



Welcome to St Matthew's Perry Beeches

Harvest Festival Mass

Sunday 4th October 2026

TODAY'S HYMNS:

Introit:	282
Come, ye thankful people, come	
Gradual:	451
Just as I am	
Offertory	719
Shine, Jesus, shine	
Communion:	690
Jesus is Lord	
Recessional:	290
We plough the fields and scatter	

The Collect

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; 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**

A reading from Deuteronomy 8.7-18

Moses said to all Israel: The Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you. Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid waste-land with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

A reading from 2 Corinthians 9.6-15

The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you

have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke 12.16-30

Jesus told the people a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.' Jesus said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.'

Post communion prayer

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please do stay for lunch after the service.

Our church relies on the generosity of visitors and worshippers. If you would like to make a donation 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.

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

You can continue to make contributions to the food bank by putting any goods in the basket by the door.

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

If you would like to contribute towards the cost of flowers, please place any donations in the pot on the table.

A reminder that our Parish Planning Day will be taking place on Saturday 10th October, 11am-2pm. All who regularly attend St Matthew's are encouraged to come along.

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

Fri: David & Anne Gadd, Barbara Dring, Sue & Tony Kyte, Henry Cole

This week at St Matthew's:

Morning Prayer: Thursday & Friday, 9.15am (Chapel)

Mass: Wednesday, 7pm; Thursday & Friday, 10am (Chapel)

Phone-in service: Tuesday, 7.30pm (call 0333 011 0616; code is 1499488#)

Bereavement & Friendship Group: Monday, 1.30-3.30pm (Lounge)

Community Café: Friday, 11am-1pm (Lounge)

SUNDAY 11th OCTOBER:

10am: PARISH MASS

Other dates for the diary

Wednesday 7th, 4.30pm: Evening Prayer (Chapel)

Saturday 10th, 11am-2pm: Parish Planning Day (Church Centre)

Vicar: Father George Reeves

Email: vicar@stmatthewsperrybeeches.org.uk **Phone:** 07507 312040

Thank you for worshipping with us at St Matthew's today. If you are new to church, or if you would like a meeting with the Vicar, please complete the form below and leave it on the table by the main entrance.

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Please tick any that apply:

- I am new to church and would like to find out more
- I would like a meeting with the Vicar
- I would like to join the church email list