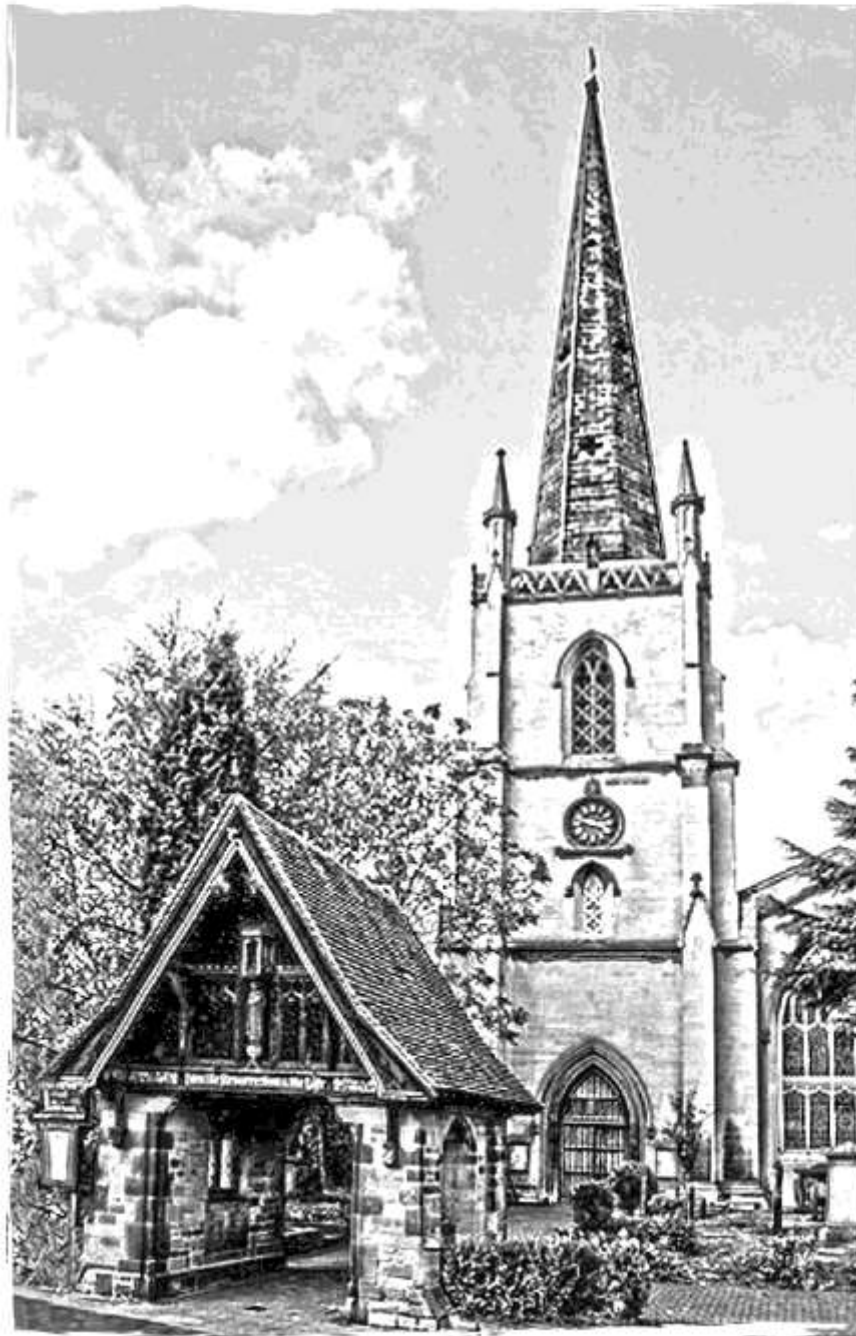
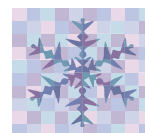


St matthews church

Prayer Diary



January 2021



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, impartial and sincere.(James 3:17)



Friday, 1st January: New Year

Dear Father, today as a new year commences, we pray that 2021 will be a year of hope and happiness after all the suffering of 2020. We are all so hopeful of an end to the current pandemic and pray that the new vaccines will work so that life can return to normal. 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. We also pray for all those starting the year with burdens or worries and ask that they will find refreshment, peace and the strength to continue with you beside them. Please give us the courage to trust you in all that we do. Amen
Please pray for the residents of Clews Close

