



## **Bulletin from St Matthew's Walsall**

*Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 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 remember in your prayers Colin Gibson, and give thanks for good news for Sheena. 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 for vision**

At the start of the month Jim shared about how we are starting to discern the vision for the next stage in the life of St Matthew's church. The most important aspect of this process is praying about it. The following prayer is for people to use to help them in praying for this process.

Father God, who set the world in motion,

You inspired our predecessors to build St Matthew's Church as a symbol of Christian faith on the skyline of Walsall. You guided them to teach, serve, and proclaim your kingdom of love in words and actions to the people of this town.

As we seek to discern your direction for us for the next stage of the journey, may your Holy Spirit guide those in leadership at this church.

Open our hearts to your call on our lives both as individuals and as the Church. Help us to see the world through your eyes and proclaim, "Your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven".

Through Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord, Amen.

#### **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.

### **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 9<sup>th</sup> 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



### **Signs for Worship**

Signs for Worship Walsall is resuming, 7.30pm on Friday 11th September, on Zoom, the SfWW YouTube channel or the SfW Facebook page.

### **Fire**

You may have seen on social media that St Matthew's church was subject to an arson attack. This was probably an attempt to use a blow torch to get through the locking mechanism on the West doors. Fortunately the fire was discovered before it could do too much damage although smoke had filled the church. Please pray for protection for the church and that the repairs can be carried out swiftly and without too many difficulties.

### **Heritage Open Days – 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

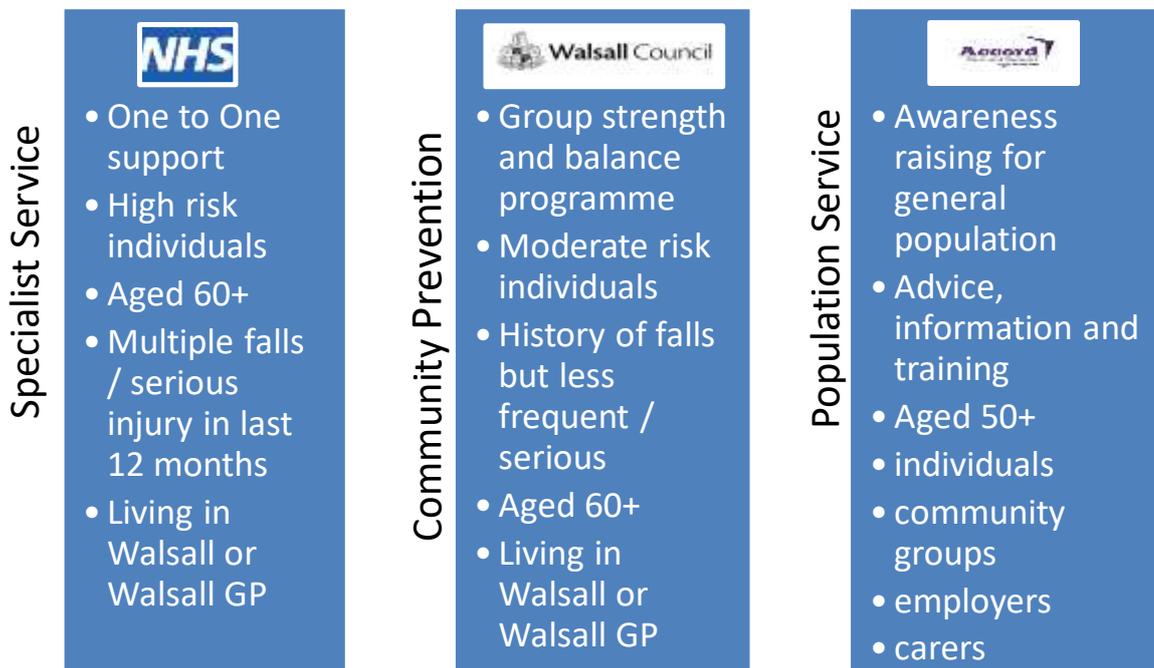
## Walsall Falls Prevention Service

The Falls Pathway involves three organisations working in partnership to provide services:

