

St matthews church

Prayer Diary



December 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, partial and sincere.(James 3:17)



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Tuesday 1st December: Core Team Meeting

Dear Father, we pray today for all those attending this meeting. Please bless all who take part and give them a clear vision of all you wish them to achieve in your name. We thank you that we are always able to talk to you in prayer and that in our busy lives you are never too busy to listen to us and guide us in any decisions we have to make. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Lysways Street

Wednesday 2nd December: Alpha

Holy Father, we ask for your blessing on each person who has joined in our Alpha Course. We pray that all who have taken part will still be eager to learn more about you and that their faith is growing. Help them to find the answers they seek and, by reading the bible regularly and praying, come to know you better and how important you can be in their lives. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of New Hall Street

Thursday 3rd December: Online Love Walsall Breakfast Meeting

Dear Father, we ask for your blessing on each member of the Love Walsall Breakfast Group who joins 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. We also ask for your blessing on New Wine church leaders network meeting that is taking place today. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Orlando Close

Friday 4th December: Our Future

Dear Lord, as we come to the end of our second period of lockdown, we thank you that we are now allowed to travel more and many businesses are now being allowed to open. We are all looking forward to meeting up with our families over Christmas and hope that this will still be possible. When we are out, we will still have to keep our distance and wear masks but at least life will return to the new

'normal'. We thank you for the scientists all over the world who are working on finding a vaccine to treat Covid and with the news that several vaccines are proving to be effective, we are all so hopeful of an end to the current pandemic. We pray that with your continued help and blessing these vaccines will be available to all countries, especially the poorer ones and those without a free health service, so that the whole world may be able to become Covid free. Amen
Please pray for the residents of Bath Street

Saturday 5th December: Prayer

Dear Lord, help us to remember what a difference it can make when we treat our time with you as a priority. Into your hands we can place our worries and cares, into your wisdom we can place our path and direction and into your love we can place our lives. Please guide us as we go about our daily lives. Amen
Please pray for the residents of Hanch Place

Sunday 6th December: Second Sunday in Advent.

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 during this Covid pandemic, 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 give and receive gifts. 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 Dandy's Walk

Monday 7th December: Standing Committee Meeting

Dear Lord, we pray for all those taking part in the Standing Committee Meeting tonight and ask that you be with them as they meet to plan ahead for St Matthew's in 2021. In these different times, we do not know what next year will bring but we know that with your help anything is possible and that no obstacle insurmountable. Please give them your wisdom and may any decisions they make be in accordance with your will. We thank you Lord for their dedication. Help us to appreciate their commitment and the time they give up to help run our church. Amen.
Please pray for the residents of Barleyfields Road

Tuesday 8th December: Staff Team Meeting

Lord Jesus, we know that you are always watching over us and care so much about us. Please especially be with those who are involved in the Staff Meeting tonight as they seek to discuss and plan how to deal with all that is happening at St Matthew's and in our area under the current restrictions. We all lead such busy lives but it is very important that we make time to plan and help others when they need our assistance and friendship. Amen
Please pray for the residents of Hope Street

Wednesday, 9th. December: Alpha

Loving Father, we pray for those who have been following the Alpha course as it comes towards the final session. We ask you to be with the leaders and supporters of this course that through prayer and discussion they have been able to reveal more about you and your love for us all. We pray that those attending will find the answers they are seeking and that their lives will be enriched by coming to know you better. Amen
Please pray for the residents of St Michael's Street

Thursday, 10th. December: Blue Coat Academy Governors.

Father, as this difficult year draws towards an end we give thanks for the staff, teaching and non teaching, at Blue Coat Academy. While striving to teach and support the young people who attend the school they have put themselves at daily risk. We pray dear Lord for today's meeting of the Academy Governors too. Please guide them in their deliberations, so that they may make wise and godly decisions concerning the running of the school going forward into 2021. Amen
Please pray for the residents of Bath Road

Friday, 11th. December: Children and Youth Groups.

Father, we pray for all the children and young adults whose activities linked to St Matthew's have been suspended over the past months. We think of those who attended after school clubs from the infants and junior schools, giving them the opportunity through play and activities to learn about the life of Jesus. We pray for those who are members of JCU and Big Youth that have not been able to meet in their normal weekly way, that their faith has stayed strong. We also give thanks for the work that Ben has been doing to keep links with these groups and across Walsall, to generate the next generation of young Christians. Amen
Please pray for the residents of Little London

Saturday, 12th. December: Preparing for Christmas.

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise man I would do my part. Yet what can I give him – give my heart

Dear Lord, amidst all the muted celebrations this year may we respond anew to the true gift you gave us in Jesus. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Sandwell Street

Sunday, 13th. December: 3rd Sunday in Advent.

God of light and might, bring to our world a new beginning, a fresh start to your people. May we rejoice in all that lies ahead as we move from darkness into light, from repentance to forgiveness, from despair to hope. Help us to be prepared for change in ourselves and in your Church, for now and forever. Amen

Please pray for the residents of West Bromwich Street

Monday, 14th. December: Morning Prayer.

Dear Father, we pray for and with Jim and Joe as they lead prayer this morning for your people of St Matthew's, Walsall and across the world.

Prayer Arrow. God of purpose, show us your will.

God of mission, send us out to serve. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Caldmore Green

Tuesday, 15th. December: Church Leaders Across Walsall.

