



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

*Sunday 13<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**

### **ST MATTHEWS NEWS**

#### **Prayer requests**

Please pray for those known to you and the wider church who are struggling at this time. Please remember in your prayers Amanda, and the family and friends of Barbara Parker's brother David, who sadly passed away on Wednesday. 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.

#### **Church Worship – Government Update**

As you may be aware, the government have announced new rules limiting social gatherings to 6 people, which will come into force on Monday. Places of worship can remain open, but with a limit of 6 people attending per group. These changes do not affect the services we are currently holding in our church building. Our 8:45am Sunday service and our 10:00am mid-week (Wednesday) service will still continue to take place under these new rules. The measures we've put in place to keep everyone safe at our services will continue too. Please remember to wear a face covering and maintain a safe distance from others whilst attending any service in our building, and please don't attend if you have any COVID-19 symptoms. Please continue to pray for our town, country and world during this difficult time.

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 hold a mid-week communion service in the church **at 10.00am on Wednesdays**.

### **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

A blue square containing the text "Daily Prayer" in white, with "Daily" on the top line and "Prayer" on the bottom line.

### **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.

### **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. 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.

### **Harvest**

We recognise the Harvest will be somewhat different this year. However, we will still be celebrating it online and in our 8.45am service on **Sunday 4th October**. We will be supporting two charities again this year. This will be produce for Black Country Foodbank and a financial offering for the Christian Aid Coronavirus Emergency Appeal. More details on how to give will be shared closer to the time.

## **WIDER CHURCH NEWS**

### **40-day Prayer journey**

LICC are an excellent resource organisation that we have already used on numerous occasions as a church. During Lent and as we went into the first few weeks of Lockdown, Jim used prayer journey from them and found it really helpful and relevant. It involved a very short Bible reading, something to think about and a prayer. Jim had it emailed to him each day but it is also available on the YouVersion mobile phone app. If you would like to sign up for the next prayer journey on "Navigating Change" click on the link below.

<https://www.licc.org.uk/ourresources/prayer-journeys/navigating-transition/>

### **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.

### **Jesus & Emotions**

*From Engage Worship...* Our new resource, *Jesus & Emotions: A Creative Journal for Families*, is available now!

In fun and accessible ways this book helps your family to explore their emotions in the company of Jesus. It combines stories, activities and insights into why we feel how we do, and how to stay emotionally healthy. In these strange lockdown days many of us have experienced swings of emotion, and wondered how we can process what we feel in prayer and worship. We believe that this resource will spark great conversations, touching on issues such as grief, anger, fear, joy and forgiveness. We want as many families as possible to benefit from this resource, so if you like the look of this please consider:

- Sharing the webpage with friends and networks: <https://engageworship.org/emotions>

You can order physical copies of this 32 page, full colour book. Additionally, it is available as a PDF ebook, with licences to share or print. We want to say a huge THANK YOU to all the crowdfunders who pre-ordered or simply gave to make this resource possible.



### **Spring Harvest 2021**

We've been working with Butlin's to give Spring Harvest guests an exclusive COVID Protection Guarantee to provide reassurance regarding any booking made for our 2021 event. To find out more about this free guarantee to ensure you can book with confidence, [read our latest blog post](#). We are so excited to be gathering together for Spring Harvest in 2021 and would love to know which event you plan to join us for. If you can spare a few minutes, please register your interest at [springharvest.org](http://springharvest.org). You will then qualify for a £10 per person discount along with booking at 2020 prices. **Bookings open 8am 22nd September!**

## **WALSALL NEWS**

### **Baby Massage**

The next baby massage course at St Matthew's Church Centre starts on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 1.00-2.30 pm. It costs £30 for the 5 week course and is suitable for babies up to one and their carers. For more information contact Priscilla Trood on 07984 626637.

### **Ablewell Advice and Foodbank**

Shortages as of 5<sup>th</sup> September: tinned fruit, jam/marmalade/peanut butter and shampoo. Things we currently have a substantial excess of: baked beans, soup, chickpeas and tinned pulses, and tea bags. Please consider donating something we are short of in preference to these items. Donations can be made at The Central Hall, Ablewell Street, Walsall WS1 2EQ on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm or on Saturdays between 11.00 am and 1.00 pm or at Walsall town centre Cooperative Food store. Many thanks for your support.

### **Walsall Works**

Walsall Works provides a varied and extensive list of vacancies including apprenticeships, part time and full time work. A full list of our latest local vacancies can be found at: [www.walsallworks.com](http://www.walsallworks.com)

### **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>

### **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.

### **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. Workshop on 16 September, 3-4pm. Find out more and book <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-hate-crime-awareness-training-tickets-115472941677>

### **Walsall Community Litter Watch**



We still have restrictions in regards to the amount of people that are allowed to attend and equipment. If you have your own litter picking equipment please bring it with you. Can we also ask that you bring your own your own gloves to wear e.g. gardening gloves. If you do not have your own equipment you will need to register with us as a litter ranger. You can find information on how to do this by visiting [https://go.walsall.gov.uk/environment/walsall\\_community\\_litter\\_watch/our\\_communities](https://go.walsall.gov.uk/environment/walsall_community_litter_watch/our_communities) If you are free, register your place and come along to help keep

your local area clean. Due to social distancing and the recommendations on group activities we have set all of our events up on EventBrite where we are asking people to register.

### **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)**

