

St Matthew's Newsletter 25th October 2026

Don't Forget to Put Your Clock Back on Saturday Night

Message from the Vicar

Dear friends,

Last week, I began a new series of Vicar's letters exploring different aspects of Anglo-Catholic worship and belief. I hope these letters will help to clarify some of the more complicated aspects of our faith, and why we worship in the way that we do.

This week, I want to look at the saints. It is not only Anglo-Catholics who look to the saints for inspiration, but in our tradition the saints are more than just holy role models. We also believe that they intercede for us in heaven, and so we ask them to pray for us, just as we might also ask a friend to pray for us.

However, it is important to recognise that the saints are not super-human. Many lived complicated lives and had very obvious flaws. Their holiness comes not from their own virtues, but from the ways in which God worked through them during their earthly lives. Our own patron saint, St Matthew, is a good example. He was a tax collector, working for the occupying Roman authorities and making money at the expense of his fellow Jews. But Jesus called him to leave his old life behind, and to become a disciple and an apostle. His story reminds us that nobody is beyond the reach of God's love.

The men and women who we recognise as saints have been officially designated as such by the Church, usually through a long process called canonisation. However, the Bible also tells us that every Christian is called to be a 'saint'. We probably won't be canonised after our death, but our calling is the same. We are to be people who point towards God, allowing him to work through us. In the words of Pope John Paul II, "do not be afraid to be saints. Follow Jesus Christ who is the source of freedom and light. Be open to the Lord so that He may lighten all your ways." May these words be a reminder that holiness is not for a select few, but is the calling of each and every one of us, and it begins in the ordinary circumstances of our daily lives – in how we love our neighbours, care for those in need, forgive one another, and seek to follow Jesus.

With my prayers,
Father George

This week's Services

Sunday 25th October - Last Sunday after Trinity

10 am Parish Mass and Sunday School

All are welcome to tea, coffee and biscuits in the lounge after the service

Monday

1:30 pm to 3:30 pm Bereavement & Friendship Group

Tuesday

7:30 pm Phone-in Service

Wednesday

4:30 pm: Evening Prayer in the Chapel

7 pm: Mass in the Chapel

7:30pm Fabric and Finance Committee

Thursday

9:15am Morning Prayer

10 am Mass in the Chapel

11am to 1pm Messy Church

Friday

9:15am Morning Prayer

10 am Mass in the Chapel

11 am. Coffee morning

Sunday 1st November – All Saints

10am: Parish Mass and Sunday School

All are welcome to tea, coffee and biscuits in the lounge after the service

CONTACT DETAILS:

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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 others 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 4th November. The book for October is "Out Of The Ashes" 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.

Messy Church will take place during the half term break on Thursday 29th October, from 11am-1pm. Please speak to Fr George or Janet Cook if you are able to help with this, and spread the word if you know anyone who may like to come.

From 25th October-6th December, Fr Sam Rigby will be serving a placement in the Diocese of Birmingham, working in several churches including St Matthew's. Fr Sam is currently Assistant Curate in the Wenlock Team Ministry in the Diocese of Hereford. He will be with us most Fridays, and will be preaching one Sunday during this time. We look forward to welcoming him here.

On Monday 2nd November there will be an All Souls' Day Mass in the Chapel at 6pm, where we will remember those who have died. A sheet will be put out in church next week if you want to add any names to the list to be read out during this service.

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

NOTICES

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 25th Oct (Last after Trinity)

	Matthew 22.34–end
Monday 26th Oct	Luke 13.10–17
Tuesday 27th Oct	Luke 13.18–21
Wednesday 28th Oct	John 15.17–end
Thursday 29th Oct	Luke 13.31–end
Friday 30th Oct	Luke 14.1–6
Saturday 31st Oct	Luke 14.1, 7–11

A Collect for Sunday 25th October

Merciful God,
teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty,
that trusting in your word
and obeying your will
we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord.
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, Roger Furnell Helen Haig
Fri: David & Anne Gadd, Barbara Dring, Sue & Tony Kyte, Henry Cole

