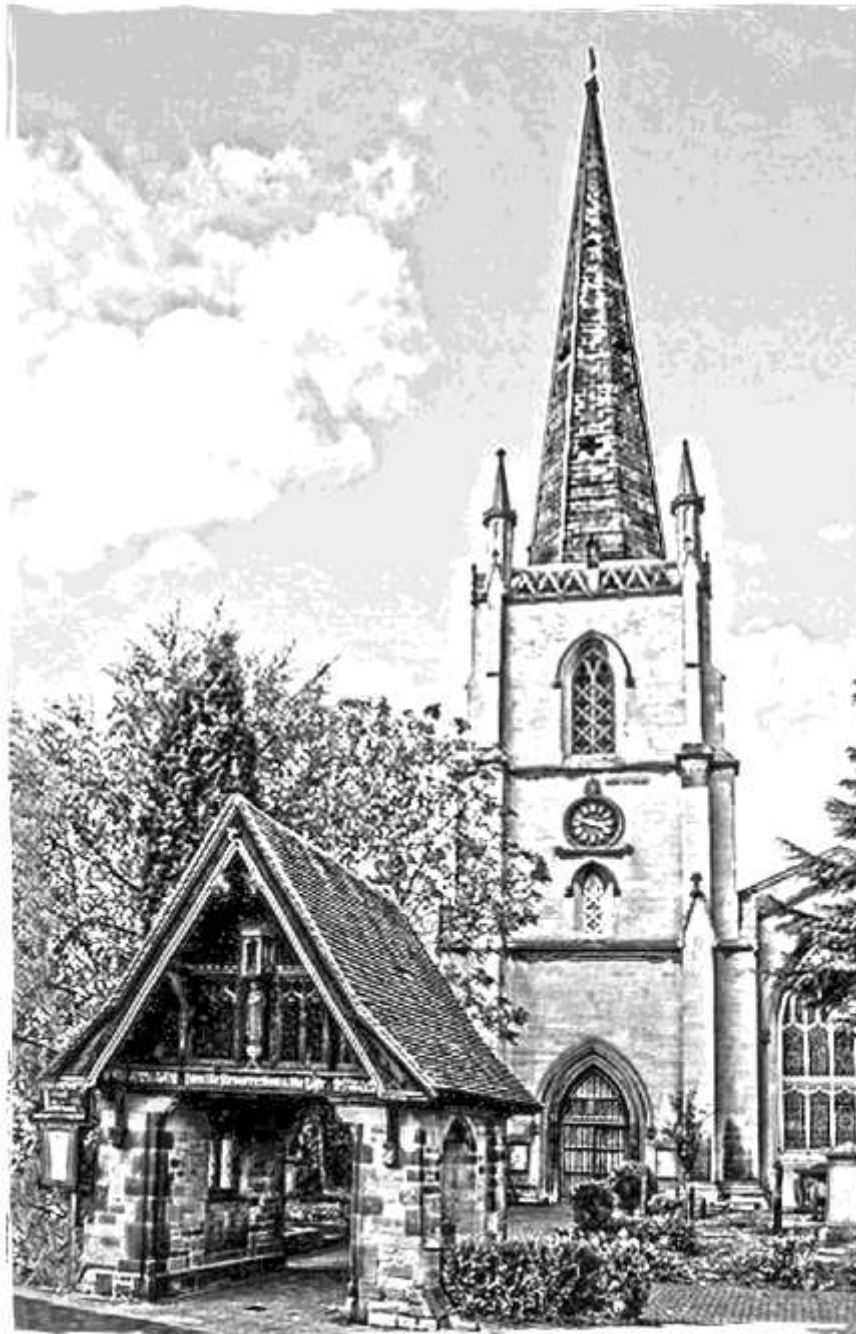


St matthews church

Prayer Diary



November 2020



St. Matthew's Church – **Worshipping** God; **Equipping** his people
Growing his kingdom; **Serving** Walsall.

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.(James 3:17)



Sunday 1st November: All those attending our services

Dear Lord, we pray for those who will come into our church this week or join with us in an online service or talk. We know that you will be with them all and we pray that you will provide them with all the comfort and support that they need. Some may come with problems in their lives that they wish to share with you, whilst others may attend with much gladness in their hearts that they also wish to share with you. Help them all to be refreshed and invigorated by spending time in your presence and leave feeling at peace with the knowledge and reassurance that you are always with them – not just on Sundays but every day. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of South Street Gardens

Monday 2nd November: Tithe Meeting

Holy Father, as we meet together to decide where we allocate our church giving, please guide us to support those organisations that you consider worthy. In these times of Covid restrictions, we are unable to meet in person and these same restrictions have affected so many charity organisations and as a result they are unable to help as many in need as they would like.

Fundraising events have had to be cancelled and resources are reduced so our gifts will be so important to them. Help us to give with your guidance.

