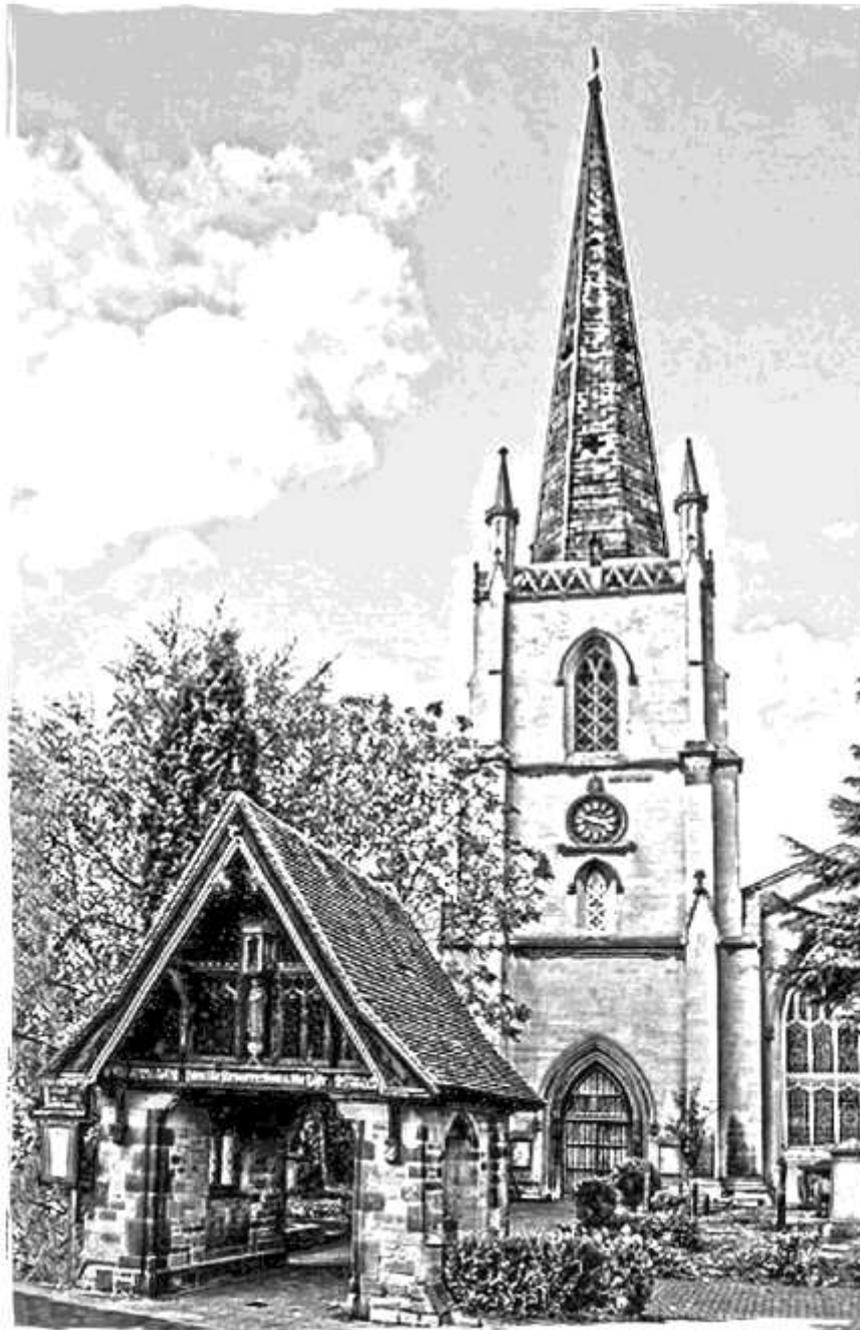


St matthews church

Prayer Diary



September 2020



St. Matthew's Church – **Worshipping** God; **Equipping** his people
Growing his kingdom; **Serving** Walsall.

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.(James 3:17)



Tuesday 1st September: Blue Coat Academy Staff Service

Loving Father, we pray for all those attending this service today. As all children return to school and college this month after such a long break, we pray that the new socially distant regulations that are now in place in all our schools will soon seem normal and all the children adapt to the new way of moving around the school and learning. Help those who are frightened and worried by the threat of Covid 19 to be reassured and feel safe in this new environment. The changes can be worrying to both staff and pupils and we ask that you help them to settle quickly, find friends and get used to a new routine. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of St Matthew's Close

Wednesday 2nd September: Church Coronavirus Core Team Meeting

Dear Lord, as the restrictions on our lives caused by the pandemic are gradually being eased, we thank you that we are now allowed to travel more and meet family members again. We still have to keep our distance and may be wearing masks but at least we are able to meet in person. All the recent restrictions have made us realise the things that are important to us. Help us to focus on these and as life slowly returns to 'normal', we thank you for our family and friends and for keeping us safe during the coronavirus peak. We thank you for all the support that the members of this committee have given to others during the times when restrictions were at their highest and help them to decide how to continue to provide this support now these have been eased. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Upper Rushall Street

Thursday 3rd September: Love Walsall Prayer Breakfast

Heavenly Father, we pray for all the Love Walsall Breakfast Team who are meeting today. We thank you for their commitment and for their willingness to serve you and our town in this way. Please be with them all, inspire them with ideas and guide them in any decisions they make in your name. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Dudley Street

Friday 4th September: Treasure.