**Walsall Healthcare NHS** – Specialist Falls Team. Contact: 01922 604931

**Walsall Council** – Community Sports and Leisure Service - Falls Rehabilitation. Contact: 01922 658080

**Accord Age Matters** – Population Service. Contact: 01922 638825



**Single point of Access**

## Black Country Payroll Savings Campaign

Prior to the pandemic, many UK households were not positioned to weather a sudden economic downturn. In 2017, research by the Financial Conduct Authority indicated that 35% of individuals lacked financial resilience and were either 'surviving' or 'in difficulty'. Recent ONS figures suggest around 25% of working households could not cover a 25% reduction in income for three months. At Transforming Communities Together we want to promote a culture of regular saving – it doesn't have to be a lot but we know regular saving can make a difference. In fact, according to the debt advice charity StepChange, "If a family has £1,000 in accessible savings, it reduces their chances of being in debt by 44%". **This event is for employers and employees based in the Black Country.** Join us and share this event as we launch the Payroll Savings Campaign, bringing together businesses and credit unions to build financial resilience. Our partnership involves the England Illegal Money Lending Team, Black Country Chamber of Commerce, and Just Finance Black Country, along with the four local credit unions are working together to promote Payroll Savings. These credit unions are: ✓ 6Towns Credit Union – based in Sandwell ✓ Castle & Crystal Credit Union – based in Dudley ✓ Walsave Credit Union – based in Walsall ✓ Wolverhampton City Credit Union – based in Wolverhampton. **Join us as we launch the Black Country Payroll Savings Campaign on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September, 1.00pm-2.00pm.** It is via Zoom and you can book online at <https://payroll-saving-launch.eventbrite.co.uk>

## Ablewell Advice and Foodbank

Shortages: toilet rolls, packets of mashed potatoes, baby food (jars and pouches) and tinned fruit. All donations are greatly appreciated. You can find the location and opening hours at: [http://www.ablewelladvice.org.uk/?page\\_id=22](http://www.ablewelladvice.org.uk/?page_id=22)

## **Covid Cash Course**

The Just Finance Foundation COVID Cash Course was co-designed with Transforming Communities Together and Capital Mass. We have received extra funding from Allchurches Trust and Heart of England Community Foundation to enable hundreds of churches and community organisations across the Black Country, Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent and northern Shropshire to deliver financial information and resources. Want to get involved?

1. Attend a free session to learn about the materials
2. Co-deliver sessions with someone from our team there to support you
3. Join one of our virtual Coffee Mornings for peer support from others helping with financial wellbeing in communities

Visit [https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/covid-cash-course-train-the-trainer-session-tickets-112855742564?aff=odeimcmalchimp&mc\\_eid=5f6955861f&mc\\_cid=22e011a079](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/covid-cash-course-train-the-trainer-session-tickets-112855742564?aff=odeimcmalchimp&mc_eid=5f6955861f&mc_cid=22e011a079) for more information.

## **Retreat Centres re-open**

The St Chads Retreat Centre trustees are pleased to announce they have been able to re-open the doors of Dovedale and Shallowford House. Early indications look positive with guests already taking advantage of the new settings that both the houses are offering. Enquiries and bookings for this summer are already up on previous years as people emerge from the lockdown. Find out

more <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/news/st-chads-retreat-centres-re-open-.php>

Meanwhile, The Hermitage at Reflection Gardens in Cannock Wood is now available for overnight stays, contact John Polhill 01543 674474.

## **Hate crime awareness training**

Transforming Communities Together and Victim Support are offering free hate crime awareness training. The online workshop is an introduction to hate crime, covering the impact that it has both on the individual and the wider community, as well as exploring the different reporting and support options available. Workshops run on Wednesdays 9 September, 10-11am, and 16 September, 3-4pm. Find out more and book <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-hate-crime-awareness-training-tickets-115472941677>

## **New grants**

[Allchurches Trust](#) has launched a new grants programme – Hope Beyond - aimed at enabling churches and Christian charities to meet changing need within their communities as the longer term impact of Covid-19 becomes clearer. Funding projects that will enable people, organisations and communities to flourish in life after lockdown, [Hope Beyond](#) will help churches, Christian charities and communities to adapt to the challenges and opportunities presented by the pandemic - building resilience and encouraging hope. Grants of up to £50,000 are available, and the amount you receive will depend upon the cost of your project and level of need in your community, ranging from 10% of project cost to 80%.

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## **Key Contacts:**

Rector: Jim Trood 07939 587208, email – [rector@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk](mailto:rector@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk)

Lay Curate: Joe Smith 07946 398442, email – [curate@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk](mailto:curate@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk)

Pastoral Care Coordinator: Anne Tolley 07518 339606

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

Safeguarding Officer: Barbara Parker 01922 649909, email - [safeguarding@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk)

Online Communications: Mike Ray email - [rotas@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk](mailto:rotas@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk)

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

**Website: [www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk](http://www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk)**

