

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

All Saints' Sunday

Year C



God's light shines in the saints

All Age Mass for the Parish Family

Sunday 2 November 2025

10.15 am

Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church



Safeguarding *St Matthew's is committed to providing a safe environment for all who come. If you have any concerns, please speak with one of our welcomers or a churchwarden who may be identified by their lanyard. They will be happy to help you.*

Live streaming *Please note that this service is being streamed. You may sit where you wish. If, however, you prefer not to be seen online, please sit in a side aisle. The administration of Holy Communion will not be shown.*

GDPR *Some of St Matthew's services (most Sunday mornings and some special services) are live-streamed or recorded for those who cannot attend church in person. Under GDPR, the church must gain the consent of anyone whose image may be captured, as this constitutes collection of "personal data". This includes clergy, readers/intercessors, musicians and congregation. Whilst every attempt is made not to capture the faces of members of the congregation, this may occasionally happen if people turn around or move around the church during the service. The exception is communion, when the congregation is not filmed. The side aisles and back of the nave are so far as possible film-free areas not covered by the camera. Any-one whose personal data is collected must give their consent. Consent forms are available both in church and on the website. The full policy can be read on our parish website or on the noticeboards in church.*

Toilet and baby changing facilities *may be found at the base of the church tower. There is also a small servery.*

For younger children *In the north aisle (nearest to Collingwood Road), a carpeted area equipped with age-specific Christian resources is provided. Please feel free to make use of these facilities.*



The Feast of All Saints Today we gather to celebrate All Saints' Day — a day of light, joy, and hope. It's a day when we remember all those who have shone with the light of God's love, both the famous saints whose names we know, and the quiet, everyday saints whose goodness has touched our lives in hidden ways.

When a child was once asked, "*What is a saint?*" she replied, "*Someone who lets the light in.*" She may have been thinking of a stained-glass window — full of colour and brightness when the sunlight shines through. And in a sense, she was absolutely right. Saints are people who let God's light shine through them, so that others can see the beauty and goodness of God.

The saints are like bright lights in a dark world. Through them we glimpse how life ought to be — a life of courage, mercy, and love. They challenge us to live with faith and adventure, to look at the world with new eyes, and to make God's love known in our own time.

In today's readings we hear Daniel's vision of the saints sharing in God's everlasting kingdom, and in the Gospel, Jesus blesses those who live by the values of that kingdom — the poor, the hungry, the merciful, and the peacemakers. These are the marks of holiness that shine still today.

As we worship, we rejoice that the souls of the righteous are in the hands of God, and we remember that we, too, are called to be part of that great Communion of Saints — letting God's light shine through us, here and now.

It is our custom to spend some time in quiet preparation before the liturgy begins, and save further conversation until we meet socially for refreshments afterwards. The following prayer, based on today's themes, may be found helpful:

Prayer

God, you have called us to share in the fellowship of all your saints.
Help us to do what you would have us do
and to become the people that you would have us be,
that we may live to reveal your love and your presence in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collection - 'Building a Generous Church'



Our response to God's generosity

We believe in a generous God, who longs for us to share his generosity with others. A generous life is therefore a hallmark of our faith and a testament to it, as the more generous we are, the more we reflect the generous God we believe in. Generosity is, therefore, at the heart of our faith, and our own generosity is a sure sign of our faith in action. Generosity is a spiritual gift, and we need to encourage people to seek this gift as they grow in their faith. The ministry and mission of The Church of England is largely funded through the incredible generosity of those who give to it.

* * * * *

We invite you to make a monetary offering towards the ministry and mission of St Matthew's Church. You may do so using any of the following methods:

Cash, cheques, stewardship envelopes - using the receptacle provided at the back of church. If you are a taxpayer please use the envelopes in the chairs, and fill out the details in order that our parish may also benefit from the Gift Aid (an extra 25p for every pound given) associated with your giving.

Contactless giving - using the terminal provided. Just press the button for the amount you wish to give - £5, £10, or £20, and then hold your bank card over the reader.

