



Bulletin from St Matthew's Walsall

Sunday 30th August 2020

(This bulletin also includes highlights from the past week's online bulletins)

We've paused most of our church services but we haven't stopped.

St Matthew's Church: Worshipping God; Equipping his people; Growing his kingdom; Serving Walsall

Prayer requests

Please pray for those known to you and the wider church who are struggling at this time. Please continue to pray for our national church leaders that they will be able to speak prophetically to the nation at this time and pray for our local council as they navigate the response to continuing changes across Walsall.

Prayer Diary

The prayer diary for September is now available on the church website. If you cannot access it online, please get in contact with the office to obtain a printed version.

Church Worship

The plan to re-open St Matthew's For Church Worship is taking place and will follow 3 phases as the restrictions change in the coming months.

- 1. We will initially start with a traditional **Holy Communion service on Sunday mornings at 8.45am.****
However, there are strict limitations on what we can (e.g. no singing or socialising in the church). We will also be continuing with our current 10.00am online service. If you are planning on joining us in church, please be aware that all social distancing guidelines should be adhered to, and we ask that you wear a face covering whilst in the building. This is the latest guidance from the Church of England: *We strongly advise that face coverings should be worn by all those attending a place of worship, including ministers, worshippers, staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors, where there may be other people present; remembering that they are mainly intended to protect other people, not the wearer, from coronavirus COVID-19 and that they are not a replacement for physical distancing and regular hand washing.*
- 2. Phase 2 will happen as social distancing rules relax further and we can safely accommodate the kind of numbers that usually attend our main service. This might be some time away – we just don't know.**
- 3. Phase 3 will be when we start to move towards "the new normal" and we are already starting to think what our services will look like then. We will be consulting widely about this in the future.**

Private Prayer

The Church will not be open for private prayer on Monday 31st August, due to the Bank Holiday. The last private prayer opening will be **Thursday 3rd September 4.00pm - 6.00pm.**

Mid-week communion

Now that we are able to hold smaller services in our church buildings, we are planning to start a mid-week communion service beginning on Wednesday 9th September at 10.00am.

Morning Prayer

Jim and Joe will be leading Morning Prayer via Zoom, Monday to Thursday at 8.30am for about 20 minutes. If you would like to join them, the Zoom details are:

Meeting ID: 895 8349 9139, Password: 949576

Daily
Prayer

Heritage Open Days – 12th and 19th September

Our church will be open on **Saturday 12th & 19th September**, 10.00am-3.00pm for our Heritage Open Days, including self-guided tours of our historic church interior and exterior, following one-way routes with explanatory material. See our medieval chancel and font; 19th century nave and ceiling; stained glass windows; external archway and passage below chancel.

Visitors will be able to follow two way marked routes around our church, one inside and the other outside looking at our church building from the churchyard.

Inside see our early 19th century nave and 15th century chancel, with a set of 18 finely carved misericords or choir stalls; an arts & crafts rood screen (1915); 15th century font decorated with the coats of arms of local families; a weather-beaten monument to the 14th century knight and courtier Sir Roger Hillary of Bescot; stained glass windows by Burlison & Grylls, Clayton & Bell, Harvey & Ashby, the Bromsgrove Guild and Goddard & Gibbs; and impressive monuments including one to a survivor of the Charge of the Light Brigade. There will also be a small exhibition about the gas explosion of October 10th 1847, and its impact on the church. There will be a children's guide on the theme of 'hidden nature'.

Externally, admire the church tower with its tall spire, a rare 15th century archway under the chancel built to allow access around the churchyard; and a fine view, weather permitting, across Walsall town centre to the New Art Gallery, and, beyond, to the surrounding hills.

Sadly this year access to our medieval crypt and the Ringing Chamber in the tower will not be possible.

Heritage Open Day – Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to act as stewards on the day – you can volunteer for one or both of the days. If this interests you, please do get in touch with John Pryce-Jones.

Black Country Foodbank News and Shortages

We are always grateful for donations of food, hygiene products and money. Shortages: tinned meat (e.g. corned beef, ham), marmalade, jam, long life fruit juice, tinned and instant potatoes, mashed potatoes, squash/cordial, tinned rice and custard, single toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo. Find locations, days and times where you can do this, please see our website www.blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk/locations

Phishing and worse

Colleagues in a few dioceses are reporting a growing number of cases of emails impersonating a number of their clergy asking for a variety of things including the purchase of vouchers and gift cards but also fake links. In many cases the sender's email address is churchonline948@gmail.com. Recognising these emails can be difficult, and Jim would like to remind you that “Neither I nor anyone else associated with St Matthew's would ever ask people **by email** to spend their own money for the church.”

Racism – how can we do better?

In recent months as a nation and a national church, we have become more aware of systemic, and historical racism. Jim has been speaking to individuals about this and is especially interested in how can we do better as St Matthew's church in addressing issues of racial injustice? Jim would especially like to hear the views of the BAME community. Please contact him so that he can hear your thoughts.

Key Contacts:

Rector: Jim Trood 07939 587208, email – rector@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk

Pastoral Care Coordinator: Anne Tolley 07518 339606

Email Prayer Requests (non-confidential): email - prayer@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk

Safeguarding Officer: Barbara Parker 01922 649909, email - safeguarding@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk

Online Communications: Mike Ray email - rotas@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk

Church Office (Thursdays): Kirsten Groom 01922 626039 email - office@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk



Website: www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk

