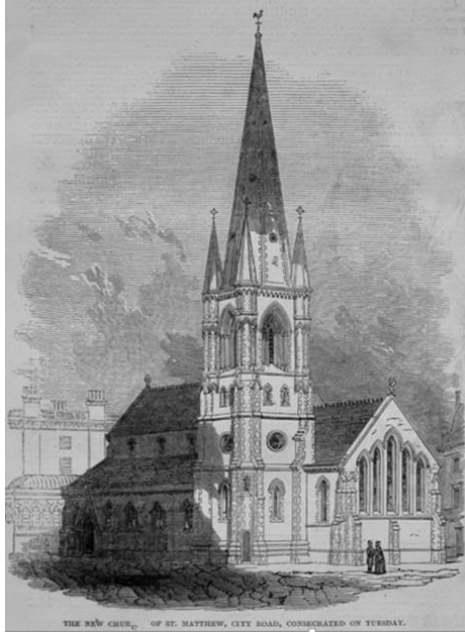


St Matthew's Day

20th September 2026



St Matthew's Church, City Road

Collect

O Almighty God,
whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax-collector
to be an apostle and evangelist:
give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain
and the possessive love of riches
that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading (Proverbs 3.13-18)

A reading from the Book of Proverbs.

Happy are those who find wisdom, and those who get understanding,
for her income is better than silver, and her revenue better than gold.
She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her.
Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honour.
Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.
She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;
those who hold her fast are called happy.

Psalm (Psalm 119)



Response: Lord how I love your law!

My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word.

The law from your mouth means more to me than silver and gold. /R

Let your love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant.

Let your love come and I shall live for your law is my delight. /R

That is why I love your law more than finest gold,
why I live my life by your precepts, and hate false ways. /R

Second Reading (2 Corinthians 4.1-6)

A reading from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians.

Since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry of the Spirit, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Gospel Reading (Matthew 9.9-13)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. As he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

Post Communion

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For your prayers

In our Prayers: Tommy Lacken, Martin Fletcher, Carol Martin, Hope Oram, Sherry Lacken, Doug Williams, Neville Thomas, Lynn Williamson, Juan Carlos Mandich, Nancy Mandich, Eliane Ferreira Batista, Jaqueline Ives, Tommy Naylor, Lenny Shaw, Stephen Green, Riva Hodges, Sarah Chambers, Dwight d'Aguilar Gooden, Bea Ray, Eudora Maame de Graft-Yankah, Martha de Graft-Johnson, Josea Cabey, Ashton Lacken, David Hyams, Kathy Higgins

Among the departed: Leslie Mellowship, Margie James

Anniversaries of Death: Annie Stanton, Kate de Graft Johnson, Walter Longmore, Victor Delgado

In our parish: We pray for Radnor Street, Grayson House and Toffee Park Play Centre

In the wider world: We pray for the Middle East and a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Gaza and between Israel and Iran. We pray for all those suffering in those conflicts.

Notices

This week in church...

Wednesday Open Church: 10am-1pm
12.30pm Mass

Next Sunday 17th Sunday after Trinity Sung Mass 10.30am

4th October Harvest Festival Family Mass 10.30am

9th October Pet Service 5pm