

# Light *At The* Door

9.15am Morning Prayer St Margaret's Langton – Paul  
9.30am Eucharist St Michael's Coningsby Revd Sall  
11am Eucharist St Peter's Woodhall Spa Revds M & S

According to Matthew 9:9 and Mark 2:14, Matthew was sitting by the customs house in Capernaum (near modern Almogor, Israel, on the Sea of Galilee) when Jesus called him into his company. Assuming that the identification of Matthew with Levi is correct, Matthew (probably meaning “Yahweh’s Gift”) would appear to be the Christian name of Levi (called by Mark “Levi the son of Alphaeus”), who had been employed as a tax collector in the service of Herod Antipas, the tetrarch of Galilee. Levi’s occupation



was one that earned distrust & contempt everywhere; the scribes of the Pharisees criticized Jesus on seeing him eat with tax collectors and sinners, whereupon Jesus answered, “I came not to call the righteous, but sinners” (Mark 2:15–17). According to Luke 5:29, the aforementioned dinner was given by Levi in his house after his call. Matthew, as a Jew, working in this profession was essentially an act of betrayal to his people. Tax collectors had very little accountability. The Romans told them to collect a specified amount of money, but tax collectors could tell people they owed a different amount, and they had no power to argue. Tax collectors earned a reputation for telling people they owed than they did and pocketing the difference. To the Jews, tax collectors were the embodiment of sin. When tax collectors came to be baptized by John the Baptist, they said, “Teacher, what shall we do?” and he told them: “Collect no more than you are authorized to do” (Luke 3:12–13). Other than naming Matthew in the list of Apostles, often pairing him with St. Thomas, the New Testament has little and uncertain information about him. We do know that The Gospel according to Matthew was written for a Jewish-Christian church in a strong Jewish environment. Tradition notes his ministry in Judaea, after which he possibly went East, maybe to Ethiopia and Persia. Legends differ on where he travelled and whether he died a martyr. The early church fathers claim he was burned, stoned, stabbed, or beheaded in AD 60. His relics were reputed to have been found in Italy in 1080. His symbol is an angel, and he is the patron saint of tax collectors and accountants.



## Collect for St Matthew

*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.*

## Lincolnshire Wolds & Coast Churches Festival

I hope that your churches were visited over these past two weekends and that people were able to connect with God in the peace of our ancient buildings. We are lucky to be the custodians of these holy places, where, even if the church itself is relatively new (Victorian), they stand on a site that has been a place of worship for a thousand years. Such a site is liminal, it marks a place where the veil between heaven and earth is very thin, and we can connect with God and rest in his peace. Sharing this space with those in need of such a gift is a vital part of our church mission. Let us try to keep these precious places open for everyone.

## SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

Revd Sally Clifton 07949 556494

Woodhall Spa Group Safeguarding Lead

Margaret Forman 07931 574498

Bain Valley Group Safeguarding Lead

Tina Calvert 07718 884641

Childline: 0800 1111

EdanLincs (Domestic Abuse):

01522 510041

Men's Advice Line: 0808 8010327

Elder Abuse Hotline: 0800 0699 784

Safe Spaces: 0300 303 1056

Priest in Charge Revd Sally Clifton

07949 556494

sally.clifton@lincoln.anglican.org

Group Admin. Debbie Knight

01507 525600

swgadministrator@stmaryshorncastle.org.uk

Proverbs 3.13-18 Proverbs 3:13-18 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 not thing 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.

Psalms 119.65-72

Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O LORD, according unto thy word.

Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments.

Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.

Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes.

The proud have forged a lie against me: but I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart.

Their heart is as fat as grease; but I delight in thy law.

It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.

The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver."

2 Corinthians 4.1-6 2 Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, 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 slaves 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.

Matthew 9.9-13 Matthew 9:9-13 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. And 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."

# Harvest Festivals

**Sunday September 28<sup>th</sup>**

11am Choral Harvest Festival St Peter's Woodhall Spa

3pm Harvest Festival St Margaret's Bucknall - David - Harvest Supper 5pm

4pm Choral Harvest Festival St Leonards Kirkstead

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October**

9.30am Bain Valley Harvest Festival - St Mary's Kirkby on Bain

3pm Choral Harvest Festival St Margaret's Langton