



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

*Sunday 22<sup>nd</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 Ann Walton's brother and sister, Jenny, Audrey Street, Maureen Yardley and Maureen Platt and her niece Janine, Colin Townsend, David Armishaw, Daniel Barker's colleague's husband, Eleanor Smith and Richard Babington and his family.

#### **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](http://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.

## **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, please contact John Edlin if you are able to offer some time by phoning 07546 504904.

## **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.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> November - Red Sea**

- Older Children – Shorts / Holy Moly Vol 2 / Session 2 (7 minutes)

## **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](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)

### **Connecting Communities - Befriending and Counselling Service**

Volunteer Befriender Call out and Free Counselling Service Offer, we are pleased to be able to offer Free Counselling Therapy to residents of Walsall the project is focused on BAME Communities but not exclusively. We aim to offer a bilingual service and ask that if you know any individuals that might want to train as a Befriender then please pass on our details and we can train them to fulfil the role. The volunteer will be given training, work experience, an Enhanced DBS check, an opportunity to support a person in need and to be able to contribute to the normalisation of life post Covid 19 Can you please distribute this information amongst your networks? Our Befriending Service is designed to be delivered within the restrictions that we all asked to follow. Combating Isolation and Mental Health Issues are a major problem and are affecting more and more people. If you or your organisation works with clients who might benefit from our support services please feel free to contact us and we will set up a Referral Gateway for your organisation. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Rev. Jim for an application form. For more information, please contact [info@bc-innovate.co.uk](mailto:info@bc-innovate.co.uk).

### **TCT - COVID Cash Course**

*Learn How To Help Your Community This Christmas (FINAL SESSIONS)* Transforming Communities Together have a final few FREE COVID Cash Course sessions before the end of 2020, to help you maximize the support already on offer:

- Thursday 19 November, 12:30-15:00
- Tuesday 24 November, 10:00-12:30
- Thursday 3 December, 18:30-21:00
- Tuesday 8 December, 10:00-12:30
- Tuesday 15 December, 12:30-15:00

These online webinar sessions will be covering everything from general entitlements, Universal Credit, budgeting, government and charitable grants, money strategies for making it through these next few months, help with bills, debt and loan support. To learn more about COVID Cash Course, how it works and to book for a session – visit <https://tctogether.org.uk/areas-of-work/covid-cash>

*If you did attend previously and found your initial session useful, it would be fantastic if you could complete this quick survey! We are a small charity and this survey helps us measure our impact: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CovidCashFollowupSurvey/>*

## **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-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@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk) 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@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk).

### **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](mailto:philip.swan@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk).

### **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)

