



Bulletin from St Matthew's **Walsall**

Sunday 18th 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 Susan White. 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.

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)

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.

Days off

Please note that until further notice both Rev Jim and Rev Joe will be taking Friday as their day off and their phones will be switched off. Should there be a need to contact them in an emergency, please contact one of our church wardens, Judith, Patti, Diane or Anna. Thank you

Giving meeting

Every year church members are invited to attend a meeting to allocate the church giving. We aim to give away about 10% of our income received through “planned giving”. This year we are unable to meet in person so we will have an online meeting via Zoom at 7.30pm on **Monday 2nd November**. Details will be published about this in due course. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to suggest charities and reasons to support them, please contact Joan Nock.

Love where you live mission – Caldmore, Alumwell, St Peters (Birchhills)

People need to hear the good news of Jesus in word and deed so across the UK our teams are going to be running social action projects. The mission will run in Walsall during October half term, from **Thursday 29 October - Sunday 1 November**, with corresponding activities for young people. The 3 areas lie within the top 10% of areas of multiple deprivation. With such a presence in the community, and by partnering with local churches, our impact for the

gospel could be significant. So, for a weekend in October we're planning for volunteers from local churches to be showing God's love by running as many social action projects as we can, such as litter picking, tidying gardens, cleaning graffiti, meeting the practical needs of those in the community whilst also sharing the gospel with those we meet inviting them to Alpha and the4points courses. It will all start with a launch event on **Thursday 29 October** before we take to the streets for the next 2 days, and then continue to support families with the local church. Proximity and proclamation will always go hand in hand, and we're excited about the fruit that could come from this as we practically help those in need. Prayer will be central to what's happening and a prayer diary will be available for people wanting to pray. If you want to volunteer, please speak to Ben Butterfield or email midlands@message.org.uk. The volunteer form can be accessed at www.lovewhereulive.org/walsall

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We will be once again packing shoeboxes for this appeal and as it costs £5.00 per box would be very grateful for any donations of either goods or money. Items suggested include: pens, crayons, note pads, toys, toothbrushes, soap, flannels, hair brushes, hair slides, puzzles, Hats, gloves etc. Please do not donate any liquids or sweets as these are not allowed this year. I have been given 50 flat packed boxes so if you would like to pack one of your own then please let me know or pack things in your own shoebox. A collection box will be left in church during the services on **Sunday 1st November** and **Wednesday 4th November** for any donations. If you need any more information or would like me to collect items, please call Anne Tolley on 07518339606.

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>

Register for Selwyn Lecture

Registration is open now for this year's annual Selwyn Lecture on **Thursday 26 November** at 10am. The speaker will be Richard Reddie, Director of Justice and Inclusion for Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. The title of his online lecture is "The Race For Justice In A Time Of Black Lives Matter". There will be two 40-minute lecture slots with space for Q&As, finishing at 12.30pm.



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 **16th October**. Please contact Helen for further information.

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

