

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

Saint Bartholomew the Apostle



*'Exquisite Pain' (2006) by Damien Hirst
in St Bartholomew the Great Church, Smithfield, London*

The Parish Mass

Sunday 24 August 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.



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 St Matthew’s is 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.



Good morning and welcome ...

Saint Bartholomew, one of the twelve apostles of Jesus, is traditionally identified with Nathanael. The gospels speak of Philip bringing Nathanael to Jesus, who describes him as “an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit” (John 1.47). He is also present beside the Sea of Galilee at the resurrection.

Although he seems initially a somewhat cynical man, he recognizes Jesus for who he is and proclaims him as Son of God and King of Israel. Though little is known about his life, Bartholomew is believed to have preached the Gospel in distant lands, possibly including India and Armenia, where he is said to have suffered martyrdom. His faithful witness reminds us of the quiet strength of those who serve Christ with humility, integrity, and courage. Today, we give thanks for his example and pray that we too may be faithful in our calling to follow Christ.

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 reflection/prayer, based on today's themes, may be found helpful:

A Prayer for the Gift of Faith

O glorious Saint Bartholomew,
Jesus called you a person without guile
and you saw in this word a sign that he was the Son of God
and King of Israel.
Obtain for us the grace to be ever guileless
and innocent as doves.
At the same time,
help us to have your gift of faith
to see the divine hand in the events of daily life.
May we discern the signs of the times that lead to Jesus on earth
and will eventually unite us to him forever in heaven.
Amen.

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

§ *Stand at the sound of the bell*

Hymn

The procession enters and the altar is honoured with incense

All

**TH'ETERNAL gifts of Christ the King,
Th'apostles' glorious deeds, we sing;
And while due hymns of praise we pay,
Our thankful hearts cast grief away.**

**The Church in these her princes boasts,
These victor chiefs of warriors hosts;
The soldiers of the heavenly hall,
The lights that rose on earth for all.**

**'Twas thus the yearning faith of saints,
The unconquered hope that never faints,
The love of Christ that knows not shame,
The prince of this world overcame.**

**In these the Father's glory shone;
In these the will of God the Son;
In these exults the Holy Ghost;
Through these rejoice the heavenly host.**

**Redeemer, hear us of thy love,
That, with this glorious band above,
Hereafter, of thine endless grace,
Thy servants also may have place.**

**All praise to God the Father be,
All praise, eternal Son, to thee;
Whom with the Spirit we adore
For ever and for evermore. Amen.**

Words Latin, attributed to St Ambrose of Milan c340-397
tr John Mason Neale 1818-1866

Music Church triumphant
James William Elliott 1833-1915

† In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All **Amen.**

The Greeting

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

Today's feast is introduced

Invitation to Confession

We run the race set before us,
surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.
Therefore, let us lay aside every weight,
and the sin which clings so closely,
bringing them to Jesus in penitence and faith.

Silence for reflection

Confession

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you,
through our own fault,
in thought, and word, and deed,
and in what we have left undone.
We are heartily sorry,
and repent of all our sins.
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Kyries

You were sent to preach the good news of light
in the darkness of the world:

Kyrie eleison.

All **Kyrie eleison.**

You were sent to plant in our hearts the seed of eternal life:
Christe eleison.

All **Christe eleison.**

You were sent to reconcile us to yourself
by the shedding of your blood:

Kyrie eleison.

All **Kyrie eleison.**

Absolution

Priest Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive † you your sins,
open your eyes to God's truth,
strengthen you to do God's will
and give you the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

All **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.**

**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.**

**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.
Amen.**

The Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God,
who gave to your apostle Bartholomew grace
truly to believe and to preach your word:
grant that your Church may love that word which he believed
and may faithfully preach and receive the same;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All

Amen.

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
now that we have prepared for this encounter with God
in the holy scriptures,
let us be seated to receive into our hearts and minds
the living word of the Lord as it is proclaimed to us.