Dear Father, we all have so many possessions and items that we cherish, help us to realise that real treasure in this world comes from knowing and loving you. May everything we do begin with you, continue with your help and be done under your guidance. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Birmingham Road

Saturday 5th September: Proverbs 3 vs. 3 - 6

Never let go of loyalty and faithfulness. Tie them round your neck; write them on your heart. If you do this, both God and man will be pleased with you. Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the Lord in everything you do and he will show you the right way. Please pray for the residents of Jesson Close

Sunday 6th September: All those attending our Sunday Services

Dear Lord, we thank you that we are now able to hold a Sunday service in our church and we pray for all those who attend. The service procedure may seem strange but you and the church are the same although the church looks very different. Help all those who attend to focus on worshipping you and praising your name despite the different circumstances. We also pray for all those who will be watching our online Sunday service and hope that it brings people closer to you and shows them your love in these troubled times. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Freer Street

Monday 7th September: Standing Committee Meeting

Dear Lord, we pray for all those involved in the Standing Committee Meeting tonight and ask that you be with them as they get together, either in person or through Zoom, to plan ahead for St Matthews under the new Coronavirus regulations. Please give them your wisdom and may any decisions they make be in accordance with your will. We thank you Lord for their dedication. Help us to appreciate their commitment and the time they give up to help run our church. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Sutton Rd

Tuesday 8th September: Deanery Synod

Dear Father, we pray today for all those attending this meeting. Please bless all who attend and give them a clear vision of all you wish them to achieve in your name. We thank you that we are always able to talk to you in prayer and that in our busy lives you are never too busy to listen to us and guide us in any decisions we have to make. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Small Street

Wednesday, 9th. September: Our Schools, Pupils and Staff

Father, as we enter the second week after some schools have opened we pray for your protection over those pupils and staff; teachers, teaching assistants, lunchtime staff and cleaners, who are in our schools. We pray for your protection for their physical health but also their mental wellbeing. May they find that reassurance that the Holy Spirit is by their side, guiding and protecting. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Broadway North

Thursday, 10th. September: Food Banks.

Dear Father, as this pandemic continues to sweep across our town and country more families are finding increasingly it increasingly difficult to provide food for themselves and children due to unemployment rising and limited working opportunities. At St Matthew's we have been able to support Ablewell Food Bank through weekly donations brought into church. The need is great Lord, and may we respond in other ways by putting items into supermarket collection points, taking items to the centre in Central Hall or sending a money donation. We give thanks for all those who work and volunteer at the food bank. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Cambridge Street

Friday, 11th. September: Blue Coat Festival Planning Meeting.

Father, we ask that you be in the minds and hearts of all those who are involved in this meeting today. The celebration of the Blue Coat Schools and their Christian links to St Matthew's is such an important part of the outreach work of both. Although Lord this planning will be for 2021 there is such uncertainty for the future use of our church for worship, events and celebrations. We pray for new, innovative ways to carry out your work.

Amen

Please pray for the residents of Clews Close

Saturday, 12th. September: Heritage Day.

Dear Father, as we open the doors today for the first of two days for people to come into St Matthew's to explore the rich Heritage of the church we pray you will be with all visitors and those who are stewarding. As we continue to be aware of social distancing may the warmth of your presence not be overlooked in the church building.

Please pray for the residents of Bescot Street

Sunday, 13th. September: Climate Change

Creator Lord, we give thanks for the beautiful world you created giving balance to the needs of mankind and nature. But we are aware of the damage we are causing through our pollutions and misuse of natural resources. We pray that those who have the power to make big changes, governments and leaders in industry, be propelled to do so. That we can make changes in our everyday lives too by being selective of what and how we buy. May we be a voice calling for change. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Earl Street

Monday, 14th. September: Personnel and Leadership Team Meetings.

Father we ask for your presence at these two meetings today. With the end of the furlough scheme coming to a close the personnel team have to have plans in place for the continued employment of church staff. May you guide them in their decision making. May those on the Leadership Team be walking the path that you have laid for St Matthew's church. We pray for your blessings and protection on Jim as undertakes such a heavy workload in these difficult times. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Wednesbury Road

Tuesday, 15th. September: Those who are unwell and need your healing hand.

