

St Matthew's **MAIL**

**Suggested
Donation**

£1.00

News from the Parish of Kingsley, Northampton

September 2026



www.stmatthewsnorthampton.org.uk

Services at the Parish Church of St Matthew

Sundays

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

First Sunday in the month

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

Second Sunday in the month

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

Third Sunday in the month

5.30pm	Choral Evensong and Benediction
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Fourth and Fifth Sundays in the month

5.30pm	Congregational Evensong
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Weekdays *(during winter months of November to March, may be held in the Parish Centre)*

Morning and Evening Prayer are said publicly at 9.00am and 5.30pm daily

Monday	7.00pm Mass (on Bank Holidays at 9.30am) (Healing Mass and Devotions on the first Monday in the month)
Tuesday	Currently suspended
Wednesday	12 noon Mass
Thursday	12 noon Mass
Friday	12 noon Mass
Saturday	9.30am Mass (Mass of Our Lady of Walsingham followed by a Cell Meeting on the second Saturday of the month)

Major Feast-Days Procession and Sung Mass at 7.30pm

(Always held in church. The morning Mass may be cancelled — refer to literature in church and on website)

Sacrament of Reconciliation, commonly known as Confession, is celebrated in the Lady Chapel by appointment with the clergy. They are also available for advice and guidance on any matter of concern.
All aspects of the sacrament are in confidence.

Worship Calendar for September

The Church prays for the local community daily; please also include 'Our Parish' in your own daily prayers.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Observance</i>	<i>Mass Intention</i>	<i>Our Parish</i>
1	S Giles, R	Those on the margins of society	Chaucer Street, Junction Road
2	Feria	The dangers of hero worship	Local businesses
3	S Gregory the Great, Pp, Dr	Leadership and a spirit of service	Cowper Terrace, Lingfield Terrace
4	S Cuthbert, B	Shepherding others toward Christ	Randall Road, Romany Road
5	Of the BVM	NHS maternity services	Waverley Road, Milton Street North
6	THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 18)	The Parish	Carlton Road, Carlton Gardens
7	Feria	The Ministry of Healing	Local shops
8	Birth of the BVM	The potential of new life	Ryland Road, Brookfield Road, Betjeman Court
9	Feria	Marriage – a holy state in life	Sunningdale Close, Masefield Way, Fairway
10	Monthly Requiem	The Faithful Departed	Hazeldene Road, Greenview Drive
11	Feria	Maintaining our Christian enthusiasm	Kenmuir Avenue, Kenmuir Crescent, Kenmuir Gardens
12	Of OLW	The Shrine, Society, and our Parish Cell	Local Doctors, Dentists and Vets
13	THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 19)	The Parish	Malcolm Road, Malcolm Terrace
14	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	The emblem of the Christian Faith	Fairfield Road, Raeburn Road
15	Our Lady at the Cross	Parents who witness the suffering of their children	Wallace Road, Wallace Terrace, Wallace Gardens
16	S Cornelius, Pp, and S Cyprian, B, Ms	For courage in our worship and witness	Rothersay Road, Rothersay Terrace
17	Feria	Our need of forgiveness and gratitude	Church members not living in the parish
18	Feria	Seeing ourselves as risen Christians	Kingsley Primary School, Wallace Road Nursery
19	Of the BVM	Those seeking to rebuilding their lives in Venezuela	Abington Avenue, Ashburnham Road

20	THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 20)	The Parish	Birchfield Road, Cedar Road Broadway, Park Avenue North
21	ST MATTHEW THE APOSTLE 133rd PATRONAL FESTIVAL	Our response to Christ's call	
22	Feria	Learning to be humble	Oakwood Road, Collingwood Road
23	Feria	The dangers of wealth	Nursing and Residential Homes
24	OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM	The Shrine and Society of OLW	Abington Grove, The Crescent
25	Feria	Being honest about what we do not understand	The Drive, Tudor Road, The Vale
26	Of the BVM	Equal pay	Brookland Road, Brookland Crescent, Highfield Road
27	133rd DEDICATION FESTIVAL	The Parish	Kettering Road, St Matthew's Parade, Kingsley Park Terrace
28	Feria	The suffering of the just person	Kingsley Road, Oliver Street
29	S MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS	The prayers of the heavenly host	Milton Street, Byron Street
30	S Jerome, Pr, Dr	For theological colleges	Shelley Street, Moore Street

The Parish Church of St Matthew

Sunday
13 September

at 10.15am

All Age Mass
for the Parish Family



September Pastoral Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends,

There is something quietly distinctive about September. The brilliance of high summer begins almost imperceptibly to soften. The evenings draw in a little earlier, the mornings carry a freshness that hints at the changing season, and before long the first leaves will begin their annual transformation. It is a month of transition, as families return from holidays, schools reopen, and familiar rhythms of daily life are gently restored.

Yet if the natural world suggests that the year is beginning to turn, the life of the Church often tells a rather different story. At St Matthew's, September has long felt less like an ending than a beginning. As daylight gradually diminishes, our common life gathers renewed energy and purpose. Choir returns to its stalls, Junior Church resumes, our uniformed organisations begin another year together, and the familiar pattern of worship and fellowship is restored. There is a quiet sense that we are setting out once again on the journey of faith together.

Perhaps that is because September is, in many ways, the great festival month of our parish. Within the space of little more than a week we celebrate our Patronal Festival, the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham, our Dedication Festival and Michaelmas. At first sight they are very different occasions, yet they are united by a single, joyful truth: each reminds us that God is not distant, but wonderfully present among his people.