Giving on your smart phone - using the QR code printed below. It gives you the option of any amount, Gift Aid, and making a regular payment.

Giving online - click the donate button on the parish website or Facebook page and follow the instructions.

Your generosity is gratefully received. Thank you.



Order of Service

¶ Gathering to Worship God

S All stand at the sound of the bell

The procession enters and the flags are presented

Hymn

All **FOR all the saints who from their labours rest,
Who thee by faith before the world confessed.
Thy name, O Jesu, be for ever blest.**

Alleluya!

**Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear their one true light.**

Alleluya!

**O may thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,
Fight as the Saints who nobly fought of old,
And win, with them, the victor's crown of gold.**

Alleluya!

**O blest communion! Fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.**

Alleluya!

**And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph-song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.**

Alleluya!

The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest:
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.

Alleluya!

But lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day;
The saints triumphant rise in bright array:
The King of glory passes on his way.

Alleluya!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluya!

Words William Walsham How 1823-1897

Tune Sine Nomine

Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958

† In the name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Greeting

All This is the day which the Lord has made
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

The feast-day is introduced

Saying Sorry to God

Let us confess our sins to God, who calls us to live as saints —
shining with his light and love in the world.

We keep silence

Confession

All **Father God,
we confess that we have not always lived as your children of
light.
We have looked for comfort in wealth and possessions,
rather than storing up treasure in heaven.
We have looked for praise and approval,
instead of seeking the beauty of your holiness.
We have been caught up in things that do not last,
and have forgotten the values of your kingdom.**

**Forgive us, Lord.
Turn our hearts to you again.
Fill us with your light and love,
and help us to walk in the ways of Jesus,
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

God's Forgiveness

**Almighty God,
whose mercy never ends,
forgive all our sins,
pardon † our earthbound ways,
and renew in us a fresh vision of heaven's glory,
where Jesus lives and reigns for ever.**

All **Amen.**

Glory to God

*All Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.
Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.*

*Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.*

*For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.*

Music: Mass of St Thomas

The Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

God of holiness,
your glory is proclaimed in every age:
as we rejoice in the faith of your saints,
inspire us to follow their example with boldness and joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

All sit

¶ Hearing and Responding to the Word of God

First Reading

Reader A reading from the Book of Daniel.

In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in bed. Then he wrote down the dream: I, Daniel, saw in my vision by night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea, and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions of my head terrified me. I approached one of the attendants to ask him the truth concerning all this. So he said that he would disclose to me the interpretation of the matter: 'As for these four great beasts, four kings shall arise out of the earth. But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom for ever—for ever and ever.'

Daniel 7.1-3,15-18

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

All stand

1. Choir
2. Choir and Congregation

Fintan O'Carroll

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Choir Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs in the kingdom of heaven.

All **Alleluia, alleluia ...**

S We turn to face the Book of the Gospels

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus looked up at his disciples and said:

'Blessed are you who are poor,
 for yours is the kingdom of God.
'Blessed are you who are hungry now,
 for you will be filled.
'Blessed are you who weep now,
 for you will laugh.

'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

'But woe to you who are rich,
 for you have received your consolation.
'Woe to you who are full now,
 for you will be hungry.
'Woe to you who are laughing now,
 for you will mourn and weep.
'Woe to you when all speak well of you,
 for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

'But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Luke 6.20-31

All This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn

§ *The choir come and sit in the Nave*

All **GLORY to thee, O God,
For all thy saints in light,
Who nobly strove and conquered in the well-fought fight.
Their praises sing,
Who life outpoured
By fire and sword for Christ their King.**

**Thanks be to thee, O Lord,
For saints thy Spirit stirred
In humble paths to live thy life and speak thy word.
Unnumbered they,
Whose candles shine
To lead our footsteps after thine.**

**Lord God of truth and love,
'Thy kingdom come', we pray:
Give us thy grace to know thy truth and walk thy way:
That here on earth
Thy will be done,
Till saints in earth and heaven are one.**

Words H.C.A. Gaunt 1902-1983

Music Harewood
Samuel Sebastian Wesley 1810-1876

Talk - Presentation

All sit

We believe

All stand

As God's family, let us declare the faith of the Church.

