The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

Christ the King

Year A



The Parish Mass

Principal Celebrant and Preacher
The Right Reverend Luke Irvine-Capel SSC
Bishop of Richborough

Sunday 22 November 2026

10.15 am

Good morning and welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church



Safeguarding St Matthew's is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

If you have any safeguarding concern, or are worried about the safety or wellbeing of a child, young person, or adult, please speak to the Parish Safeguarding Officer, a member of the clergy, or a churchwarden.

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If someone is in immediate danger or needs urgent medical attention, please call 999.

Live Streaming and Recording Please note that some services are live-streamed or recorded. Filming is limited as far as reasonably possible to those leading or assisting with the service, including clergy, readers/intercessors, musicians, choir members, and servers. Holy Communion is not filmed.

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Toilet and Baby Changing Facilities Toilet and baby changing facilities are available at the base of the church tower. A small servery is also available.

For Younger Children In the north aisle (nearest to Collingwood Road), a carpeted children's area with age-appropriate Christian resources is available. Please feel free to make use of these facilities during the service.







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 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.

The Solemnity of Christ the King

A very warm welcome to our Parish Mass on this glorious feast of Christ the King. Today the Church gathers at the close of the Christian year to proclaim with joy that Jesus Christ reigns over all creation - not through force or earthly power, but through love, mercy, truth, and self-giving sacrifice. His kingdom is one of justice and peace, and it is a kingdom into which all are invited.

We are especially delighted to welcome The Rt Revd Luke Irvine-Capel, who is the Bishop of Richborough and an Assistant Bishop in our diocese. Bishop Luke is with us today as celebrant and preacher on his first visit to our parish. We pray that he will feel at home in our worship and fellowship.

In the Epistle, Saint Paul gives thanks for the faith and love of the Church, and prays that God will deepen their wisdom and understanding of the greatness of Christ, who is exalted above all things and given as head of the Church. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of the coming judgement, revealing that the true marks of his kingdom are compassion, generosity, and care for those in need. In serving the hungry, the stranger, the sick, and the forgotten, we serve Christ himself.

As we offer the holy sacrifice of the Mass, may our hearts be renewed in fidelity to Christ our King, and may we go from this place ready to recognise and serve him in one another, especially in those most in need.

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

Reflection

Lord Jesus Christ, our King and Shepherd,
quiet our hearts and draw us into your presence.
Open our eyes to your love,
that we may recognise you in those we meet
and serve you with generous hearts.
Bless our worship, our bishop and our parish,
and unite us in the peace of your kingdom.
For you are Lord, now and for ever.

Settings

Mass of the Altar of Life	*David Halls b 1963* 2013 commission
Communion Service in E (Collegium Regale)	*Harold Darke 1888-1976*

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

§ *The choir are in their stalls*

§ *At the sound of the bell please STAND*

§ *The sanctuary party enters and forms up in the centre aisle*

The bishop intones

Let us go forth in peace.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Processional Hymn

The procession circumscribes the congregation

All

CROWN him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon his throne;
Hark how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own:
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.

Crown him the Virgin's Son,
The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won
Which now his brow adorn:
Fruit of that mystic rose,
As of that rose the stem;
The root whence mercy ever flows,
The babe of Bethlehem.

Crown him the Lord of love,
Behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds yet visible above
In beauty glorified:
No angel in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye
At mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace,
Whose power a sceptre sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
Absorbed in prayer and praise:
His reign shall know no end,
And round his piercèd feet
Fair flowers of paradise extend
Their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years,
The potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime.
Glassed in a sea of light,
Where everlasting waves
Reflect his throne - the infinite!
Who lives, and loves, and saves.

Words Matthew Bridges 1800-1894 *Music* Diadem ata George Job Elvey 1816-1893

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

The Greeting

Blessed be God.
All **Blessed be God's kingdom now and for ever.**
Amen.