Dear Lord, during your ministry here on earth you healed many people and today we ask that you will watch over all those who are unwell at this time. Please be with all those who are sick, calm those who are suffering, refresh those who are weary and bring your peace to those who are distressed. I pray for at this time. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Little Newport Street

Wednesday, 16th September: University

As students start at our University, we pray that there will be a real Christian presence and ethos on the campus. Please show us, as a church, how we can serve that community and the ways we can help and support those who are there, and may any who come to our church be welcomed warmly into our fellowship. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Sister Dora Gardens

Thursday, 17th September: St Paul's & St Luke's

We pray for these two neighbouring churches during this time when they have no vicar, and especially we pray that the congregation be supported as it seeks to develop the churches' ministries. We also ask that you are preparing the heart of whoever is to take over in due course – may they be open to your guidance and led to this parish. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Little Caldmore

Friday, 18th September: Our vision and values

Lord, you ask us, wherever we are and whatever we are experiencing, to stay true to our Christian vision and values. We pray that through all the change and difficulties of the pandemic, as a church we will continue to worship you, equip your people, grow your kingdom and serve the people of Walsall.

Moreover, we pray too that each of us will see what role we have to play in helping the church to worship, equip, grow and serve. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Hayden Sander Square

Saturday, 19th September: Heritage Day

Thank you for the beautiful building you have given to our care and the long, long history of Christian witness that goes with it. We pray that those who are welcomed into the church today will marvel at the wonder of what they see, but also realise it is not a museum but the focus of a committed fellowship with a warm and sincere faith. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Buckle Close

Sunday, 20th September: Encouragement

As we look at this subject in today's main service, we pray dear Lord that you will help us, as a fellowship and as individuals, to give and receive encouragement, so that we may grow and blossom in our Christian lives and be true and effective witnesses for you. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Bridge Street

Monday, 21st September: St Matthew's Day

O Almighty God, who by your blessed Son called Matthew from the receipt of taxes to be an Apostle and Evangelist, grant us grace to leave all covetous desires and inordinate love of riches, and to follow as well your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen. (*Collect for St Matthew's Day*)

Please pray for the residents of Ablewell Street

Tuesday, 22nd September: God's faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father, there is no shadow of turning with thee. Thou changest not thy compassions they fail not, as thou has been thou forever will be'.

Please pray for the residents of Springhill Road

Wednesday, 23rd September: The larger churches in the Diocese

As the leaders of the Diocese's larger churches meet together please guide them and give them wisdom, so each of these fellowships will be a bright shining light in their town, spreading your message and love to those around. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Ridgewood Close

Thursday, 24th September: Blue Coat Academy Governors Meeting.

Dear Lord, we ask that this meeting will have you firmly in the midst of all those attending. Give those present foresight in how to help the school, the staff and pupils during these very strange and difficult times. As we proceed through each day we ask for your guidance and for your voice to be heard into which direction we need to take. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Draymans Close

Friday, 25th September: Trust God He Knows What He Is Doing.

'Be still, and know that I'm God'. (Psalm 46:10)

Father forgive us when we try and forge ahead with our plans and not allow you time to show us your strength and your plan. We know how our roads do not run straight without you walking with us and how waiting for you is not time lost but time for us to strengthen our love for you and the opportunity to go the same way as you. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Highgate Close

Saturday, 26th September: Joe's Ordination as Deacon.

Father, we give thanks for our curate Joe and for his love and dedication as he continues his journey with you walking alongside. We pray for this service today and for all the other curates as they come together in Lichfield Cathedral. Father we ask that your Holy Spirit will touch each one of them and your love embrace them. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Highgate Drive

Sunday, 27th September: St Matthew's Church & Centre.

We long for the time when we can open our doors and arms to the many community groups that enjoyed spending time together each week in our church centre. Father we pray that our scientists will develop a vaccine to stop the spread of this virus and life will become less scary. Help us all to continue to care for the well being for one another as we move into our winter months. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Canute Close

Monday, 28th September: PCC Meeting.

Lord we pray for all the members of the PCC as they come together this evening either in person or through Zoom. Guide their decision making and thought processes for the benefit of all and for the running of St Matthew's. Lord we ask for strength and direction as we continue to proceed through each day in these very uncertain times. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Little Gorway

Tuesday, 29th September: Signs for Worship, Owl's, Home Groups.

Lord, we bring before you the members of all these groups and ask for your Holy Spirit to guide us as we proceed through these uncertain times. We ask for patience as we wait for some of these to restart and we pray for strength as some of these groups may not restart until the New Year. Loving Lord may your love embrace us all and enable us to move forward with hope and determination. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Lincoln Road

Wednesday, 30th September: Uncertainty .

Father, as we try to continue with our lives in these worrying and uncertain times we ask for your hand to guide us. Help us Father to care more for each other and to help when situations arise. We pray for the continued welfare of all those in the teaching profession and all the students. May this 'new normal' change us for the better, to be compassionate, to be loving and be more like Jesus. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Parklands Gardens