Amen

Please pray for the residents of Thorpe Road

Tuesday 3rd November: Trust

Dear Lord, we thank you that we are able to come to you in prayer and ask for your guidance in any part of our lives that we are concerned about. Help us to listen and to trust in your response. As, like Joshua outside the walls of Jericho, the reply we get may not be what we expected but we ask that you help us listen to you and to follow wherever and however you guide us. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Arundel Street

Wednesday 4th November: Preparing for Christmas Course

Loving Father, we thank you for your constant love. Help us to put you at the centre of all our celebrations. As we prepare to celebrate your birth, at this very commercial time of the year and with coronavirus restrictions, help us to remember that you are the real meaning of Christmas and that by sending your son to live amongst us, you showed us how much you really love us. We thank you, for this wonderful gift and as we celebrate His birthday, help us to

think of Him as we prepare. Help us, Lord, to fill this Christmas with you and with your love, peace and joy. Thank you for being with us now and always.

Amen

Please pray for the residents of Arundel Street

Thursday 5th November: Online Love Walsall Breakfast Meeting

Dear Father, we ask for your blessing on each member of the Love Walsall Breakfast Group who join this meeting online today. Keep their faith strong and give them the support of your Holy Spirit so that they may continue with your help, to make a difference to the people living in our town.

The world at the moment is such a changed place, so we continue to pray and invite you into our hearts – hearts that have so much in them right now.

Amidst our fear, confusion, uncertainty, grief and anger, we invite you in. With your help, may we be given peace and understanding and most of all patience as we seek to preserve our own safety and health. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Brookhouse Road

Friday 6th November: Blue Coat Festival Planning Meeting

Dear Father, today we thank you for all our Blue Coat Schools and for the important part they play in the life of our community and church. Each year the Festival is a showcase for the work that goes on in these schools, and as people attend the exhibition, it brings new people into our church. Please be with all those involved in planning this festival and fill them with all the enthusiasm, inspiration and energy they will need at this time. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Cornwall Road

Saturday 7th November: The Knots Prayer

Dear God, please untie the knots that are in my mind, my heart and my life. Remove the have nots, the can nots and the do nots that I have in my mind. Erase the will nots, might nots that may find a home in my heart. Release me from the could nots, would nots and should nots that obstruct my life. And most of all dear God, I ask that you remove from my mind, my heart and my life, ALL of the am nots that I have allowed to hold me back, especially the thought that I am not good enough. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Edinburgh Road

Sunday, 8th November: Remembrance Sunday

Ever-living God, we remember all those that you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among all nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Orwell Road

Monday, 9th.November: Network meeting of Diocesan Vicars of Larger Churches. PCC

Father, we pray for Rev Jim and the other vicars of large churches. We ask that their mutual understanding and support in this difficult time will enable them to fill their roles within the church.

As the newly formed PCC meet online this evening we give thanks for those willing and able to support the decision making at St Matthew's and pray for your presence Lord in all their work. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Boscobel Road

Tuesday, 10th.November: Core Team Meeting.

Father, as this team continue to meet during this ongoing pandemic may the discussions around the pastoral care of our congregation and planning for future services be in line with the work you call us to do, in your name. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Princes Avenue

Wednesday, 11th.November: Planning for the Youth and Kids at Advent.

Father, we give thanks for the work that you have called Ben to do with the youth of St Matthew's, across Walsall and linked to the Black Country movement. May the plans they put together for the recognition and celebration of Advent show that the Christian observance is not 'cancelled.'

Mentoring. We are grateful Lord that you use the skills you blessed upon Jim, to teach and support others on their path of church leadership. Amen
Please pray for the residents of The Crescent

Thursday, 12th.November: Deanery Synod.

Dear Lord, we pray today for all those attending this meeting especially the representatives from St Matthew's, Rev Jim, Phil, Sue and Jimm. Please bless them and all those who attend and give them a clear vision of all you wish them to achieve in your name. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Magdalene Rd

Friday, 13th.November: All those in Education.

Loving Father, we pray for all those who are at school, college or university. It is such a difficult and worrying time for them, planning what is the next step in their education. We pray too for those who have left education with no suitable jobs to match their qualifications. Lord, we pray for their mental health and well being. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Keble Grove

Saturday, 14th.November: Diocesan Synod.

Lord our Father, you have given us the freedom to choose. For those at the synod today may there be freedom of debate within the bounds of respect and propriety. May they seek to shape policy and practice to meet the needs of both maintenance and mission using the precious gift of finance to support and extend the ministry of your church in a world of deprivation and need.

Amen.

Please pray for the residents of St Catharine's Close

Sunday, 15th.November: Reflections on a difficult year, Perseverance.

Perseverance and persistence. Heavenly Father, as we grow weary of the restrictions on our daily lives fill us anew with the promise of your love and faithfulness whatever problems we are facing. May we continue to act selflessly, putting the well being of others before ourselves. Amen

Please pray for the residents of New College Close

Monday 16th November: Alms House Trust Meeting

Thank you Lord that as a church we are involved in the running of the alms houses in Walsall. We thank you for all who have lived in them over the years and we ask you give the current residents peace, comfort and security.

