For full details and booking please see website.



Thursday 18th September, 7.30pm (ONLINE)

Assassins and Templars: A Battle of Blood and Myth with
Dr Steve Tibble.

Thursday 25th September, 6.30pm (IN - PERSON)

Henry VIII : A Legacy of Power and Blood with Jackson
van Uden.

Wednesday 8th October, 7.30 (IN-PERSON)

Peterborough and the Mercian Kings with Max Adams.

Tuesday 14th October, 7.30 (IN-PERSON)

The Hedda Stone Mystery with Cathedral archeologist Dr
Jackie Hall and Dr Teresa Porciani.

Thursday 16th October, 7.30 (ONLINE)

The Surprising Afterlife of a Northumbrian King: The Cult
of St Oswald and Beyond with Dr Johanna Dale.

Thursday 20th November, 7.30 (ONLINE)

Zealous: A Darker Side of the Early Quakers with Dr Erica
Canela.



PETERBOROUGH
CATHEDRAL

New at the Cathedral – Autumn History Talks

Grab a blanket, settle in, and step back in time with us...

It's September and the start of an exciting new season of history talks at the Cathedral. We are thrilled to welcome you to join world-renowned historians and experts as they bring the past to life, with engaging talks both in person and online.

From legendary battles and royal legacies to mysterious artefacts and the hidden lives of kings, this Autumn's talks uncover fascinating stories that have shaped our history. Whether you join us here at the Cathedral or tune in from home, each session offers fresh insights and the chance to see the past from a new perspective.

Reserve your tickets today!



Discover NORTHAMPTONSHIRE DAY

25 OCTOBER, 2025
1 - 7.30pm

**NORTHAMPTON
MARKET SQUARE**

Join us for live entertainment and family-friendly fun
to celebrate Northamptonshire's rich history and bright future!



SCAN TO
LEARN MORE



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE DAY

ON THE DAY...

- Live performances from local artists
- Have fun in the pumpkin patch
- Acoustic area (authors, poets)
- Meet alpacas
- Enjoy our family funzone
- Discover local food, drink and gifts

PLUS so much more!

WHAT'S ON...

- Live performances from local artists
- Have fun in the pumpkin patch
- Acoustic area (authors, poets)
- Meet alpacas
- Enjoy our family funzone
- Discover local food, drink and gifts

PLUS so much more!

Don't miss your chance to win a Crockett & Jones gift voucher to spend on a pair of their handmade, locally crafted shoes

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS...





The Parish Church of St Matthew

THE RON GATES

ORGAN RECITAL

Tom Moore

Director of Music at St Matthew's

**Sunday
2 November**

at 6.30pm

Free entry, with a retiring collection

Olde England Public House

199 Kettering Road |
Northampton NN1 4BP
01604 619285



NEW OPENING TIMES

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

Friends of St Matthew's Music 100+ Club

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

Number **1**, held by **Sue Robertson**



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



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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 PARISH CHURCH OF
ST MATTHEW • NORTHAMPTON

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

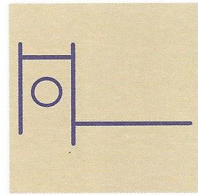
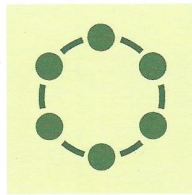
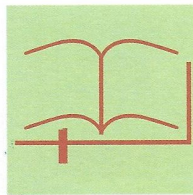
There are two methods of payment available: by a banker's direct debit or by weekly-numbered envelopes via the collection plate. The amount that you give is entirely confidential and is known only to the lay people who administer the Scheme.

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

Polly Matthews

<office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk>

Tel. 01604 846074



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PARISH GIVING SCHEME

Parish Office

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

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

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

Ministry Team

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

Parish Officers

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

St Matthew's Trust

Ben Drouet
chairman@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Particular Responsibility

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

Music Department

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

Walsingham Cell

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