The Mass is introduced

Invitation to Confession

Asst pr Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'
So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence for recollection

Confession

All **O King enthroned on high,**
filling the earth with your glory:
holy is your name, Lord God almighty.
In our sinfulness we cry to you to take our guilt away,
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Kyries *Sung*

Asst pr The kingdom is yours, but we turn away from your just rule:
Kyrie eleison.
All **Kyrie eleison.**

The power is yours, but we trust in our own power and strength:
Christe eleison.
All **Christe eleison.**

The glory is yours, but we fall short of the glory of God:
Kyrie eleison.
All **Kyrie eleison.**

Absolution

Bishop 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

Bishop Let us pray.

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

§ *Sit*

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 1.15-end

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm



Choir O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving
and be glad in him with psalms. ***Response***

For the Lord is a great God
and a great king above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth
and the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have moulded the dry land. ***Response***

Come, let us worship and bow down
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God;
we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. ***Response***

Psalm 95.1-7

Holy Gospel

Acclamation



Choir Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!
All **Alleluia.**

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

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

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

All



Jesus said to his disciples, 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And

when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

Matthew 25.31-46

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All



The priest brings the Book of the Gospels to the bishop, who kisses the Book and with it blesses the people making the sign of the cross.

Homily

§ *Sit*

The Right Reverend Luke Irvine-Capel SSC
Bishop of Richborough
and Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Peterborough

At the end, a time for personal reflection

The Nicene Creed

§ Stand with the bishop

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

Bishop God has made Jesus head of the Church and ruler of all creation.
Let us pray in his name for our own needs, the needs of the Church,
and of the world.

§ *Kneel*

The response to each petition

Intercessor Lord, your kingdom come
All **in us as in heaven.**

After the final petition

Bishop God of mercy,
your Son so loved the world that he gave his life for our salvation.
May we have the courage to live by that same love,
so that we may share the joy of the kingdom,
where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
All **Amen.**

§ *Stand*

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

Bishop Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles,
'The greatest among you is the one who serves.'
Cleanse our hearts of selfishness, and give us a spirit of loving service,
so that we may enjoy the peace and unity of your kingdom
where you live and reign for ever.

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

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

The Offertory

§ *The bread and wine are presented to the bishop at the dais step, and the altar is prepared*

Hymn

§ *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.*

All

HAIL Redeemer, King divine!
Priest and Lamb, the throne is thine,
King, whose reign shall never cease,
Prince of everlasting peace.

Angels, saints and nations sing
'Praised be Jesus Christ our King;
Lord of life, earth, sky and sea,
King of love on Calvary.'

King whose name creation thrills,
Rule our minds, our hearts, our wills,
Till in peace each nation rings
With thy praises, King of kings.

King most holy, King of truth,
Guide the lowly, guide the youth;
Christ thou King of glory bright
Be to us eternal light.

Shepherd-King, o'er mountains steep,
Homeward bring the wandering sheep;
Shelter in one royal fold
States and kingdoms, new and old.

Eucharistic King, what love
Draws thee daily from above.
Clad in signs of bread and wine;
Feed us, lead us, keep us thine.

Words Patrick Brennan CSsR 1877-1952 *Music* King Divine Charles Rigby 1901-1962

Invitation to Prayer

Bishop 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 holy Church.

Prayer over the Gifts

O Lord, as we offer you the sacrifice
by which the human race is reconciled to you,
we humbly pray that your Son himself may bestow on all nations
the gifts of unity and peace.
Through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For with the oil of gladness
you have anointed Christ the Lord, your only Son,
to be our great high priest and king of all creation.
As priest, he offered himself once for all upon the altar of the cross
and redeemed the human race by this perfect sacrifice of peace.

As king he claims dominion over all your creatures,
that he may bring before your infinite majesty
a kingdom of truth and life,
a kingdom of holiness and grace,
a kingdom of justice, love and peace.
And so with angels and archangels and all the heavenly host
we proclaim your glory
and join their unending hymn of praise:

Choir *Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,*
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Bishop 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:

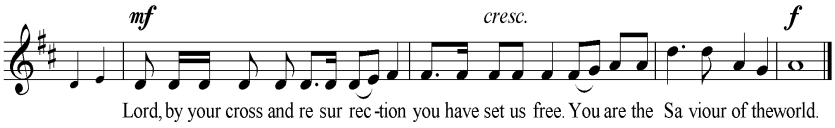
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

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.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

All



Bishop 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 with Mary, the Virgin Mother of God,
Matthew the apostle, 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



The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

§ Kneel

The Lord's Prayer

Bishop God's kingdom is a kingdom of truth and life, holiness and grace, justice, love and peace. Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has 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

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,**
because we all share in one bread.