St Matthew reminds us that Christ still calls ordinary women and men to follow him, just as he called the tax collector from his counting table two thousand years ago. The Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham proclaims the mystery of the Incarnation: that in Jesus Christ, God chose to dwell among us, sharing our humanity that we might share his divine life. Our Dedication Festival gives thanks for this beautiful church, set apart for God's worship, whilst reminding us that the true temple is the people whom Christ is continually building into his living Body. Michaelmas, in turn, lifts our eyes beyond what we can see, assuring us that our worship on earth is joined to that of angels and archangels and all the company of heaven.

These festivals do more than commemorate events of the past. They remind us who we are today. We are a people called by Christ, gathered around his altar, strengthened by his sacraments and sent out into the world to bear witness to his love. That calling belongs not only to previous generations, whose faith established this parish, but to us who have inherited their stewardship, and to those who will one day follow after us.

It is no coincidence, therefore, that September also brings opportunities for new beginnings. In October Bishop Andrew Proud will visit us for our Parish Confirmation, and I hope there may be those who feel that now is the right moment to take that next step in their own Christian pilgrimage. Confirmation is not the end of a journey but another beginning – a deeper commitment to the life of Christ and his Church.

Alongside these larger celebrations, the quieter rhythms of parish life continue faithfully: our Healing Mass, the ministry of prayer and anointing, House Group, and the countless acts of kindness, generosity and friendship that often pass unnoticed but are no less signs of God's grace at work among us. It is in these ordinary moments, of alongside-ness, as much as in the great festivals, that Christ continues to make himself known.

As September unfolds, the days may gradually become shorter, but the light of Christ does not diminish. Indeed, the Church has always known that his light shines most clearly when it is received, cherished and reflected by his people. For well over a century that light has burned brightly at St Matthew's, passed faithfully from one generation to another. It is now our privilege to receive it afresh, to rejoice in it together, and, by God's grace, to carry it into the lives of those around us.

May this new season bring to each of us a renewed sense of God's presence, a deeper love for his Church, and fresh confidence in the hope to which he calls us.

Your sincere friend and parish priest,

Fr. Nicholas

A priest told his congregation "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark chapter 17."

The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the priest asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17. Every hand went up. The priest smiled and said "Mark has only 16 chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."



Festival of Creation in Christ

September brings with it a rich opportunity to celebrate God's gift of creation. This year, many churches across the Church of England will be exploring the new *Festival of Creation in Christ* resources, which invite us to see the whole created world through the lens of Christ. They remind us that creation is not simply a backdrop to God's saving work, but is gathered up in Christ, through whom all things were made and in whom all things hold together.



This season also coincides with our many different Harvest celebrations. Harvest is a time to give thanks for the abundance of God's provision and for all those whose work enables food to reach our tables. It is also an opportunity to reflect on our responsibility to care for the earth and to ensure that its gifts are shared justly. As we thank God for the fruits of the earth, we are invited to consider how we can play our part in cherishing creation and supporting those who lack life's basic necessities.

I encourage churches and individuals throughout the Diocese to make use of the Festival of Creation in Christ resources this autumn, which you can find on the Church of England website. Whether through worship, preaching, study groups or community events, they offer fresh ways of celebrating God's creation and deepening our understanding of our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ. My prayer is that, through this season, we may grow in wonder, thanksgiving and hope as we seek to follow Christ, the one in whom all creation finds its purpose and fulfilment.

With every blessing,

+ Debbie

The Rt Revd Debbie Sellin

Bishop of Peterborough

O God and Father of all that was, is and ever
shall be,
help us to be thankful for all that is made
at the hands of your Son
and through the wisdom of your Spirit,
that we may care in heart and in deed for the
life of our world,
to the praise and glory of your holy name.

Weekday Scripture Readings for September

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.

Tuesday	1	Proverbs 18.10-21	Romans 14.10-end
Wednesday	2	Judges 4.1-10	Romans 1.8-17
Thursday	3	Isaiah 49.14-end	John 16.16-24
Friday	4	Job 9.1-24	Mark 15.21-32
Saturday	5	Exodus 19.1-9	John 20.11-18
Monday	7	Haggai 1	Mark 7.9-23
Tuesday	8	Proverbs 21.1-18	Mark 6.30-44
Wednesday	9	Hosea 11.1-11	1 John 4.9-end
Thursday	10	Lamentations 3.34-48	Romans 7.14-end
Friday	11	1 Kings 19.4-18	1 Thessalonians 3
Saturday	12	Deuteronomy 29.2-15	2 Timothy 3.10-end
Monday	14	Isaiah 63.1-16	1 Corinthians 1.18-25
Tuesday	15	Proverbs 8.1-11	Luke 6.39-end
Wednesday	16	Proverbs 2.1-15	Colossians 1.9-20
Thursday	17	Genesis 1.1-13	John 1.1-18
Friday	18	Deuteronomy 7.7-16	1 Corinthians 1.18-end
Saturday	19	Jeremiah 1.4-10	Luke 2.41-end
Monday	21	Ecclesiastes 5.4-12	Matthew 19.16-end
Tuesday	22	Ruth 4.7-17	Luke 2.25-38
Wednesday	23	2 Kings 4.1-7	John 2.1-11
Thursday	24	2 Kings 4.25 <i>b</i> -37	Mark 3.19 <i>b</i> -35
Friday	25	Ruth 1.1-18	John 19.25 <i>b</i> -30
Saturday	26	Exodus 15.19-27	Acts 1.6-14
Monday	28	2 Kings 6.8-17	Matthew 18.1-6, 10
Tuesday	29	Daniel 10.4-end	Revelation 5
Wednesday	30	1 Chronicles 29.19-19	Colossians 3.12-17

If you are online, a new facility lately introduced on our website is on the Weekday Scripture Readings page – you can now click onto an individual reading and it will pop up for you without you having to search through your bible (in the New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised Catholic Edition).

