



Bulletin from St Matthew's Walsall

Sunday 11th 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. The family and friends of Jim Fagg. 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

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



Alpha It isn't too late to join! This year we will be running an Online Alpha course on Wednesday evenings. 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 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. Nominations for positions are now open - contact Jim for more information. Please do consider if God is calling you to be a disciple in one of the positions we need to fill on our PCC.

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>

Key Contacts:

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

Lay Curate: Joe Smith 07946 398442, email – curate@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