Father, you have blessed us with many leaders from different styles of worship across Walsall. Help us to reach out to our neighbouring churches, listening and learning from them, showing and sharing their fellowship and joining together on mission projects in our community and beyond. May the focus be local but the vision much wider, as your Son's was. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Caldmore Road

Wednesday, 16th. December: Alpha

Thank you so much Lord for the Alpha course and all who have attended. As it ends today, we ask that they have been challenged by what has been said and by the love that has been shown and may we as a church continue to support them over the weeks and months ahead as they respond to the message and reflect on their relationship with you. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Grove Terrace

Thursday, 17th December: Ablewell Advice and Hands to Help You

Dear Lord, we praise you for the wonderful work of these two charities in the town. We thank you so much for the dedication and commitment of the staff and volunteers and the support they show to all they serve. We pray especially for them at this time of great need and ask they will be given the wisdom and strength they require to help all who call on their services. Amen
Please pray for the residents of New Street

Friday, 18th December: End of term

Dear Lord, as schools across the town finish this most unusual and testing of Autumn terms, we thank you for having brought them safely through. We thank you too for all the hard work the staff have put into creating a safe teaching environment and we ask that they and the pupils have a good rest over the next couple of weeks. Amen
Please pray for the residents of Hill Street

Saturday, 19th December: Obedience

'An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said 'Do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him'

Thank you dear God, for the example of obedience that Joseph showed. When we too have doubts or uncertainties about what we should do, we ask that, like him, we will listen to you and follow your guidance. Amen
Please pray for the residents of St Matthew's Close

Sunday, 20th December: Today's Services

Although our services are to be different this year, we pray for the many who may be watching on line who do not usually attend. We ask that, while they may well know the hymns and readings so well, they may be touched anew by what they see and hear, and want to move closer to you and deepen their faith. Amen
Please pray for the residents of Upper Rushall Street

Monday, 21st December: Those away from home

'So Joseph got up, took Jesus and his mother during the night and left for Egypt'

We pray for all this Christmas for all who have had to leave their homes over the last year, whether because of war, natural disasters, economics or other troubles. You Lord too had to flee persecution and so know the distress and hardship they experience. Please let them feel the peace that is shown through Christmas so may they be able to live without fear but face the future with hope. Amen
Please pray for the residents of Dudley Street

Tuesday, 22nd December: The Christmas gift for all

'And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and said 'Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy'

We rejoice dear Lord that your gift at Christmas was for all – not just the rich, the religious and the academic but also the poor, those who are not familiar with faiths, and those with less education. May we always remember that the message you want us to pass on and the love you want us to show is for everyone, no matter their background, race or belief. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Birmingham Road

Wednesday, 23rd December: Searching for the Christ

'Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked 'Where is the one who has been born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him'

Amidst all the wrappings and excitement, it is so easy to forget the reason for the celebrations. We pray dear Lord that like the Magi we too will actively search out the Christ-child this Christmas, and like them we will worship and offer ourselves afresh. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Jesson Close

Thursday, 24th December: Christmas Eve.

Father this year has been one full of challenges, upheaval and worry and may result in our Christmas celebrations taking a completely different form from other years. We pray that it will give us time to reflect and remember others who are not as fortunate as ourselves and may spend every year without family or loved ones. May this time be one of thankfulness for all that we do have. Amen

Please pray for Rev Jim, Priscilla and family.

Friday, 25th December: The Wonder of Your Presence. (The Prayer Trust)

Your birth is a sign of new hope, a new beginning for us all, a sign that you wish to draw a line under our past failings, that you are always ready to forgive, always there to take away the darkness in our world. May the wonder of your presence, the thought of your being with us light up our hearts and minds, scattering the darkness to bring us the blessing of your love this Christmas and always. Amen
Please pray for the residents of Freer Street

Saturday, 26th December: Sharing Together.

Dear Lord, we ask for your protection when we are out and about. Help us to trust in your loving care so that we may stay alert from all sources of danger without becoming so obsessed about possible risks that we can no longer enjoy the company of others. May we remember that you are with us always. Amen
Please pray for the residents of Freer Street

Sunday, 27th December: Bless The Children.

Dear Lord, we pray for children everywhere but especially for all those in our families and our St Matthew's family. We ask that you will keep them in your loving care, watch over them that they will not lose their way but through all the trials of life stay firm in their love and faith in you. We pray that it will soon be time for us to share fun and laughter again in our many groups. Amen
Please pray for the residents of Small Street

Monday, 28th December: May we Stand Firm.

Father may we always stand firm in our love for you and encourage others to come and get to know you also. During a year that has brought many trials and tribulations we give thanks that you have kept us from despair. Although many people have turned away from you, we thank you for the opportunity we have had to reach out via the internet while our church doors have had to stay closed. Amen

Tuesday, 29th December: Thank You Lord.

We give thanks Father for all the times this year when we have felt overwhelmed by the news, the virus, restrictions and have felt your loving presence guiding us through each day. We thank you for reminding us that you are always with us in good and bad times. We thank you for the wonderful changing seasons, the amazing colours and landscapes as autumn changes to winter. May this be a reminder to us of You our wonderful loving God. Amen
Please pray for the residents of Small Street

Wednesday, 30th December: Thank you.

Thank you Father for our Rector Jim for all his energy, dedication and hard work in keeping St Matthew's running either by Zoom meetings, on line services, services in church plus all the other commitments he has and does through his love for you. We also give thanks to our Curate Joe, our wardens, to the people who have kept the church clean and to those who ensured the safety of people attending church when it is open. Thank you also to everyone who has made our on line services available and included something for everyone. Amen
Please pray for the residents of Cambridge Street

Thursday, 31st December: Hopefulness for the New Year.

Dear Father, we pray for the New Year to be one of renewed behaviour, one that will show us to enjoy the things we have, the simple things in life that we so often take for granted. As we look back over this last year we pray that lessons will have been learnt, how we need to appreciate all that we have, our lives, our health, our family, our friends. We pray that this year a vaccine for Covid will become available and be successful, for all countries to care for one another and for us to remember we are all your people. Amen
Please pray for your families, friends and neighbours.