All **We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

All sit

Our Prayers to God

Priest Let us join our prayers to God with those of Mary
and of all the saints.

Blessed are you, Lord our God,
for you have called us out of darkness into
your own most marvellous light.
Grant that our lives may help to reveal your love
and glory in the world.
As you have called each of us to be saints
may we be worthy of our calling,

All Lord, make us to be numbered with your saints
in glory everlasting.

O Lord our God, we rejoice in the fellowship of all your saints.
We thank you for Matthew, our patron saint,
and for this church in his name.
Bless all who are striving to live godly and holy lives.
We remember in your presence all who are growing in the faith,
those in Sunday schools, study groups and confirmation classes.
We pray for all who feel called to be priests, deacons or
teachers of the faith.

All Lord, make us to be numbered with your saints
in glory everlasting.

We give thanks for all who have served the world in their vocation.
We pray for kings and queens, princes and rulers.
We remember Charles our king.
We ask your blessing and guidance on all who hold
positions of authority or who influence the lives of others.
We pray for all who quietly give themselves in the service
of the community in which they live.

All Lord, make us to be numbered with your saints
in glory everlasting.

As we give thanks for our homes and loved ones,
make us aware of the quiet sacrifice and love
that is often given unheeded.
We thank you for all that our parents have done for us
and for any who have been benefactors in our lives.
We ask your blessing upon all who suffer from violence or
neglect in their homes,
all who are discouraged and disheartened
and any who lack a good example to follow.

All Lord, make us to be numbered with your saints
in glory everlasting.

We give thanks for the saints
who have triumphed through suffering
and have revealed your glory despite persecution and pain.
We pray for the acutely ill ...
and ask your blessing upon all who are struggling at this time.

All Lord, make us to be numbered with your saints
in glory everlasting.

We give thanks for all who have served you on earth
and now are at rest in your kingdom.
We pray for friends and loved ones who are departed from us.
The recently departed ...
and those whose anniversary of death falls in this week ...
asking that as they shared their love with us on earth
they may know your love in eternal life.
We rejoice in the fellowship of all your saints
and pray that we may share with them in your eternal kingdom.

All Lord, make us to be numbered with your saints
in glory everlasting.

Priest Merciful Father,
All **accept these prayers**
that we may know your peace in our hearts,
and your love in our lives,
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

All stand

¶ Preparing to meet Jesus in Bread and Wine

Hymn

S A collection is taken. Please give as you are able using any of the ways indicated at the front of this booklet. Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you.

All

**WHO are these like stars appearing,
These before God's throne who stand?
Each a golden crown is wearing:
Who are all this glorious band?
Alleluya, hark! They sing,
Praising loud their heavenly King.**

**Who are these of dazzling brightness,
These in God's own truth arrayed,
Clad in robes of purest whiteness,
Robes whose lustre ne'er shall fade,
Ne'er be touched by time's rude hand;
Whence came all this glorious band?**

**These are they who have contended
For their Saviour's honour long,
Wrestling on till life was ended,
Following not the sinful throng;
These, who well the fight sustained,
Triumph through the Lamb have gained.**

**These are they whose hearts were riven,
Sore with woe and anguish tried,
Who in prayer full oft have striven
With the God they glorified;
Now, their painful conflict o'er,
God has bid them weep no more.**

These, like priests, have watched and waited,
Offering up to Christ their will.
Soul and body consecrated,
Day and night to serve him still:
Now, in God's most holy place
Blessed they stand before his face.

Words German, Heinrich Theobald Schenck 1656-1727,
tr Frances Elizabeth Cox 1812-1897

Music All Saints
adapted by William Henry Monk 1823-1889

S The children are invited to gather either side of the altar

Offering the Gifts of Bread and Wine

Holy Father,
as the saints offer their lives for the sake of the kingdom,
receive the bread and wine we offer you;
help us to serve you better,
that our journey in faith may lead us to heaven.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Prayer over the Bread and Wine

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Children Why is it right to give thanks and praise?
Adults **Listen, and we will hear.**

Lord of all life, you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth
to discover and to cherish.