§ Sit

II The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Many signs and wonders were done among the people through the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared to join them, but the people held them in high esteem. Yet more than ever believers were added to the Lord, great numbers of both men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mats, in order that Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he came by. A great number of people would also gather from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.

Acts 5.12-16

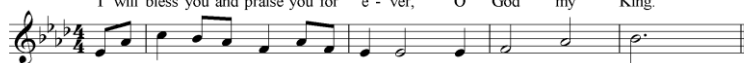
All This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Response

Response *Andrew Moore*
I will bless you and praise you for e - ver, O God my King.

Andrew Moore



I will exalt you, O God my King,
and bless your name for ever and ever.
Every day will I bless you
and praise your name for ever and ever.
Great is the Lord and highly to be praised;
his greatness is beyond all searching out. **Response**

One generation shall praise your works to another
and declare your mighty acts.
They shall speak of the majesty of your glory,
and I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. **Response**

They shall speak of the might of your marvellous acts,
and I will also tell of your greatness.
They shall pour forth the story of your abundant kindness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness. **Response**

Psalms 145.1-7

Second Reading

Reader A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, as though sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to mortals. We are fools for the sake of Christ, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honour, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we are hungry and thirsty, we are poorly clothed and beaten and homeless, and we grow weary from the work of our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we speak kindly. We have become like the rubbish of the world, the dregs of all things, to this very day.

Fatherly Admonition

I am not writing this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you might have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers. Indeed, in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.

1 Corinthians 4.9-15

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

§ *Stand*

Holy Gospel

Acclamation

1. *Choir only*
2. *Choir and Congregation*

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

All I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.
Alleluia.

§ *We turn to face the Book of the Gospels*

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All



A dispute also arose among the disciples as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them, ‘The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

‘You are those who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.’

Luke 22.24-30

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All



Homily

§ Sit

The Nicene Creed

§ Stand

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

*All may
bow* ***For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.***

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Prayers of the Faithful

Priest Let us pray to the Father
giving thanks for the witness of his apostle, Bartholomew,
and praying for the Church throughout the world,
and in this place.

§ *Kneel*

After each petition

Intercessor Lord, have mercy.
All **Christ, have mercy.**

At the end

Priest Almighty God,
grant that your Church may faithfully hold and make known
the faith that has come to us through the apostles,
that with them and all your saints
we may inherit the glories of eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

§ *Stand*

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles,
I leave you peace, my peace I give you.
Look not on our sins but on the faith of your Church,
and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom,
where you live and reign for ever.

All **Amen.**

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

Let us offer each other a sign of Christ's peace.

The Offertory

§ *The bread and wine are brought to the dais step and given to the presiding priest, and the altar is prepared.*

§ *A monetary 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.*

Hymn

All **LET the round world with songs rejoice,
Let heaven return the joyful voice,
All mindful of the apostles' fame,
Let heaven and earth their praise proclaim.**

**Ye servants who once bore the light
Of gospel truth o'er heathen night,
Still may your work that light impart,
To glad our eyes and cheer our heart.**

**O God, by whom to them was given
The key that shuts and opens heaven,
Our chains unbind, our loss repair,
And grant us grace to enter there.**

**For at thy will they preached the word
Which cured disease, which health conferred:
O may thy healing power once more
Our souls to grace and health restore.**

**That when as judge thy Son shall come,
To bring his ransomed people home,
He may with them pronounce us blest,
And place us in thine endless rest.**

**To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, three in one,
Be honour, praise and majesty,
Now and throughout eternity. Amen.**

Words Latin, 10th century
tr Richard Mant 1776-1848

Music Deus tuorum militum (Grenoble)
Grenoble church melody
Harmony by Michael Fleming 1928-2006

Invitation to Prayer

Pray, my brothers and sisters,
that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

All **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Prayer over the Gifts

Father, accept all we bring before you this day.
Guide us with your love and feed us at your table
as you nourish the faith of the Church
by the preaching of your apostles.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

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.

It is indeed right and good
that we should give you thanks, praise and glory,
almighty and everlasting God,
through Jesus Christ our Son our Lord.

