



Bulletin from St Matthew's Walsall

Sunday 15th November 2020

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

**We've paused most of our church services (again!)
but we still haven't stopped.**

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

ST MATTHEW'S 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 Ann Walton's brother and sister, Jenny, Audrey Street, Maureen Yardley and Maureen Platt and her niece Janine, Eleanor Smith and Richard Babington and his family. Pray give thanks for the continued healing of John Edlin's arm.

Call to prayer

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 and you can also subscribe for a daily email with a short 2 minute prayer video from

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

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. www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/PftN%20Booklet%20spreads.pdf

Church services

Following the government's recent announcement, we are sorry that our services in the church building will have to pause. Our church is open 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**.

Christmas Card Deliveries

This year we are planning on delivering a Christmas card to every address in our parish. The card contains a 'message of hope' from Rev. Jim and an invitation to attend our Christmas services. But we can't do it without your help! Can you spare an hour or two to deliver a batch of cards?

If so, please go to www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/christmas-card-deliveries to choose which streets you'd like to deliver to or alternatively, contact Mike Ray on 01922 440410.

We are hoping that we'll be able to deliver the cards within the first two weeks of December (subject to government restrictions), and we'll drop your batch off at your house so that you don't have to collect them from church.

Disciples needed

As part of our vision for mission earlier this year the PCC agreed that we should be using our building as part of our mission strategy. One way we can do this is by being seen to be proactive in our care for the church and the surrounding area. If you feel this is something you can be involved with as part of your discipleship, the following tasks are on our current list.

Urgent work

- Oil South Porch door - requires confidence at height and strength to move a large step ladder (2 hrs)
- Oil high level doors - requires confidence using narrow spiral steps (2 hrs)
- Clean heating unit filter - requires basic DIY skills (1 hr)
- Remove visually intrusive tape. - requires patience doing a chore at floor level (2 hrs)
- Fit Memorial Plaque - requires attention to detail, quality and accuracy in measuring (15 mins)



Less urgent and highly desirable jobs

- Fitting handles to make high level access safer - requires DIY skills drilling, plugging and fitting (2 hrs)
- Moving plinth slabs - requires strength to be used in a controlled way (1 hr)
- There is an ongoing need for more volunteers for churchyard environmental work.

Please contact John Edlin if you are able to offer some time by phoning 07546 504904.

Charitable Giving meeting

Following our charitable giving meeting, this week our PCC approved the charities that we will be financially supporting for 2020. The charities are:

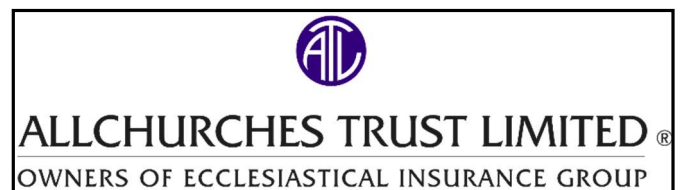
- The Church in South East Asia (2nd of 3 year commitment)
- Christian Aid (Coronavirus appeal)
- Mission Aviation Fellowship
- Love Walsall (2nd of 3 year commitment)
- Welcome churches (Walsall area)
- H2HU (Hands to help you)
- Ablewell Advice

Good news

We applied for a grant from All Churches Trust to install broadband and livestreaming equipment in St Matthew's. We're pleased to announce we have been awarded £3,000. The relevant equipment has been purchased and installed and we plan to stream services

from the church building once we are able to re-open our churches for normal services. At the moment we don't have a start date for this but thank you to the team of people who have made this possible.

If anyone would like to be trained to be able to use the new equipment, please contact Jim and we will let you know when we are able to begin the training.



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 the all age section of our 10.00am service.

15th November Burning bush / Plagues:

Younger Children - Sing Along Kids Shows / Little Worship Company / Session 4 – Alive God will be with you always (11 minutes)

- Ages 4-7 / Topsy turvy /Session 14 (first 12 minutes)
- Ages 0-3 / Character Builders / Obedience (12 minutes)

Older Children - Shorts / Old Testament Heroes / Session 6 Moses (3 minutes)

- All Kids Shows / 60 second Bible Stories / Session 5 / Moses
- Popular Kids Shows / Superbook / Session 4 (27 minutes)



WIDER CHURCH NEWS

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-formission/> 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 12 noon. Please email Clare Beavon to book your place. You can also sign up for our [fortnightly update](#) 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 update your profile/preferences if prompted or email Richard Barrett.