Chippings from the Vicar's Work Bench

Choir returns

Following the summer break, we are delighted to welcome our choir back on Sunday 6 September. Their return always enriches our worship, and that evening our 5.30pm Evensong will once again be choral. We are deeply grateful to all our singers and musicians for the devotion and skill they bring week by week to our corporate worship of Almighty God.

Confirmation – taking the next step in faith

Our Parish Confirmation takes place on Sunday 18 October at 10.15am, and I am delighted that Bishop Andrew Proud, Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Peterborough, will preside, confirm candidates and preach.



If you have been wondering whether God may be calling you to take this next step in your Christian journey, now is an ideal time to explore that possibility. Confirmation is one of the great milestones in the life of faith. Through prayer and the laying on of hands, those who have been baptised affirm their faith publicly, receive the strengthening gift of the Holy Spirit, and take their place as communicant members, sharing fully in the sacramental life of the Church.

Application forms for Confirmation (and Baptism where required) are available from me, together with an introductory letter. Once these have been completed and returned, I shall arrange separate introductory meetings for adults and for children and their families. At these we shall agree the dates, times and venue for our preparation sessions. There will also be a rehearsal in church on Saturday 17 October. If Confirmation is something you have been considering, or if you would simply like to know more before deciding, please do come and speak to me. It would be a great privilege to accompany you on this important stage of your journey with Christ.

Healing Mass

Our monthly Healing Mass takes place on Monday 7 September at 7.00pm in the Lady Chapel. Entry is via the north door facing Collingwood Road.

Throughout the Gospels we see our Lord meeting people at their point of need, bringing healing, peace and renewed hope. Our Healing Mass continues that ministry today, offering a quiet and prayerful opportunity to place ourselves and those we love into his gracious hands. Whether you seek healing in body, mind or spirit, carry concern for someone close to you, or simply long to spend time resting in God's presence, you will receive a very warm welcome.

Healing Ministries on Sunday

The healing ministries are offered after the administration of Holy Communion on the second Sunday of the month, 13 September. After receiving Holy Communion – or God's blessing if you are not receiving the Sacrament – you are warmly invited to make your way to the Lady Chapel, where a priest will be available to offer the laying on of hands and, where appropriate, the Sacrament of Anointing. The laying on of hands may be received either for your own needs or on behalf of someone who is particularly on your heart. The Sacrament of Anointing is administered personally to those seeking Christ's healing grace.

Many within our congregation speak quietly but movingly of the comfort, strength and hope they have received through this ministry. If you have not experienced it before and would like to know more, please speak to one of the clergy or to a fellow worshipper who regularly receives this ministry. We shall be delighted to answer your questions.

House Group

Our next House Group meets at the Vicarage on Wednesday 16 September at 2.00pm, lasting for about an hour.

These afternoons continue to provide a relaxed opportunity to explore the matters of faith together, share our thoughts and questions, and encourage one another in the Christian life. Those who come regularly clearly value both the conversation and the fellowship, and anyone who would like to join us for the first time will be made most welcome.

All Age Mass

Our September All Age Mass takes place on Sunday 13 September at 10.15am.

This month we shall reflect on two beautiful accounts of forgiveness: Joseph's reconciliation with the brothers who had betrayed him, and our Lord's Parable of the Unforgiving Servant. Together they remind us that forgiveness lies at the very heart of the Gospel. God's mercy towards us is beyond measure, and he invites us to extend that same mercy to one another. Many of us carry hurts, disappointments or misunderstandings that are difficult to lay aside. Sometimes reconciliation seems almost impossible. Yet Christ offers the freedom that comes when we allow his grace to soften our hearts and heal our relationships.

Although designed especially with children and families in mind, this remains the Parish Mass for us all. We hope worshippers of every age will join us as we learn together what it means to forgive as we ourselves have been forgiven. Refreshments, kindly provided by our Café Guides, will be served in church afterwards.

The 133rd Patronal Festival

The Feast of St Matthew the Apostle, patron of our parish, falls on Monday 21 September, and we shall celebrate our Patronal Festival Parish Mass at 7.30pm. Our preacher this year is Fr Ben Eadon CMP, Priest Administrator of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Some of you will know Fr Ben from time spent at Walsingham. He has previously served in parochial ministry in Sunderland, Worthing and Brighton, and we are delighted to welcome him to St Matthew's.



The Patronal Festival is one of the great celebrations of our parish year. It is both the feast of our patron saint and the anniversary of the founding of this parish. On St Matthew's Day in 1893, this church was consecrated to the glory of God by the Bishop of Peterborough, Bishop Mandell Creighton, who also instituted the Revd John Rowden Hussey as our first Vicar. The generosity of the Phipps family, fulfilling the wishes of Pickering Phipps II, gave this magnificent church to the people of Northampton. More than one hundred and thirty years later, their gift continues to enrich the lives and witness of God's people in this place.

As we gather for this year's festival, we shall give thanks for those who have gone before us in faith, for all that God has accomplished through this parish, and for the privilege and responsibility of continuing that witness in our own generation.

Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham

The Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham falls on Thursday 24 September.

Following conversations with members of our Walsingham Cell, this year we shall mark the day with a Parish Mass with hymns at the Nave Altar at 12 noon, rather than simply observing the feast with the usual Lady Chapel Mass. Although it comes between our Patronal and Dedication Festivals, it seemed right to give greater prominence to a devotion that has become such a source of blessing for many within our parish.

Pilgrimage to England's Nazareth and membership of the Society of Our Lady of Walsingham have deepened the faith of many of us, enriching our love for Christ through the prayers and example of his Blessed Mother. We hope others may come and discover something of that richness for themselves. Some of us may venture across the road for refreshment afterwards.

The 133rd Dedication Festival

On Sunday 27 September we celebrate the Dedication Festival of our church with the Parish Mass at 10.15am, including procession, and Solemn Choral Evensong at 5.30pm.

While our Patronal Festival celebrates St Matthew the Apostle, the Dedication Festival celebrates this church building having been solemnly set apart for the worship of Almighty God. Since its consecration in 1893, generation after generation has gathered here to celebrate the Holy Eucharist, baptise children, bless marriages, commend the departed to God's mercy and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Yet this feast also reminds us that the Church is far more than stone and timber. This building is the *Domus Ecclesiae* – the House of the Church – but the Church itself is God's pilgrim people. We are the Body of Christ, the living stones from which he continues to build his kingdom in every generation.

This year we shall also give thanks for the twentieth anniversary of the rededication of our restored 1895 Walker organ. Its restoration was itself an act of faith, vision and generosity, and twenty years on it continues to lead our worship with distinction, inspiring congregations and musicians alike.

Michaelmas

Our September celebrations conclude with the Feast of St Michael and All Angels on Tuesday 29 September, when the Parish Mass will be celebrated at 7.30pm.

Michaelmas is one of the Church's great festivals. It reminds us that God's creation extends beyond what we can see, and that throughout the Scriptures the holy angels are revealed as God's faithful servants and messengers. They worship continually before his throne, rejoice over those who turn to Christ, strengthen God's people in times of trial, and proclaim his victory over the powers of darkness.

The Archangel Michael stands as a powerful sign that evil will never have the final word. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the decisive victory has already been won. In a world that can often seem uncertain and troubled, Michaelmas calls us to renewed confidence, reminding us that we worship with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, joining our voices with theirs in the eternal praise of God.

Harvest Thanksgiving – looking ahead

As I write these notes – in the exceptional heat of late July – the farming news is already suggesting that this year's harvest will be three or four weeks earlier than has traditionally been the case. The changing pattern of our seasons has prompted us to reflect on the timing of our own Harvest celebrations.

For many years, long before my arrival at St Matthew's, Harvest Thanksgiving has been celebrated on the first Sunday in October. There have been good pastoral reasons for this. September is already exceptionally full, with our Patronal Festival, Dedication Festival and Michaelmas, while the beginning of the school year means that families and our uniformed organisations are only just settling back into their regular routines. To move Harvest this year, at the very start of that busy period, would be unnecessarily disruptive.

Accordingly, we shall maintain our familiar pattern this year. Harvest Thanksgiving will be celebrated on Sunday 4 October, with our 10.15am All Age Harvest Mass, followed by Harvest Songs of Praise at 4.00pm, and supper together afterwards in church.

Looking further ahead, however, it seems increasingly likely that we shall move our Harvest celebrations to a Sunday in September in future years. Such a change would better reflect the reality of the farming year and allow our thanksgiving to coincide more naturally with the gathering of the harvest itself. We shall make that transition carefully and with plenty of notice, ensuring that it sits well alongside the many other important events that fill our September calendar. Harvest remains one of the happiest occasions in our parish year, as together we give thanks to Almighty God for the abundance of his creation, the labour of those who produce our food, and his unfailing generosity towards us all.

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 OCTOBER magazine is SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

Editor: Dorrie Parker

Layout and production: Gary Drinkwater



Almost there...

Avid readers of the weekly pewsheet will hopefully know by now that **Saturday 12 September**, amongst other things happening at St Matthew's that day, is **Ride+Stride for Churches**.

It's the day when churches and chapels around the county are throwing their doors open to visitors. It would be great for members of our congregation to take advantage of the day – and do it on behalf of St Matthew's so you can raise some cash for our church at the same time, as well as, very importantly, for the places of worship that desperately need maintenance, more than their congregations can cover.

The **Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust** is a body of voluntary organisations that raise money for the restoration and maintenance of historic churches and chapels, supported by the national Churches Trust. In 2012 St Matthew's received a grant of £10,000 for our own major repair works. Their Annual Report 2025 can be found in the bookstall at the back of church – do take a look and read which local churches were helped by last year's fundraising. There are also interesting articles to read, including our own report on last year's Ride+Stride, and a tribute to Sue Parkinson, loved by many of us at St Matthew's, a long-serving trustee of NHCT and who died last October.

Ride+Stride is an annual fun event run by the Trust, and it's been taking place each year on the second Saturday in September across most of the country since it began in Suffolk in 1981. Last year, with your help, we at St Matthew's raised £285, half of which came back to St Matthew's – funds raised are divided equally between the Trust and the individually sponsored church.

