



Welcome to St Matthew's Perry Beeches

Parish Mass

Sunday 23rd August 2026 (Trinity XII)

TODAY'S HYMNS:

Introit:	810
Thou whose almighty word	
Gradual:	772
Rock of ages	
Offertory	506
The Church's one foundation	
Communion:	258
O thou who camest from above	
Recessional:	784
Stand up, stand up for Jesus	

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to
hear than we to pray and to give
more than either we desire or
deserve: pour down upon us the
abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which
our conscience is afraid and giving
us those good things which we
are not worthy to ask but through
the merits and mediation of 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 Exodus 1.8-2.10

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, 'Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.' Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, 'When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.' But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, 'Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?' The midwives said to Pharaoh, 'Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they

are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.' So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, 'Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.'

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

Psalm 124

Response: Our help is in the name of the Lord

If the Lord had not been on our side, let Israel now say;
If the Lord had not been on our side when enemies rose up against us;
Then would they have swallowed us up alive
in their fierce anger towards us;

Our help is in the name of the Lord

Then would the waters have overwhelmed us
and the torrent gone over us;
Then would the raging waters have gone right over us.

Our help is in the name of the Lord

Blessed be the Lord!

He has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler;
the snare is broken and we have escaped.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

Our help is in the name of the Lord

A reading from Romans 12.1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew 16.13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' ¹⁴And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' ¹⁵He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Post communion prayer

God of all mercy, in this eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing: grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Everyone is welcome to coffee/tea and biscuits in the Lounge and Family Room after the service.

Services this week

Wed: 16.30 Evening Prayer
19.00 Mass (Chapel)
Thu: 10.00 Mass (Chapel)
Fri: 10.00 Mass (Chapel)

Next Sunday: 30th August (Trinity XIII)
10am Parish Mass and Sunday School

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.

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

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.

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
Wed: Shirley Woodley, Eileen Eveson, Jean Hayes, Irene Roberts
Thu: Dai & Lal Gravell, Shirley and Ray Hollins, Mark Hawkins
Ann Edwards, Mark and Shiv Furnell
Fri: David & Anne Gadd, Barbara Dring, Sue & Tony Kyte

Vicar: Fr George Reeves

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