

St Matthew's Newsletter 23rd August 2026

Message from the Vicar

Dear friends,

This week I am on holiday, travelling around the North of England from Chorley and Blackpool to Newcastle and York, via the Lake District. I must admit that I do love a foreign holiday, but it is also good to be reminded of the beauty and variety that exists within the cities, coastlines, and countryside of the UK.

As a child, I used to go on holiday every summer with my grandparents. We always remained in the UK, visiting all sorts of places over the years from Devon and Somerset to Yorkshire and Durham, but the one place we kept returning to was the Holy Island of Lindisfarne on the Northumberland coast. This small tidal island has been an important site of Christian worship and pilgrimage since St Aidan established a monastery there in 635 AD, and today many people feel that it is a 'thin place', a place where heaven and earth somehow seem to meet.

What makes Lindisfarne so interesting in my opinion is that it is seemingly unremarkable. Unlike many sites of pilgrimage it has avoided commercialisation, and in spite of the large numbers of pilgrims and tourists who descend upon it each year it still manages to feel remote and rugged. And yet, amidst the rock and sand and mud that makes up most of this island, something of heaven can be glimpsed.

I will be stopping at Lindisfarne this week, on my way to Newcastle, and I will say a prayer there for our church here at St Matthew's and for all of you. With its 1,500 years of Christian history, ruined abbey, and vibrant parish church, Lindisfarne is a reminder that God is constantly at work, and that he remains faithful throughout the twists and turns of life. May you know his presence with you always, and may that be a comfort to you.

With my prayers,
Father George

This week's Services

Sunday 23rd August – The twelfth Sunday after Trinity

10 am Parish Mass and Sunday School

All are Welcome to Tea, Coffee, and biscuits which will be served in the Lounge and Family Room after the Service.

Tuesday

7:30 pm Phone-in Service

Wednesday

4:30 pm Evening Prayer

7 pm **Mass in the Chapel**

Thursday

10 am **Mass in the Chapel**

Friday

10 am **Mass in the Chapel**

Sunday 30th August – (The thirteenth Sunday after Trinity)

10 am Parish Mass and Sunday School

All are Welcome to Tea, Coffee, and biscuits which will be served in the Lounge and Family Room after the Service.

CONTACT DETAILS:

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Ann Harrison (Parish Administrator)

Parish Office (open weekday mornings)

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Churchwardens:

Janet Cook Tel. 07957 282433 Email: janet@dandjcook.co.uk

Tim Bartlett Tel. 07957 415887 Email: tabartlett64@gmail.com

Dates for your Diary

Friday Coffee Mornings

All are welcome for Coffee/Tea and Cake in The Lounge

Every Friday 11am – 1pm

Bereavement and Friendship Group

If you've suffered a bereavement or are feeling isolated and lonely come and meet other who know how you are feeling. Every Monday, 1:30 to 3:30 pm in The Lounge.

Book Club.

The next meeting of the Book Club is on Wednesday 2nd September. The book for August is "The Fortnight in September" by R C Sheriff. If you love

reading and would like to join us over a cup of tea/coffee you are warmly invited to our next meeting.

On **Sunday 13th September** at 4pm St Matthew's is hosting a deanery confirmation service, with churches from across central and north Birmingham invited to present candidates to be confirmed.

If you have not been confirmed and would like to be, this would be a fantastic opportunity to do so. Please speak to Fr George for more information.

Early notice of a new date for St. Matthews Christmas Fair. This year it will be moving to Saturday 6th December

NOTICES

Many thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help with Messy Church this summer, it has been wonderful to see the church so full with children and families.

A reminder that we welcome contributions towards the cost of flowers, perhaps in memory of a loved one. Please place any donations in the pot on the table.

Contributions of food for the **FOODBANK** are always welcome. Please give as generously as you can and place any items in the basket by the door.

Our church relies on the generosity of visitors and worshippers. If you would like to make a contribution to the ministry and mission of St Matthew's but don't have any cash, there is a contactless card reader on the table by the front door.

Please put your request for prayers during the intercessions on the sheet on the table.

If you could offer a lift to someone to Church, please let us know.

We are buying a memorial stone to commemorate Fr Michael Westlake's time at St. Matthew's. Contribution towards the cost of this would be gratefully received.

Scripture Readings for This Week

Sunday 23rd Aug (12th Sunday after Trinity)

	Matthew 16.13–20
Monday 24th Aug	Luke 22.24–30
Tuesday 25th Aug	Matthew 23.23–26
Wednesday 26th Aug	Matthew 23.27–32
Thursday 27th Aug	Matthew 24.42–end
Friday 28th Aug	Matthew 25.1–13
Saturday 29th Aug	Matthew 25.14–30

A Collect for Sunday 23rd Aug

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of 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.

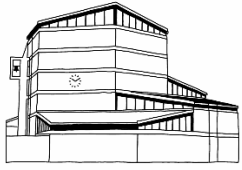
Amen

St. Matthew's Prayer List,

Please Pray for The Sick and Those in Need:

Please contact Margaret Cox if you would like to add anyone to our prayer list.

Sat:	Barbara Linley, Andrew & Gail Walker, John Hope, Barbara Hayward
Mon:	Fr Barry Smart, Revd Frank and Margaret Finch, Bali Dhugga, John Duncombe, Pam Millard
Tue:	Jayne Middleton, Loretta Charles, Bernadette O'Sullivan, Lorna Wild, Barrie Greenwood, Graham Staton
Wed:	Shirley Woodley, Eileen Eveson, Jean Hayes, Irene Roberts
Thu:	Dai & Lal Gravell, Shirley and Ray Hollins, Mark Hawkins Ann Edwards, Mark and Shiv Furnell
Fri:	David & Anne Gadd, Barbara Dring, Sue & Tony Kyte



ST MATTHEW'S
PERRY BEECHES