Don't worry, you don't have to walk every step – this year they've decided it's ok to drive (or – an executive decision by me here, as I don't see the difference – go by bus, especially handy if you have a bus pass!) and just enjoy walking around the churches.

If you don't have the time for visiting then you can still take part by sponsoring those in our congregation who hopefully will, or those who sit and record the visitors who come to us!

So there are three ways you can join in:

- ❖ You can **visit** as many or as few as you like of the Northampton/ Northamptonshire churches taking part – team up with your friends and enjoy a fun and sociable few hours and see interesting places of worship that may not normally be open except for services. I will have a list of those churches and chapels taking part and will give you a sheet which you get signed at each one you visit.
- ❖ You can help **man** St Matthew's (we'll be open between 10.00am and 2.00pm) to welcome and record others visiting our church – it's a nice easy sit-down job for an hour or so, whatever's convenient for you (at the time of writing this there are three of us already, and there's always room for one more for a good chat...).
- ❖ You can **sponsor** us with money – please do! Note that we donate 'en masse' for the riders/striders/recorders – all help equally.

Like to help?

Register your interest in visiting, manning or donating with me, either in person after Sunday Mass, or via the Parish Office letterbox in an envelope with a note giving your clearly readable name, address/phone number/email address, and addressed to **Dorrie Parker, Ride+Stride** (and if donating, please **include** it as cash or a cheque payable to NHCT, as it will save me chasing you later – it makes life SO much easier...!). And please indicate whether you would like to gift aid – which will go to NHCT.

Thank you in anticipation!

Dorrie Parker



Mobility Aids

We have a battery powered wheelchair that can be propelled by both/either the wheelchair user or the person walking behind. This has only been used a handful of times and originally cost £800. Chargers and instructions included. Donations to church funds for this item.



There is also a rollator available which is in excellent condition, original cost around £200. Both can be viewed via the parish office during office opening times.

Please contact *Anita Speake, Parish Administrator*.

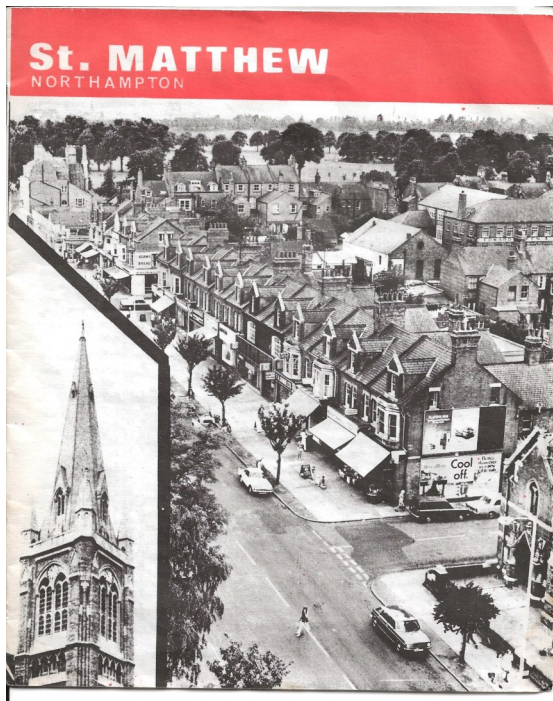
Our Parish Magazine

Sarah Oughton

Have you ever considered what it takes to produce our wonderful monthly Parish Magazine?

If you ask around you will find that a lot of Parishes do not have one, or have ceased to publish one any more due to lack of willing volunteers able to do so.

To the best of my knowledge there has been a magazine published at St Matthew's for many years. My mother had one in her archives in which the Revd John Morton had written the Pastoral letter during his first month as Vicar. He also insisted on taking over as editor!



There may be some of you in our congregation who are able to recall if there has always been a magazine or when it was first published?

I forward my copy on to several people, in three different counties where it is always appreciated and enjoyed.

The work that is involved in producing this excellent publication is the responsibility of Dorrie who is the editor and Gary who does the layout and production; we are truly blessed to have them committing time and effort for our interest and enjoyment.

There have been over the years some fascinating articles by many and varied authors, and thanks to modern technology the illustrations are now in colour.

Anyone can submit an article and if you don't have the confidence to write it yourself, just provide the relevant details and it will be written for you.

Most of all an enormous thank you to Dorrie and Gary.

*Pictures of two pages of the magazine Sarah refers to.
The article was written by Sarah's mother Ann Walker*

Magazine

In future the Vicar will edit the magazine and contributions and notices should be handed to him by the eighth of the month if people wish to see them included in the next edition.

Our sincere thanks are due to those who have carried this burden so splendidly in the past. They will still in their various ways be giving their help.

The Collection made at Deaconess Sankey's Funeral Service came to over £60.00. It is being donated to St. Christopher's Home and will be used to purchase a hospital bed there in memory of Miss Sankey. If you would like to make a donation would you please give it to Mrs. Hartwell, 7 Greenfield Road

MY FAITH AND MY WORK

An article by a Nursing Sister who is a member of our Congregation who 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

8.

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.

A.W.

The Church's Relationship with Brewers

Gary Drinkwater

Some of you may know that my paid job is as a Bar Manager and one of my other voluntary interests is as a Pub Liaison Officer for the Campaign for Real Ale. This involves visiting pubs and drinking beer! I'm often asked how I reconcile these with my church life as many people see them as being poles apart. However, this is not the case.