For after his resurrection he sent out his apostles and evangelists
to preach the gospel to all nations
and lead us in the way of truth.
Himself the chief corner stone,
he founded his Church upon the apostles
firmly to stand for ever as a sign of your holiness upon earth
and a living witness to all of the way that leads to heaven.

And so with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven we lift our voices
and join in their unending hymn of praise.

All

**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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Christ is the bread of life:

All

The musical score is written for two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, starting with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The lyrics 'When we eat this bread and drink this cup,' are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody, starting with a crescendo (*cresc.*) marking and ending with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The lyrics 'we pro-claim your death, Lord Je - sus, un - til you come in glo - ry.' are written below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world,
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of Mary the Virgin Mother of God,
Saint Bartholomew and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All



A- men.

The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

§ Kneel

The Lord's Prayer

Let us join with Bartholomew and the whole company of heaven
and with confidence pray as our Saviour 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.**

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.**

Agnus Dei

All **Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Invitation to Communion

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

Giving of Communion

I will give you the kingdom that my Father gave to me,
and in that kingdom you will eat and drink at my table.

§ *Baptised 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 as a sign.*

Spiritual Communion – *for those 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.

Hymn

All **THIS is my body, broken for you,
Bringing you wholeness, making you free.
Take it and eat it, and when you do,
Do it in love for me.**

**This in my body, poured out for you,
Bringing forgiveness, making you free.
Take it and drink it, and when you do,
Do it in love for me.**

**Back to my Father soon I shall go.
Do not forget me; then you will see
I am still with you, and you will know
You're very close to me.**

**Filled with the Spirit, how you will grow!
You are my branches; I am the tree.
If you are faithful, others will know
You are alive in me.**

**Love one another: I have loved you,
And I have shown you how to be free;
Serve one another, and when you do,
Do it in love for me.**

Words vs 1&2 Jimmy Owens
vs 3-5 Damian Lundy b.1944

Music Jimmy Owens
arranged by Christopher Tambling b.1964

§ *We sit for a period of silent reflection and thanksgiving*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *Stand*

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

**Merciful God,
you have called us to your table
and fed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation.
Draw us with your pilgrim people
to follow the good example of the apostles
and so serve your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Hymn

§ *This hymn is an acrostic of 'Saint Bartholomew'*

All

**SAINTS of God! Lo, Jesu's people
Age to age your glory tell;
In his name for us ye laboured,
Now in bliss eternal dwell.**

**Twelve poor men, by Christ anointed,
Braved the rich, the wise, the great,
All the world counts dear rejecting,
Rapt in their apostolate.**

**Thus the earth their death-wounds purchased,
Hallowed by the blood therefrom,
On her bosom bore the nations,
Laved, illumined, Christendom.**

**On this feast, almighty Father,
May we praise thee with the Son,
Evermore his love confessing,
Who from both with both is one. Amen.**

Words John Athelstan Riley 1858-1945

Music Gott will's machen
Johann Ludwig Steiner 1688-1761

Notices for the Community

§ *Sit*

¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

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

Solemn Blessing

All May God,
 who kindled the fire of his love in the hearts of the apostles,
 pour upon you the riches of his grace.
 Amen.

All May he give you joy and fellowship
 and a share in their praises.
 Amen.

All May he strengthen you to follow them in the way of holiness
 and to come to the full radiance of glory.
 Amen.

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

The Dismissal

All The Mass is ended, go in peace.
 Thanks be to God.

Organ Voluntary

Ode

Kenneth Leighton (1929 – 1988)

- § *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*
- § *Refreshments are being served in church. Do please join us.*

This evening at 5.30 pm
Solemn Congregational Evensong

Our thanks are due to Anonymous Donor 18
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.**

Copyright © The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England.
All of the official *Common Worship* publications are being published by Church House Publishing.
Church Copyright Licence No. 248548. Streaming Licence No. 93626.

St Matthew's Parish Church, The Parish Office, 27A The Drive, Kingsley, Northampton NN1 4RY
Tel: 01604 791451 www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk