

St Matthew's Newsletter 27th September 2026

Message from the Vicar

Dear friends,

I want to update you on the elections that are currently taking place to elect a new General Synod. General Synod is essentially the parliament of the Church of England, and is made up of bishops, clergy, and lay people who meet twice a year to make decisions about the future of the Church.

There are a lot of big topics that are currently being discussed, and these important questions have guided how I have voted. As a licensed priest, I get to vote for the three members of clergy who will represent the Diocese of Birmingham, and it was good to read the manifestos of my colleagues who are standing. In choosing who to vote for, I prioritised the three areas I feel are most important at this time: promoting well-resourced, sustainable parish ministry, pursuing a more inclusive Church for *all* people, and encouraging new vocations to lay and ordained ministries.

I would be happy to discuss these issues further with anyone who would like to talk about them. The governance of the Church of England can sometimes feel impenetrable, confusing, and distant, but it is important that, as parishes, we engage with the issues. It is also important that we pray for everyone who has stood for election, and for the new Synod as they take on this important responsibility.

With my prayers,
Father George

This week's Services

Sunday 27th October 17th Sunday after Trinity

10 am Parish Mass and Sunday School

Preacher: (*Preacher: Mother Charlotte Gibson*)

All are Welcome to Tea, Coffee and cakes after the Confirmations

Tuesday

7:30 pm Phone-in Service

Wednesday

4.30pm: Evening Prayer at St Bernard's, Hamstead

Friday

9:15am Morning Prayer

10 am Mass in the Chapel

Sunday 4th October – 18th Sunday after Trinity

10am: Harvest Festival Mass and Sunday School

Followed by a Bring and Share Lunch after the Service.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Fr. George

Email fr.george.reeves@gmail.com

Phone 07507 312 040

Fr Douglas (Area Dean):

Tel. 07570 953169 E-mail:

ad.handsworthandcentral@cofebirmingham.com

Ann Harrison (Parish Administrator)

Parish Office (open weekday mornings)

Tel. 07467 832601, E-mail: ann_harrison1@hotmail.co.uk

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 8th October. The book for September is "Ink Blood Sister Scribe" by Emma Törzs. If you love reading and would like to join us over a cup of tea/coffee you are warmly invited to our next meeting.

Guest Preachers

We are delighted to be welcoming a series of guest preachers at our 10am Parish mass during the season of Autumn and Advent. For further details see notices in church or the Web Site.

Dates for your Diary

October 4th will be St. Matthew's Harvest Festival, followed by a Bring and Share lunch

On Saturday 10th October there will be a Parish Planning Day in the church hall from 11am-2pm. This is an opportunity to discuss the future of St Matthew's together and to think and pray about possible plans. All church members are invited to come along.

Early notice of a new date for St. Matthews Christmas Fair. This year it will be moving to Saturday 5th December

NOTICES

Photos from Last Week's Confirmation Service are now available on the Web Site.

Morning Prayer will now be held in the Chapel every Thursday and Friday at 9.15am. All are welcome to join in this short act of worship.

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 27th Sept (17th Sunday after Trinity)

	Matthew 21.23–32
Monday 28th Sept	Luke 9.46–50
Tuesday 29th Sept	John 1.47–end
Wednesday 30th Sept	Luke 9.57–end
Thursday 1st Oct	Luke 10.1–12
Friday 2nd Oct	Luke 10.13–16
Saturday 3rd Oct	Luke 10.17–24

A Collect for Sunday 27th Sept

Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city
where we shall see you face to face;
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.

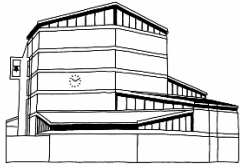
Amen

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, Rachel & Fay.
Wed:	Shirley Woodley, Eileen Eveson, Jean Hayes, Irene Roberts
Thu:	Dai & Lal Gravell, Shirley and Ray Hollins, Mark Hawkins Ann Edwards, Mark and Roger Furnell
Fri:	David & Anne Gadd, Barbara Dring, Sue & Tony Kyte, Henry Cole



ST MATTHEW'S
PERRY BEECHES