Historically, the relationship between the church and brewing was shaped by the social, economic, and devotional functions of ecclesiastical institutions. In medieval Europe, monasteries were significant centres of production and hospitality and brewing formed part of their wider responsibility to sustain religious communities, receive travellers and pilgrims, and provide charity to the poor. In regions where grain-based drinks were more practical than wine, beer and ale occupied an important place in monastic and communal life. Monastic record-keeping and regulated production also contributed to the standardisation and refinement of brewing practices.

The connection between ecclesiastical life and brewing extended beyond monasteries into the parish economy. In late medieval and early modern Britain, 'church ales' functioned as communal fundraising events, with the sale or distribution of ale helping to finance church repairs, parish expenses, and charitable activities. Such practices indicate that brewing was embedded within local systems of sociability and obligation, rather than existing solely as a commercial or recreational activity.

From the early modern period onward, this relationship became increasingly ambivalent. As brewing developed into a more commercialised industry and alehouses became prominent spaces of popular sociability, church authorities often distinguished between legitimate production and the moral dangers associated with excessive drinking, disorder, and neglect of religious duties. This distinction became more pronounced in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, when evangelical reform and temperance movements encouraged many Christian groups to adopt a more critical stance toward alcohol consumption.

Consequently, the church's historical relationship with brewers should not be understood as uniformly supportive or oppositional. Rather, it evolved in response to changing institutional priorities, economic structures, and moral concerns. The church could act as producer, patron, regulator, critic, and reforming voice, reflecting the broader place of alcohol within religious and social history.

Our connection with brewers here at St Matthew's is that our building was a gift from the family of Sir Pickering Phipps, a local brewer .

Safe Spaces



is an **independent** and **confidential** support service for adults who have been abused by someone in the Church.

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 safespaces@firstlight.org.uk

Opening hours
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Sat- 9am-1pm
Sun- 1pm-5pm



WWW.SAFESPACESENGLANDANDWALES.ORG.UK

Diocese of Peterborough Safeguarding Team

Email: safeguarding@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Direct lines: 01733 887040 / 01733 887039

Independent support

Safe Spaces: 0300 303 1056

Email: safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk

If someone is in immediate danger, call 999.

The Parish Church of St Matthew

**Monday
21 September
St MATTHEW,
Apostle
Patronal Festival**



The Parish Church of St Matthew

**Thursday
24 September
The Feast of
Our Lady of
Walsingham**

**12 noon
The
Parish Mass**



The Parish Church of St Matthew

**Sunday
27 September
133rd FESTIVAL
of DEDICATION**



The Parish Church of St Matthew

**Tuesday
29 September
MICHAELMAS**



The Parish Church of St Matthew

**Sunday
4 October**
Harvest Thanksgiving

10.15am

All Age Mass
for the Parish Family



Sunday 4 October

**Harvest
Songs
of Praise
and
Supper**



in Church at 4.00pm

(Details regarding Supper to follow)

RESERVE A TABLE

ITALIAN CUISINE

ITALIAN CUISINE

NOW OPEN



Monday 15:00 - 23:00

Tuesday Closed

Wednesday to Sunday 15:00 - 23:00



Guess Who?!

Dorrie Parker

A different sort of quiz for you... some weeks ago Jean Duncan told me she has some old photos of Jean Collins', some of which were taken at different events at the church, and she thought it might make a good feature in the magazine to pick a few out – I like the idea and we'll get together very soon. The collection also included one of Jean Collins as a bridesmaid.

I love looking at old photos of people, seeing how they've changed (or not) and they always make me smile. So I randomly asked our ladies if they'd ever been a bridesmaid, and if so, please dig out the photo so we could make it into a quiz. Some had been a bridesmaid just the once (including me), some had had that honour on multiple occasions, and some had never been asked at all!

This is the photo that started it all, of Jean Collins at a 1967 wedding. She would have been 28.



Here opposite are 10 of our ladies on their respective big days – one is a double as they are related (bit of a clue!). I've added the date, to help you guess maybe how old they were then, and how old that would make them now, and see who you think it is! Or maybe they haven't changed a bit and you can guess straightaway?

Not everyone came up with the goods in time for this magazine, so if you're still looking for your photo, we could make room for more next time?

You'll find the answers on page 29.



Picture 1 (1951)



Picture 2 (1952)



Picture 3 (1952)



Picture 4 (1954)



Picture 5 (1960)



Picture 6 (1960)



Picture 7 (1961)



Picture 8 (1973)



Picture 9 (1977)

32nd St Matthew's Multi-Aged Girlguiding

Mandy Ludlow

Pizza, Popcorn and Proud Moments for 32nd St Matthew's Girlguiding

We were delighted to reach the end of another busy term at 32nd St Matthew's Girlguiding – and, despite the rather unpredictable weather this year, we were very pleased that not a single evening had to be cancelled.

For our final meeting before the long summer holidays, we enjoyed a fun-filled movie night with pizza, popcorn and ice cream sundaes. The hall was transformed into our very own cinema, complete with a big screen and plenty of excitement. While the girls settled down to watch the film, the pizzas were cooked and carefully boxed up by the leaders in small pizza boxes, making it feel just like a real pizza delivery.

During the film, Lacey-Mae, our Young Leader, made popcorn and served it in proper popcorn boxes, adding to the cinema atmosphere. Then came the ice cream sundaes. Each girl had her own sundae bowl and could choose from different sprinkles and sauces to create a delicious treat. With pizza, popcorn and ice cream, it felt like a cross between the cinema and Pizza Hut – a wonderful way to celebrate the end of term together.

