



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

*Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2020*

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

### **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 Jenny, Audrey Street, Maureen Yardley, Maureen Platt and her niece Janine, Jim Fagg and his family. 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.

#### **St Matthew's "Going Greener"**

Do you want to help our Church to become a leader in eco-friendly worship and practice? St. Matthew's PCC have commissioned a "Going Greener" committee to steer the ecological rejuvenation of our Church. Climate crisis is a reality which effects the lives of all around the globe. As Christians and human beings, we have a responsibility to minimise our negative impact on the climate and promote eco-friendly living. We intend for our Church to model this also by reassessing our investments, practices and lifestyle.

If you would like to be part of the conversation or simply have some ideas you would like to share then please contact our curate: Joe Smith - [curate@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk](mailto:curate@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk)

#### **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.

### **Update - Church services**

We have decided that in order to allow us to plan sensibly and have a bit of stability that we will keep our current service pattern until the start of Advent. We will continue to have a mixture of services online and in our church building

- Our **Sunday services will be at 8.45am** in the church for Holy Communion
- We will then have a **10.00am online service** on YouTube
- And our Asian congregation meet online **Skype in the afternoon**

We have also started a mid-week communion service which is on **Wednesdays at 10am** in church. We plan to record the sermon from this and put this on our YouTube channel.

In church our sermons follow the set Bible readings for the Sunday Services and online we are following a new series on "one another attitudes".

### **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



### **Harvest**

This Sunday is Harvest and we will be celebrating it online and in our 8.45am service. 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.

To give a financial donation for the Christian Aid Coronavirus Emergency Appeal, just head the donations page on our website, select 'Make a one-off Harvest donation', and fill in your details.

To give a donation to the Black Country Foodbank, please pop your donation in the box in church, or take it directly to Ablewell Advice. Please remember to put a note in the bag saying that it is from St. Matthew's. Here is a list of some of the items you can donate (they are currently short of the ones in bold):

- 1 litre cartons UHT milk
- 1 litre cartons fruit juice (from concentrate)
- Jars of cooking sauces
- Medium-sized boxes of breakfast cereal
- Packets of mashed potato
- **Jam/marmalade/peanut butter**
- Small jars of coffee
- **Tinned fruit**
- Tinned meat (ham/corned beef)
- Tinned vegetables
- Instant noodles
- **Shampoo**
- Shower gel
- Deodorant
- Shaving foam
- Toilet rolls
- Handwash
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Sanitary wear
- Can openers

### **Alpha**

This year we will be running an Online Alpha course on Wednesday evenings. **It starts on the first Wednesday in October.** If you are interested in attending please let Jim know. As this is very different to previous courses, we are making an exception and saying you can repeat the course even if you have been on an Alpha course before. To book a place on the course email [alpha@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk](mailto:alpha@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk) If you would like to be part of the prayer support for Alpha please email Jim and you will get regular updates.

### **APCM (AGM)**

We now have a revised date for our Annual Meeting which had to be postponed because of the Coronavirus lockdown. It will be held on **Tuesday 20th October** at 7pm in our Church and this year we will be keeping it as short as possible and it will in effect be a basic business meeting. Details on nominations needed will follow in the next few weeks but please do consider if God is calling you to be a disciple in one of the positions we need to fill on our PCC.

### **Selwyn Lecture - diary date**

We're delighted to announce that the speaker at this year's annual Selwyn Lecture on **Thursday 26th November** will be Richard Reddie, Director of Justice and Inclusion for Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. The title of his lecture is The Race For Justice In A Time Of Black Lives Matter. The lecture begins at 10am and this year will be online. Details about registration will be available soon.

### **A year of vocational reflection - Pathways returns**

Are you, thinking about what God is calling you to do? Is there someone you know or someone in your congregation who is thinking about vocation? Pathways is a one year course for people who are exploring their Christian faith and discipleship and reflecting on their own particular gifts and calling. The course covers several key areas including God at work in the Church, our neighbourhood and our family as well as in your own life and also focuses on bible study and prayer. Pathways will be run online via Zoom from **November to June**. Applications can be accessed here and need to be emailed to Helen Scheven by 16 October. Please email: [helen.scheven@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:helen.scheven@lichfield.anglican.org) contact for further information.

## **Blended Carols**

We can't meet like we normally would, but this is one way we can all sing our favourite carols together for Christmas. Just record yourself singing along and post to our dropbox <https://www.dropbox.com/request/Og5LvcVTndbKr3PRy12z>

The finished project will be published online in December. You may find it helpful to sing with a pint in your hand or conduct with your free hand. You may wish to smile, or to frown in concentration. You may wish to have several attempts with varying degrees of harmony. And for descants there is but one rule: YES PLEASE. You can get the first track from the Blended Carols project today. More will be posted every few days, for a total of 12ish. We have included some firm favourites and two full renditions of While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks to the wrong tune. First track has been published <https://youtu.be/StKu3dDMOGk>

## **News from Walsall Council**

*Nehemiah Court – Newly refurbished flats*

Please see details of newly refurbished flats for those aged over 55 years old available on Bath Road, Caldmore. If you are interested or would like more information please contact Christine Hibbert - Scheme Manager, Mobile: 07739705046  
Email: [christine.hibbert@nehemiah.co.uk](mailto:christine.hibbert@nehemiah.co.uk)

*Walsall Works*

A full list of the latest opportunities and local jobs can be found at [www.walsallworks.com](http://www.walsallworks.com).

## **October Prayer Diary**

The October prayer diary is now available online at our website. If you would like a paper copy, please contact the church office.

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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)

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