



Bulletin from St Matthew's Walsall

Sunday 13th December 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 Maureen Yardley and her family, Brian, Joan Cartridge's daughter in law Helen. Please pray for the family and friends of Andrew Taylor, in particular his parents, partner and children.

Church Services

Following the lifting of restrictions as we come out of the national lockdown, we will be reverting back to the service pattern that we had in place before November.

The weekly pattern is:

Sunday 8.45am Traditional Communion Service

10.00am Online Service (on YouTube)

4.00pm Asian Congregation Service (on Skype)

Wednesday 10.00am Mid-week Communion Service

Christmas Services

Christmas is fast approaching and here are all the details of our in-person and online services that we're holding this year. You are warmly invited to join us for any of them.

- **Carol Service** | Sunday 20th December 6pm | Online on YouTube
- **Nativity Service** | Christmas Eve 5pm | Online on YouTube
- **Midnight Communion** | Christmas Eve 11:15pm | In-person | Ticketed - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/127123117667>
- **Christmas Day Holy Communion** | Christmas Day 8:45am | In-person | Ticketed - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/127123980247>
- **Christmas Day All Age Service** | Christmas Day 10am | Online on YouTube

In-person Services - There are still some tickets available for our other in-person Christmas services - but they are going fast, so book now to avoid disappointment! The services that need to be pre-booked are the 11.15pm Christmas Eve Midnight Communion and 8.45am Christmas Day Holy Communion. Tickets can be booked online or by contacting Rev Jim.

Online Services - All of our online services will be premiered on our YouTube channel - www.youtube.com/stmatthewswalsall

Regular Services - Our regular Sunday services (8:45am in church, 10am online) and Wednesday services (10am in church) will still be taking place as normal (with the exception of Wednesday 30th December), and you don't need to book tickets for these in-person services.

Coronavirus Restrictions - All of our in-person services mentioned above are subject to government restrictions, so keep an eye on our website and future communications for any changes. Don't forget to wear a face covering when in our church building.

Get sharing! Please let your family, friends and neighbours know about our Christmas services and invite them along. After a tough year, let's pray that Christmas brings comfort and joy to a world that is weary and hurting.

We look forward to seeing you this Christmas!

Online Nativity Service

If people would like to hear and learn the songs in advance of our online nativity service, these can be found at: <http://www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/nativity-music/>. The service will be broadcast on our St Matthew's Walsall YouTube channel at 5pm on Christmas Eve. Jim has already had a sneak peak of the service and it looks great!

Online Christingle and other Christmas services

If you didn't manage to get a ticket for our Christingle, the Church of England are offering a National Christingle Service on the same day...

The Church of England National Christingle service for The Children's Society is on Sunday 13 December, 9am. The service will be streamed onto the Church of England's Facebook and YouTube accounts.

Christmas Office Closure

The Church Office will close at the end of the working day on Thursday 17th December, and will reopen in the New Year on Wednesday 6th January. There will be a "Christmas and New Year" bulletin sent out for Sunday 20th, and then the next Bulletin will be Sunday 10th January. If you have any notices to include please get in contact with the office before Thursday 17th December.

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.

13 December: (Joseph)

- Kids / Ages 11+ / Kingstone / The Christ / Session 2 - The Announcement (7 mins) (I know it's in the 11+ but I reckon its suitable for 8+)

Breakfast Packs for Bluecoat Schools

Please help us to raise funds to provide breakfast packs to Blue Coat families that need them during the Christmas holiday. Walsall has one of the highest rates of child poverty in the country, and this has only been made worse by the impact of the pandemic. After high profile campaigns by the likes of Marcus Rashford, the government are now issuing some vouchers to families in receipt of free school meals (FSM). The amounts are small, and it would be incredible if we could help these families get an extra meal on the table each day over the Christmas holidays to help those vouchers spread further. Read more and donate: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/breakfast-packs-for-blue-coat-schools?fbclid=IwAR23ZlAd5fdWWNT-dYOjqlUhJASIAah-871lof5BNbo1oppW3gfHUXBjHUM>

Baby Massage

The next baby massage course at the church centre will start on Monday 11th January at 1.00-2.30 pm. It's suitable for babies up to one and their carers and the 5 week course costs £30. Contact Priscilla on 07984 626637 for more information.

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/>). You can also sign up for our fortnightly update offering news, resources and network-building for everyone with an interest in Shaping for Mission.