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. If you would like to receive them weekly as an A4 attachment please contact Philip Swan.

Pray for schools

Pray for schools longs to see every single school in the UK to be supported by regular Christian prayer. Pray for schools (https://www.prayforschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/TWTP-for-Schools_Online-v4.pdf) provide a wide variety of resources, latest news and events and ways to pray, to realise the pray for schools vision. Perhaps now more than ever, your school community may wish to become involved in the pray for schools events.

Revealing Jesus Framework

Last week saw the exciting launch of the revealing Jesus mission framework (<https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/revealingjesus>). The framework is all about helping the people in the church community to walk alongside the estimated 95% of young people who do not attend church, helping them to connect with a lifelong journey of faith and grow. More information can be found here (<https://youtu.be/3tJzBWolKSA>).

Love Black Country news

At the heart of everything we do as Love Black Country is our desire to “work together” and to help facilitate “togetherness” wherever we can. Lockdown One inhibited the ability to gather physically for each and every one of us and Lockdown Two is no different. Yet our desire at Love Black Country to gather, celebrate and imagine together remains the same.

To that end, we’re happy to announce that we’ll be hosting another virtual gathering for the region on Zoom on Sunday 22nd November from 6.00-7:15pm called “Together Apart – The Re-Gathering”. Please contact Jim to have the link and password details for the Zoom gathering.

Our first Together Apart Zoom gathering in July saw over 150 people log on to Zoom and many more watch live on Facebook. We hope those of you who joined us last time will do so again and those who were unable will be able to find the time to join us this time around.

We'll be live-streaming to Zoom from a professional studio, just to keep things interesting, and the gathering will explore a number of ways that God is moving in the region through the togetherness of His Church.

Help Transforming Communities Together this Christmas and be environmentally friendly

This year why not send your friends and family one of our digital Christmas Cards and make a small donation with the money you saved on cards and stamps. It’s great for supporting people and communities to thrive and flourish and great for the environment too!

You can choose a design, add your message, and then share the goodwill with everyone you know on Facebook, Twitter or WhatsApp. [Find out more](#)

A fresh start for families in Britain swept into debt by Covid-19

An estimated six million people in the UK have fallen behind on one or more household bill as a result of Covid-19, with the biggest increases in debt amongst the poorest households.

2 million children experienced food insecurity during the first 5 weeks of lockdown alone. Even before the pandemic, however, 6 children in every class of 30 were at risk of hunger, preventing them from being able to focus in class. Without help, these children will fall behind their classmates, limiting their future education and employment opportunities. [GET INVOLVED - #RESETTHEDEBT](#)

WALSALL NEWS

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



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

COVID-19 Testing Survey

This survey is being carried out on behalf of the councils in the West Midlands to understand more about people's views on Covid-19 testing and their experience of the testing system if they have used it. The learning from the survey will help to make sure that services are being delivered to all parts of our communities and ensure that everyone who needs a test is able to access one. This survey sits with the West Midlands Combined Authority and the data will be analysed by Public Health England. **Complete the survey**

ESOL classes continue to be delivered online



Our English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Intelligence Unit continues to work with providers to deliver online and home learning, which has been successful for both tutors and learners. If you know someone who would like to participate in ESOL classes for free, please get in touch by [sending us an email](#) or [visit our website](#).

Walsall for All Pledge

The Walsall for All pledge aims to encourage individuals, groups and organisations to sign up to promoting cohesion, equality, inclusion and integration within communities. Anyone that wants to visibly declare their support for a more integrated Walsall should sign the pledge. **Sign the Pledge**

Walsall Council Budget Consultation

Walsall Council would like to hear from residents on the draft budget, which proposes savings of £37.6m over the next two years. For further details and to complete the survey, please [click here](#)

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

Daily
Prayer

Key Contacts:

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

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