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.

The bishop and concelebrating clergy receive Holy Communion

Communion Antiphon

Bishop The Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore. The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

§ *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 to the communion rail as a sign. Thank you.

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.

The choir sing Agnus Dei

Motet

Choir

Sing for the morning's joy, Cecilia, sing,
In words of youth and praises of the Spring,
Walk the bright colonnades by fountains' spray,
And sing as sunlight fills the waking day;
Till angels, voyaging in upper air,
Pause on a wing and gather the clear sound
Into celestial joy, wound and unwound,
A silver chain, or golden as your hair.

Sing for your loves of heaven and of earth,
In words of music, and each word a truth;
Marriage of heart and longings that aspire,
A bond of roses, and a ring of fire.
Your summertime grows short and fades away,
Terror must gather to a martyr's death;
But never tremble, the last indrawn breath
Remembers music as an echo may.

Through the cold aftermath of centuries,
Cecilia's music dances in the skies;
Lend us a fragment of the immortal air,
That with your choiring angels we may share,
A word to light us thro' time-fettered night,
Water of life, or rose of paradise,
So from the earth another song shall rise
To meet your own in heaven's long delight.

A Hymn to St Cecilia
Herbert Howells 1892-1983

Hymn

All

LET all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood:
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
And the Light of Light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph;
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluya, alleluya,
Alleluya, Lord Most High!

Words Greek, Cherubic Hymn from Liturgy of St James
versified by Gerard Moultrie 1829-1885
after Thomas Rattray 1684-1743

Music Picardy
French melody, possibly 17th cent
collected by Jean-Baptiste Wekerlin 1821-1910
Chansons populaires, 1848
Harmony from *The English Hymnal*, 1906

§ *All sit for a time of personal reflection and thanksgiving*

Prayer after Communion

§ *We stand with the bishop*

Bishop Let us pray:

Lord, in the vision of your heavenly kingdom
you reveal among us the promise of your glory;
may that glory be ours
as we claim our citizenship in the kingdom
where you live and reign, one God, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples.
Amen.

Hymn

All

THY kingdom come, O God,
Thy rule, O Christ, begin;
Break with thy iron rod
The tyrannies of sin.

Where is thy reign of peace
And purity and love?
When shall all hatred cease,
As in the realms above?

When comes the promised time
That war shall be no more,
And lust, oppression, crime,
Shall flee thy face before?

We pray thee Lord, arise,
And come in thy great might;
Revive our longing eyes,
Which languish for thy sight.

O'er lands both near and far
Thick darkness broodeth yet:
Arise, O morning star,
Arise, and never set.

Words Lewis Hensley 1824-1905 *Music* St Cecilia
Leighton George Hayne 1836-1883

Notices for the Community

§ *Sit*

¶ Sending Out

§ *Stand*

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

Solemn Blessing

God the Father,
who has given to his Son the name above every name,
strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord.
All **Amen.**

God the Son,
who is our great high priest passed into the heavens,
plead for you at the right hand of the Father.
All **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,
who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church,
make you faithful servants of Christ the King.
All **Amen.**

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

Asst pr The Mass is ended. Go in the peace of Christ the King.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Organ Voluntary

Coronation March "Crown Imperial"

William Walton 1902-1983

§ *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*

§ *Refreshments are being served in the parish centre, adjacent to the carpark. Do please join us.*

§ *If you are a newcomer to the parish, please introduce yourself to the clergy or speak to a member of our Welcome Team.*

This evening at 5.30 pm

Solemn Choral Evensong

Next Sunday

The First Sunday of Advent

10.15 am The Parish Mass

4.00 pm The Advent Procession

Our thanks are due to Mandy and Mark Ludlow
who have 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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