The evening also gave us a lovely opportunity to celebrate the girls' achievements. Badges were presented to Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, including Bee Rescuer, Nature, Bird Watcher, Book Reviewer and Food Critic badges, as well as a number of stage badges. Many of the girls also received anniversary badges, which are awarded for each year a girl has been part of Girlguiding.

A special highlight of the evening was the presentation of three Brownie Gold Awards. Congratulations to Juniper, Ellen and Amara, who have each completed the highest award they can achieve as a Brownie before moving on to Guides. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects their enthusiasm, commitment and hard work throughout their time in Brownies.

We are very proud of all our Rainbows, Brownies and Guides and grateful to our leaders and helpers who make each week possible. We look forward to more fun, friendship and adventures next term, also to welcoming new girls to our units.



Girlguiding

32nd St Matthew's
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Guides and Rangers

Fun, friendship and adventure for girls

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learn new skills and make amazing
memories – all while having fun!



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Try new things



Go on adventures



Have your say



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go.girlguiding.org.uk/join-us



Scan me
to join
the fun!

Girlguiding. We help all girls know they can do anything.

Café Guides Recipe for September

Eton Mess Cheesecake

A summery, no-bake cheesecake with a digestive biscuit base, creamy vanilla filling, fresh strawberries, crushed meringue, and strawberry sauce.

Serves 6

Prep time: 25-30 minutes

Chill time: at least 6 hours, ideally overnight



Ingredients

For the biscuit base

- 150g digestive biscuits
- 60g unsalted butter, melted

For the cheesecake filling

- 360g full-fat cream cheese, at room temperature
- 60g icing sugar, sifted
- $\frac{3}{4}$ tsp vanilla extract
- 180ml double cream, chilled
- 120g fresh strawberries, hulled and finely chopped
- 2–3 ready-made meringue nests, roughly crushed

For the topping

- 150g fresh strawberries, hulled and halved or quartered
- 1 tbsp icing sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp lemon juice
- 120ml double cream
- 1–2 ready-made meringue nests, broken into chunks
- A few small mint leaves (optional)

Method

1. Line the base of a 15cm springform cake tin with baking parchment.
2. Crush the digestive biscuits into fine crumbs, then mix with the melted butter until the texture resembles damp sand.
3. Tip the biscuit mixture into the tin and press it down firmly and evenly with the back of a spoon. Chill for 20 minutes.
4. Beat the cream cheese, icing sugar and vanilla extract together until smooth.
5. Pour in the chilled double cream and whisk until the mixture is thick enough to hold its shape. Take care not to over-whisk.
6. Gently fold through the chopped strawberries, then fold through the crushed meringue nests.
7. Spoon the filling over the chilled biscuit base and smooth the top. Cover and chill for at least 6 hours, preferably overnight.
8. For the topping, put half of the strawberries in a bowl with the icing sugar and lemon juice. Lightly mash with a fork to make a juicy sauce, then stir in the remaining strawberries.
9. Whip the double cream to soft peaks.
10. Release the cheesecake from the tin and transfer to a serving plate. Spoon or pipe the whipped cream over the top, then pile on the strawberries, strawberry sauce and meringue chunks.
11. Finish with mint leaves, if using, and serve immediately once decorated.

Tips for success

- Use full-fat cream cheese and proper UK double cream so the cheesecake sets well.
- Add the meringue to the filling just before chilling; it will soften slightly, giving the classic Eton mess texture.
- Decorate just before serving so the topping keeps its crunch.
- If your strawberries are very sweet, reduce the icing sugar in the topping to 1 tbsp.
- The undecorated cheesecake can be made up to 24 hours ahead and kept covered in the fridge.

A decorative border of autumn leaves in shades of red, orange, and yellow surrounds the central text area.

AUTUMN CAFE GUIDES

SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER
2026

**SERVING FRESHLY BREWED FILTER
COFFEE, CAPPUCCINO, LATTE'S
(NORMAL AND CHAI), ASSORTED TEAS,
BREAKFAST ROLLS, JACKET POTATOES
WITH ASSORTED FILLINGS, HOME MADE
CAKES**



Thank you

WWW.32STMATTHEWSGUIDING.CO.UK

On the Bookshelf

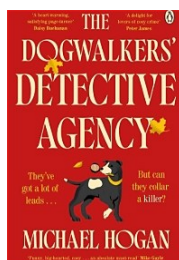
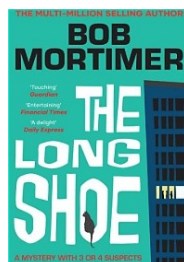
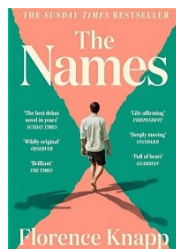
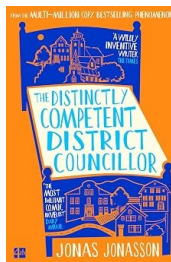
Dorrie Parker

A bit of a 'bumper bundle' for you this time... Reading novels is one of my greatest pleasures, ever since I was a child; I've always loved a good story (it's drama series I mostly watch on tv too). I do have my favourite authors and genres, but I like to ring the changes a bit, so how much I enjoy a book can be a bit hit and miss. I can only remember two books I actually gave up on – one was *Persuasion* by Jane Austen and the other was something by Martin Amis, which I'd taken on holiday and soon ended up in the hotel room's bin. Then there was one that I fought my way to the end of and then threw across the room in utter frustration (Kate Atkinson's *Life After Life*) – for hours of my life I would never get back!

