



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

Sunday <sup>8<sup>th</sup></sup> November 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**

### **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 Jenny, Audrey Street, Maureen Yardley, Maureen Platt and her niece Janine, Eleanor Smith, and Rev. David Babbington's brother, Richard and his family. Please give thanks for the continued healing of John Edlin's arm. 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**

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 services**

Following the government's recent announcement, we are sorry that our services in the church building will have to pause. We plan to open the church for private prayer on Wednesdays from 10am to midday.

Our online services will continue on our [YouTube channel](#) with a live premier every Sunday at 10am, plus the readings and sermon will still be available for those without Internet access by ringing 01922 664606. On Sunday afternoons Asian congregation will still meet on **Skype**.

#### **Giving meeting**

This was held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. The charities we will be supporting will be announced in next week's bulletin.

### **RightNow Media Recommendations**

RightNow Media is an online Christian video streaming website, it has a collection of videos including Bible Studies, Kids shows, Conferences, short videos and lots of other things. It is absolutely free. Email the office to get signed up. Throughout November we will have kids' recommendations that run alongside our all age section of our 10.00am service.

### **8<sup>th</sup> November Birth of Moses:**

- Shorts / Holy Moly / Volume 2 / Session 1 Baby Moses (7 mins)
- Popular Kids Shows / Whats in the Bible / Volume 2 / What is Salvation (first 14 minutes)

### **Remembrance Sunday**

Sadly we can't hold Remembrance Sunday laying of wreaths as planned, however An "Act of Remembrance" video will still be premiered at 11.00am on our YouTube channel following our 10.00am online service.

### **Operation Christmas Child**

Thank you so much to all who contributed items, boxes or money towards the shoeboxes this year. St Matthews were able to provide 70 boxes in total!! This is a great achievement, and many children will be blessed by them. The picture shows all the shoeboxes ready to go, and Anne has delivered to the charity. Thank you once again to everyone involved.



### **Thank You**

Iris Mallaband would like to say a big thank you to everyone for the prayers, flowers, cards, and gifts. She really appreciates everyone's love and care.

## **WALSALL NEWS**

### **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/StKu3dDM0Gk>

### **Do you need help?**

If you or someone else you care for needs support, do contact...

- NHS Volunteers by calling 0808 196 3646 (8 am to 8 pm). NHS Volunteers are people in your community who have offered to help pick up groceries, collect prescriptions and talk to you if you need support. If you – or someone you know – is alone and needs support please ring the services below:

- If you are in urgent need of food or in the financial crisis (and live in England or Wales) please call 0808 2082138 for free Monday to Friday to talk to a trained Citizens Advice Adviser. They can issue emergency food vouchers through the Trussell Trust and do a full benefits check.
- If you need someone to talk to or would like to pray with someone, please call 0300 111 0101 to speak to Premier Lifeline (open 9am to midnight every day)
- When life is difficult, Samaritans are here – day or night, 365 days a year. You can call them free on 116 123 or email them at [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

### **Making Connections Walsall**

Are you a resident of Walsall in need of support? Would you like someone to talk to? Making Connections Walsall is a friendly service for people in Walsall that aims to address loneliness and social isolation and other issues you may be facing. To discuss or make a referral contact 0121 380 6690

You will be contacted by your local hub within 3 working days. A telephone assessment of your needs will be done, or a face to face assessment if COVID guidelines allow. For more information visit [www.walsall.gov.uk/covid-19\\_information](http://www.walsall.gov.uk/covid-19_information)

### **WIDER CHURCH NEWS**

#### **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.



#### **Shaping for Mission**

The diocese's programme to respond to our serious financial challenges, and our even more serious mission challenges, is up and running in deaneries. Information about Shaping for Mission can be found in this dedicated section of our website <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/shaping-for-mission/>

For anyone who has not had the chance to attend a briefing, there is the opportunity to join an online session. It will run twice and is open to all but pre-booking is required. The first opportunity will be on Monday 23 November at midday and the second on Wednesday 13 January at 12noon. Please email [Clare Beavon](mailto:Clare.Beavon@lichfield.anglican.org) to book your place.

You can also sign up for [our fortnightly update](https://us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=acaad43ba0b06e97275112db2&id=f9cc4ac00f) (<https://us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=acaad43ba0b06e97275112db2&id=f9cc4ac00f>) offering news, resources and network-building for everyone with an interest in Shaping for Mission. Tick boxes for The Bulletin and Shaping for Mission, and 'click here to update your profile/preferences' if prompted. Or email [Richard Barrett](mailto:Richard.Barrett@lichfield.anglican.org).

#### **Diocesan Prayer Diary**

The weekly diocesan Prayer Diary has prayers for each day of the week for our schools, prisons, healthcare workers and for the diocese and global church. They are suitable for individual prayer and for online services. Prayers for the week can be accessed [here](#)

[https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/ourfaith/prayer\\_diary/prayerdiary.php](https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/ourfaith/prayer_diary/prayerdiary.php). If you would like to receive them weekly as an A4 attachment please contact [Philip Swan](#).

### **Churches to hold month of prayer as second lockdown begins**

Throughout the month, Christians will be encouraged to pray daily for a specific area of national concern, wherever they are, culminating in a collective moment of prayer at 6pm each evening, with cathedrals and churches across the country invited to ring a bell at this time.

Christians will be encouraged to follow a simple seven-day prayer cycle, praying for a specific area each day including the NHS and frontline workers, the bereaved, and those struggling with physical and mental ill-health, and for children and young people.

Prayers and other resources will be shared on social media with the hashtag #PrayerForTheNation.

The prayer call has the support of senior church leaders including Churches Together in England (CTE)

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said: "On the brink of this second lockdown we might understandably feel helpless, anxious and vulnerable. And we do what we can to halt the spread of this virus – but we can still feel powerless. Is there anything else we can do? Really do? Yes. Yes there is. We can pray. Prayer is my first response when I feel out of my depth, when I need help, when I am worried, when I am concerned for those I love. It is a gift that God gives to all - whether you are a regular pray-er or not - bring your cares and the cares of the nation to God. For God loves and hears and holds. Prayer changes things."

A selection of resources to suit Christians from across all denominations and traditions, and those exploring faith at this challenging time, will be made available on the Church of England website to guide prayer during this period.

To find out more information about the invitation to pray visit: [churchofengland.org/PrayerForTheNation](http://churchofengland.org/PrayerForTheNation).

### **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.

**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



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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)

**Website:** [www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk](http://www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk)