Living in Love and Faith

The Church of England's Living in Love and Faith teaching and learning resources, exploring questions of human identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage, are now available. The extensive resources draw together the bible, theology, science and history with real-life stories. Commissioned by the House of

Bishops, they include a book, a series of films and podcasts and a course for discussion groups. They are intended to initiate a process of whole Church learning and engagement in 2021 that will contribute to the discernment of a way forward in relation to questions of human identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. See also this [news story](https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/news/living-in-love-and-faith-resources-published.php) on our website: <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/news/living-in-love-and-faith-resources-published.php>

COVID Cash Courses

COVID Cash Recovery is a free 2-hour course which upskills churches, charities and community workers to help individuals recover from the financial problems that have arisen due to the coronavirus. The information and signposting course covers general entitlements, rights, budgeting, Government and charitable grants, help with bills, loans, debt and money strategies to get through the next few months. Find out more and book your place on a course in November or December on the [TCT website](https://tctogether.org.uk/areas-of-work/covid-cash). <https://tctogether.org.uk/areas-of-work/covid-cash>

Faith & Science in the local Church

The Faraday Institute is hosting a two-day online workshop for lay and ordained leaders covering topics including AI, bioethics, creation care and response to disasters on 8/9 January.

Stoke Crisis Pregnancy Counselling

A 10-session training course in 2021 for Christians who want to support those making pregnancy decisions begins in February. To find out more email Revd Simon Tomkins.

WALSALL NEWS

Let It Be Easy – Wellbeing Event

Black Country Innovate CIC has organised a well-being and empowerment webinar aimed at front line workers, key workers and volunteers. This webinar will be taking place on Thursday 17th December 2020, between 10am - 11am, to attend you must register via the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/y3pyt3o3>

Local Outbreak Engagement Board

The next online meeting of Walsall's Local Outbreak Engagement Board will be held tomorrow (Thursday 3 December) at 4pm and will be livestreamed on YouTube for members of the public to view. A number of questions for the board about the COVID-19 response in Walsall have been received and these will be addressed at the meeting. Submission of public questions for this meeting is now closed.

The Local Outbreak Engagement Board meets regularly as part of our coordinated approach to preventing and managing outbreaks of COVID-19 in the borough. The board is chaired by the council cabinet member for health and wellbeing and members include the director of public health and representatives from the NHS, police and One Walsall. For more information, to access documents for tomorrow's meeting or to submit a question for when the board meets again on 19 January 2021, [please see our website](#).

Let's Talk Loneliness

Every day up to Christmas the UK Government Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) will be sharing inspiring stories, advice and simple things you can do to help ease feelings of loneliness. [Visit the Let's Talk Loneliness website](#) and stay connected this winter.



Business grants

In addition to the announced government business grant scheme to cover the four weeks of national lockdown for business mandated to close, the government has announced a scheme for businesses that are either still mandated to close or, if open, are dramatically affected by the restrictions due to the tier that Walsall has been placed into. Further details on tier grants and the recently announced 'Wet Pub' Grant will be published when available. [Latest information and updates will be published on our website](#).



Your local community response to COVID-19 Coronavirus

A friendly service for older or vulnerable people and families



Making Connections Walsall

Are you a Walsall resident in need of support? There are lots of groups, organisations and clubs in Walsall which can support the health and wellbeing of local people. However, people often don't know about them. Making Connections Walsall referrals are processed by the West Midlands Fire Service who will connect you to your local hub organisation to discuss services available in your area to support you. Making Connections Walsall is available to all Walsall residents. To discuss or make a referral, please contact: 0121 380 6690. You will be contacted by your local hub within three working days. For more information, please see our website.

New radicalisation support website launched

A new safeguarding website launched this week, aimed at family and friends to encourage them to share concerns that a friend or loved one might be vulnerable to radicalisation.

<http://www.actearly.uk> Research shows that Family and friends are best placed to spot the signs that someone might be vulnerable to radicalisation. We want them to ACT early so their vulnerable friend or loved one can get the support they need before the situation escalates into something more serious. This campaign is even more important than ever in the current pandemic climate where we have seen a decline in Prevent referrals during lockdown. Recent studies have found that the public are unsure of signs to look out for and who to turn to when they have concerns.

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



Key Contacts:

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

Lay 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

