

St Matthew's Newsletter 18th October 2026

Message from the Vicar

Dear friends,

At our recent Parish Planning Day, we discussed how we can teach the faith to newcomers (and, indeed, offer a refresher for those of us who have been coming to church for many years!) We specifically talked about the Anglo-Catholic practices that are at the heart of our worship here at St Matthew's. How can we help people to understand why we worship God in the way that we do?

For the rest of this year, these weekly letters will seek to explain different aspects of Anglo-Catholic faith and worship. I hope that this will be useful for equipping us with greater understanding, so that we can feel more confident in sharing our faith with others. I am going to start this series of letters by addressing what we mean by 'Anglo-Catholicism'.

No single definition will satisfy everyone, but I like to think of Anglo-Catholicism as a movement of revival within the Anglican Church which emphasises our continuity and unity with the broader Church throughout history and around the world. That doesn't mean we dilute our identity: I am proud to be an Anglican, and therefore part of a broader Protestant tradition dating back to the Reformation. But I also recognise that Christianity did not begin at the Reformation, and is not confined to any one denomination.

As Anglo-Catholics, we are therefore not afraid to make use of traditions and practices from across the universal Church. We use bells and incense and colourful vestments to help express the beauty of holiness and to remind us of the transcendence of God. We may light votive candles, pray the rosary, or ask for the saints to pray for us, in recognition of that 'great cloud of witnesses' which surrounds us and connects us with our fellow Christians, both living and departed. And at the heart of everything, we gather around the altar as often as we can to be fed by Christ, who gives himself to us in bread and wine.

Over the coming weeks, I hope to explore some of these practices and beliefs in greater depth, helping us to understand not only what we do at St Matthew's, but why we do it — and how these traditions can draw us closer to God.

With my prayers,
Father George

This week's Services

Sunday 18th October St. Luke the Evangelist

10 am Parish Mass and Sunday School *Preacher Fr. Barrie Scott*

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 at St. Bernard's Hamstead

7 pm: Mass in the Chapel

Thursday

9:15am Morning Prayer

10 am Mass in the Chapel

Friday

9:15am Morning Prayer

10 am Mass in the Chapel

11 am. Coffee morning

Sunday 25th October – Last Sunday after Trinity

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. This Sunday it will be Fr. Barrie Scott. For further details see notices in church or the Web Site.

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 18th Oct (20th Sunday after Trinity)

	Matthew 22.15–22
Monday 19th Oct	Luke 12.13–21
Tuesday 20th Oct	Luke 12.35–38
Wednesday 21st Oct	Luke 12.39–48
Thursday 22nd Oct	Luke 12.49–53
Friday 23rd Oct	Luke 12.54–end
Saturday 24th Oct	Luke 13.1–9

A Collect for Sunday 18th October

God, the giver of life,
whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church:
by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ
and make us eager to do your will,
that we may share with the whole creation
the joys of eternal life;
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, Roger Furnell
Fri: David & Anne Gadd, Barbara Dring, Sue & Tony Kyte, Henry Cole