You give us sun and moon and star-lit sky,
everything that gives us light,
light for our eyes, our hearts, our minds.
You give us the example of the saints
as a sign of our calling,
to be more like you,
and in time come to greet you in heaven.
You made us all,
each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels and sing your praise:

All sing **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.
Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

Children Why do we share this bread and wine?
Adults **Listen, and we will hear.**

On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Children How do we follow Jesus Christ?
Adults **Listen, and we will hear.**

Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.
And now with Mary and all your saints
we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever.

All **Amen.**

If you are able, please remain standing

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together with Mary and all the saints
as Jesus taught us:

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Sign of Peace

All stand

Priest We are fellow-citizens with the saints of the household of God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who came among us and preached his message of peace.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

The children return to their seats

Please sit or kneel

Breaking of the Bread

Creator of all, we have gathered many grains
and made them into this one bread.

All **We look for your Church to be gathered
from the ends of the earth into the kingdom.**

Invitation to Communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

All **Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

The clergy receive Holy Communion

Giving of Communion

Jesus said, 'Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God'.

S *Baptized persons who are communicant members of other
Churches are warmly invited to receive Holy Communion.
Alternatively, if you wish to receive a blessing,
please bring this booklet with you to the communion rail.*

Spiritual Communion - for those watching at home

Act of Reception

All In union, blessed Jesus,
with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church
where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day,

(and remembering particularly my own parish ...)

I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving,
for creation and all the blessings of this life,
for the redemption won for us by your life, death,
and resurrection,
for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

(and particularly for the blessings given me ...)

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament,
and, since I cannot at this time receive communion,
I pray you to come into my heart.
I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart,
my soul, and my mind.
Let nothing separate me from you;
let me serve you in this life until, by your grace,
I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace.
Amen.

The choir sing Lamb of God

Motet

O quam gloriosum est regnum

Victoria

S All sit for a period of silent reflection and thanksgiving

Prayer after Communion

Priest Let us pray.

All stand

All **Merciful God,
you have called us to your table
and fed us with the bread of life.
Draw us, following the example of your saints,
to serve your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Hymn

S *The flags are returned to their bearers*

All **REJOICE in God's saints, today and all days!
A world without saints forgets how to praise.
Their faith in acquiring the habit of prayer,
Their depth of adoring, Lord, help us to share.**

**Some march with events to turn them God's way;
Some need to withdraw, the better to pray;
Some carry the gospel through fire and through flood:
Our world is their parish: their purpose is God.**

**Rejoice in those saints, unpraised and unknown,
Who bear someone's cross, or shoulder their own:
They shame our complaining, our comforts, our cares:
What patience in caring, what courage, is theirs!**

**Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days!
A world without saints forgets how to praise.
In loving, in living, they prove it is true:
The way of self-giving, Lord, leads us to you.**

Words Fred Pratt Green 1903-2000

Music Hanover
Melody and bass by William Croft 1678-1727

Notices for the Community

All sit

¶ Going out to serve God

All The Lord be with you *All stand*
 and also with you.

God's Blessing

May Christ who makes saints of sinners,
who has changed for ever those we remember today,
change us also that we may change the world;

and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son †, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Following God's saints in the ways of holiness and truth,
let us go in the peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Organ Voluntary

Grand Chœur

Théodore Dubois 1837-1924

S Please remain standing until the procession has departed

§ Those leaving immediately are asked to be aware of those who wish to listen to the organ voluntary

§ Do please join us for refreshments in the parish centre.

This evening at 5.30 pm
Solemn Choral Evensong

At c.6.30 pm
The Ron Gate's Recital
given by Thomas Moore



Our next All Age Service

The Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday 7 December at 10.15 am

Our thanks are due to Anonymous Donor 11
who has generously financed
the production of this week's service booklet.

**Please take this booklet home
as an aid to prayer and reflection during the week,
and then re-cycle it.**

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