Amen

Please pray for the residents of Gorway Road

Tuesday, 17th November: Clergy training

Dear Lord, in this time of rapid and totally unforeseen changes we pray that you will be with Jim as he attends his training day. May it be a fruitful and blessed time, and may he be able to absorb what is needed for St

Matthews' ministry. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Gorway Close

Wednesday, 18th November: Busy-ness

Dear Lord, you know how busy I will be today. If I forget you I am so sorry, and ask you do not forget me. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Gorway Gardens

Thursday 19th November: Blue Coat Academy Governor Meeting.

Dear God, the work that has been done at the Blue Coat schools to cope with the pandemic has been truly amazing and we give thanks for the dedication and commitment that the staff have shown in this work. As the governors meet tonight, may they be given a godly wisdom in the decisions they make and may all they do be to your glory and the benefit of all the pupils. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Highgate Road

Friday, 20th November: Blue Coat Infant and Junior Schools

Thank you Lord for the work of Ms Ingram over the years and all the compassion and warmth she has brought to her leadership roles at these schools. Please bless her as she takes up a new post and we ask that you will guide the schools to the person you have chosen as her replacement.

Amen

Please pray for the residents of Highgate Avenue

Saturday, 21st November: Church Leaders

We pray for all who are involved in the leadership of the church – for the Archbishops and Bishops, remembering especially Bishop Michael and Bishop Clive and for our own clergy, Jim and Joe. Please we pray give them wisdom and compassion in their decision-making, so that in love we may follow your ways. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Avion Close

Sunday 22nd November: Today's services

Whether we are watching on line or present in the church, we ask that we will all come closer to you through today's services and though we are separate may we still feel as a single fellowship bound together by love. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Follyhouse Lane

Monday, 23rd November: Leadership Team

We pray for the Leadership Team here at St Matthews. As it meets today please guide the members in the decisions they make about the vision, so over the years ahead we are truly following the plans you have for us all.

Amen

Please pray for the residents of Vincent Street

Tuesday, 24th November: Thank you.

During this very worrying time let us remember our faithful and loving God. Thank you Lord, for being with us when we feel scared, lonely or ill. Thank you for being with us when we are happy, healthy and contented. Thank you for the seasons, the beautiful autumnal colours as we move into winter. Keep us strong Father as we go through each day and let us remember that you never leave us and love us unconditionally. Help us not to see you as simply an emergency service, but as a good presence in all our lives. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Fair Field Mount

Wednesday, 25th November: Blue Coat Academy/ Alpha.

Dear Lord, we give thanks for all the staff at our local Blue Coat schools who continue to teach during these very stressful times and for Jim as he attends the academy this morning for prayer. Help us all to stay strong as we know you are always with us, in our worries, our struggles and at our very lowest times. We pray for all those attending the Alpha course. Although this course is run on Zoom we pray that your Holy Spirit will touch all those who want to learn more about you and more people will want you walking beside them.

Amen

Please pray for the residents of Belvidere Road

Thursday, 26th November: Selwyn Lecture, Personnel Committee, Wedding Rehearsal.

Father, please hear our prayers as we bring to you the following; we pray for all those who have had weddings cancelled this year and ask for patience as we wait for this virus to be brought under control permitting life as we once knew. We pray for those who are attending the wedding rehearsal today and ask that your love will be felt by those present. We pray for your guidance for all those on the personnel committee as they discuss matters arising, may Your Will be done. Finally we pray for the Selwyn lecture on 'The Race for justice in a time of 'Black Lives Matter''. Help us all to love our neighbour regardless of race or colour. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Jesson Road

Friday, 27th November: Our Brothers and Sisters.

Father, help us to remember that we are all your children. You love us all regardless of our wealth, nationality, gender, age, size or colour, may we value all our neighbours the same way that you do. We pray that our words and actions reflect your compassion for others. As we proceed through this pandemic let us think of others and be that hand of friendship and love that you so readily offer to us. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Sandymount Road

Saturday, 28th November: Wedding of John and Claire/ Alpha Away Day.

Father, although John and Claire are unable to celebrate their wedding day with as many people as they may wish, we ask that this will be a very special day. May their love for one another shine through and today be the start of a very special journey with you in their midst. We pray for all those who have joined in with our Alpha zoom course and pray that the 'away day meeting', will be totally focused on your Holy Spirit and a special time to embrace you. We pray for all those present, to be aware of the Holy Spirit touching their lives. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Emery Street

Sunday, 29th November: Service theme 'Hope'.

Dear Lord, as we join in our service today and hear the sermon on 'Hope', we ask that our ears will be listening, our hearts will be feeling and we will take on board all that is being said. Help us to hear and understand as we encounter familiar words in our Bible readings, that we will really listen, really understand and really do what they tell us. We know that having our hope firmly in you is all we really need. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Emery Close

Monday, 30th November: Training Course.

Oh Lord, Our God, we give thanks for Jim, Joe, our wardens, technical operators and cleaners who have enabled our church to be open during these scary times and for services to be held not only in church but also online for all our church family watching services from home. Father we ask for strength and protection for Jim as he keeps abreast of all the changes happening each day and also in the church. May the course undertaken by Jim today be enlightening and useful. Amen

Please pray for the residents of The Pines