So over the past couple of months I've read and particularly enjoyed a couple of books by two favourite authors – *The Distinctly Competent District Councillor* by Jonas Jonasson, and *The Long Shoe* by Bob Mortimer. Both fall into my 'Quirky' category. I know I can't go wrong with these authors!

Between them I read *The Names* by Florence Knapp. This is a debut novel and is about how what name you are given can influence your life. A new mother is about to register her baby son's birth. The father, a controlling bully, wants him to be named after him, following his family tradition. The mother has her own choice in mind, but does she have the courage to choose it? And on the way her 9-year-old daughter offers her own wish for her brother's name... What will she do? The book is then split into segments following the different lives of the son over 35 years according to which name was chosen (a sort of *Sliding Doors* scenario) and how he turned out. I thought it was an interesting idea but for me it didn't quite work and I found it ultimately disappointing.

I then read another debut novel which Anita had mentioned to me – the author is the brother-in-law of a friend of hers – so I thought I'd give it a go. *The Dogwalkers' Detective Agency* by Michael Hogan is an easy enjoyable read. It's in



the 'Cosy Crime' category and is quite ridiculous – a dog walker coming across a body in the woods (don't they all...?) and working with the police (he happened to go to school with her) and his fellow dog walkers to solve the crime. If you want something light-hearted this is a good pick. It does have a good twist but I did see it coming.

After that I decided it was time for something a bit more meaty – *The Scene of the Crime* by Lynda La Plante. I'd not read any of her books before, though I'd watched adaptations of them on tv. The main character is appointed to lead a new team – the Metropolitan Police Serious Crime Analysis Unit. She's a very experienced and highly regarded CSI specialising in criminology, psychology and behavioural analysis. So it's all to do with investigating the crime scene of a murder and dealing with the forensics. It is SO heavy on the science I found it a bit hard to take, plus smug and self-congratulatory. I didn't like any of the characters much, and that included the dead man and his wife...! I was more interested in the story of the murder and detection, but that wasn't the point of the book so for me it was ultimately disappointing.



My hairdresser and I often swap books, and the next is one of hers – *Dear Debbie* by Freida McFadden. I loved this book. I like black humour, and this is jet black. It's about a newspaper agony aunt who offers her readers help in the form of revenge – the letters are really funny. One day everything just goes wrong; she loses her job, her neighbour gets the better of her, her book club belittles her, her husband and daughters are keeping things from her... it's now *her* time for revenge. It's a fast-paced, gripping book and one I couldn't wait to pick up and read more of. And what a twist – the ending is something I did NOT see coming. But how's this for co-incidence – I met up with my sister and nephew for lunch just after I'd finished it and I know she likes black humour too, so I recommended the book to her, but couldn't remember the author's name. Helen said she'd just been reading a book with a tremendous twist that she said I would like too, *The Inmate*, and gave the author's name – hang on, I think it's the same author! So my nephew googled *Dear Debbie*, and yes it was the same one, and he told me he'd read one of hers as well and thoroughly enjoyed it. That one was *The Tenant*, and Helen has also read *The Locked Door*. So I'm definitely looking out for more of this author now.



After that one I tried another murder mystery – *Innocent Guilt*, a debut novel

by Remi Kone. This was very enjoyable to read. It begins with a woman walking into a police station covered in blood and carrying a baseball bat, seemingly unable to speak and unable to account for what had happened. The blood is not hers, so the police are on the search for a body, but when one is found, battered to death in a nearby park, the DNA doesn't match the blood on the woman... This is a serial killer at work and it becomes a cat and mouse game for the police. I got really wrapped up in the story, it's quite complicated and there were things I didn't see coming, so one I would recommend to you.

If you enjoy reading too, then do let us hear what you've enjoyed, or not!

Friends of St Matthew's Music 100+ Club

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

Number **39**, held by **Jean Millard**



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

Spot the Bridesmaid! Answers

Did you guess who everyone was? Well done if you did!

Here are the answers:

Picture 1 Mavis James

Picture 3 Dorrie Parker

Picture 5 Christine Bentley

Picture 7 Jean Duncan

Picture 9 Judith and Catherine Bull

Picture 2 Carol Shepperdson

Picture 4 Christine Moreton

Picture 6 Denise Bailey

Picture 8 Tanya Hayes



SATURDAY
19th SEPTEMBER
2026 at **7:30pm**

DARIUS
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Leeds City Organist

Tickets £10

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OF THE OPERA"**

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For further information please visit www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk.



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Parish Giving Scheme

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



THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST MATTHEW • NORTHAMPTON

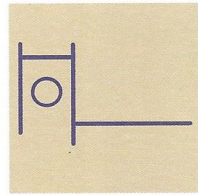
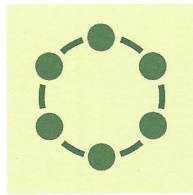
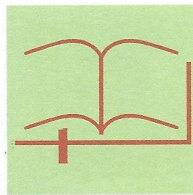
The Scheme is the most tax efficient way of contributing to the church because contributions may be eligible for Gift Aid (raising your donation by 25% at no cost to either you or St Matthew's).

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

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

Polly Matthews

<office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk>



TM

PARISH GIVING SCHEME

Parish Office

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

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

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

Ministry Team

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

Parish Officers

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

St Matthew's Trust

David Waller
trust@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk

Particular Responsibility

Safeguarding Officer	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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