**21 September**

**Matthew**

**Apostle and Evangelist**

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.

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**21 September**

**Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist**

Matthew appears in the list of the twelve apostles of Jesus and, according to the gospel written under his name, was a tax-collector. Mark and Luke called the tax-collector Levi, and it has been assumed that they are one and the same. This occupation was despised by his fellow Jews as a betrayal to the occupying Roman force but Christ showed that judging by outward appearance was not what he was about. He ate with Matthew and with his friends, scandalising those around him. Matthew followed at his call and this was enough for Jesus, for he had drawn someone back to God. He was forgiven, therefore he was acceptable, therefore he was received.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**25 September**

**Lancelot Andrewes**

**Bishop of Winchester and**

**Spiritual Writer 1626**

Lord God, who gave Lancelot Andrewes many

gifts of your Holy Spirit, making him a man of

prayer and a pastor of your people: perfect in us

that which is lacking in your gifts:

of faith, to increase it,

of hope, to establish it,

of love, to kindle it,

That we may live in the light of your grace and

glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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Church of England

**25 September**

**Lancelot Andrewes**

**Bishop of Winchester and**

**Spiritual Writer**

Born in 1555 in Barking, Lancelot Andrewes studied at Merchant Taylors’ School and Pembroke Hall (now Pembroke College), Cambridge. After ordination, he held several posts before accepting appointment as Bishop, first of Chichester, then of Ely and finally of Winchester in 1619. Andrewes was present at the Hampton Court Conference in 1604 which furthered the reform of the Church of England, and he was also a translator of much of the Old Testament of what is known as the ‘Authorised Version’ of the Bible. His preaching and his writings proved highly influential and his holiness of life and gentle nature endeared him to all who met him. He died on this day in the year 1626 and his remains lie in a church which was then in his diocese of Winchester but is now the cathedral for the diocese of Southwark.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*