Saturday, 2nd January: Local Support Groups

Holy Father, we pray today for your guidance and help for all those who are facing a difficult time, especially those who are learning to cope with the changing restrictions placed upon us during this prolonged pandemic. We thank you for the dedication and willingness of the many members of our local community who are prepared to help by collecting prescriptions, shopping etc for those unable to do it themselves. There are so many small acts of kindness, with neighbours looking out for each other and other people helping strangers at their time of need. Help to become a more caring society, not just in times of trouble but every day. Amen.
Please pray for the residents of Bescot Street

Sunday, 3rd January: St Matthew's Services

Holy Father, we pray for all those who attend our communion service today, or join us in our online 10am service. Let the peace of being in your presence surround them. Let the hurry and worry of life fall away from them. We are all your children and know you love us and care for us. You are here with us now and always. Help us to speak to you thoughtfully and to allow time for you to speak to us. Lord, you know how busy we are and if we forget you, we know that you will not forget us. Amen.
Please pray for the residents of Earl Street

Monday, 4th January: Blue Coat Academy Staff Service

Dear Father, today we thank you for all our Blue Coat Schools and for the important part they play in the life of our community and church. As the staff join together with you, before what will be another difficult term, we pray that you will be with each one of them and give them all the strength and courage that they will need in the weeks ahead. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Wednesbury Road

Tuesday, 5th January: Doing the Impossible.

Dear Lord, we know that with you beside us anything is possible. We thank you for the faiths of Elizabeth and Mary as they were told by the angel Gabriel that they were to bear children. Help us not to doubt your ability to do great things through us and to put our complete trust in you and to listen to you when you seek to direct our lives onto a path you wish us to follow.

Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Little Newport Street

Wednesday, 6th January: Love Black Country Breakfast 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 this breakfast meetin as they seek to discuss and plan how to deal with all that is happening in our region and how to bring hope to those who need help and encouragement. 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, especially in these uncertain times. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Sister Dora Gardens

Thursday, 7th January: Online Love Walsall Breakfast Meeting

Dear Father, we ask you to be with all who join 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 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. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Little Caldmore

Friday, 8th January: Blue Coat Festival Meeting/Jim's talk at Rotary

Lord Jesus, each year the Festival is a showcase for the work that goes on in these schools, and as people attend the exhibition, it brings new people into our church. Please be with all those involved in planning this festival and fill them with all the enthusiasm, inspiration and energy they will need at this time. We also pray that Jim's talk at the Rotary Club will be well received and that all who attend will feel they want to be part of St Matthew's. Amen
Please pray for the residents of Hayden Sander Square

Saturday, 9th January: Health and Pastoral Healing.

Loving Lord, we pray for those who are in urgent need of our prayers at this time. For the sick: bring them healing; for the depressed: bring them hope; for the bereaved: bring them comfort. We ask that in the depths of suffering and the process of recovery they will find the warmth of caring love, from family, friends, neighbours and above all from your. Amen
Please pray for the residents of Buckle Close

Sunday, 10th January: Worship.

Loving Father, we come to worship you today in our homes and in church if possible. We give praise and thanks that you sent your son that first Christmas and pray that we can continue to grow in your love and shine that love out for others to see. Amen
Please pray for the residents of Bridge Street

Monday, 11th January: Leadership Team Meeting.

Heavenly Father, we know that you care so much for each of us and how important we all are to you. Help us to show this same care and concern for others, accepting them just as they are without passing judgment. Please be with all the members of the Leadership Team as they meet tonight. We thank you for their commitment and dedication to St Matthew's. Amen.
Please pray for the residents of Ablewell Street

Tuesday, 12th January: Coronavirus Team Meeting.

Father, as this group was formed back in 2020 it was seen as a short term committee to address the organisation of St Matthew's church due to the identification of this virus. We pray you will be with this group as they continue to change and adapt church life with guidance sent out by the Church of England based on medical advice. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Springhill Road

Wednesday, 13th. January: Clergy Chapter.

Father, we pray that you will be with Jim as he meets with the other clergy from the largest churches. We ask that they will support and encourage each other in their ministry both practically and spiritually and may they all return to their congregations refreshed and empowered to do your work. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Ridgewood Close

Thursday, 14th. January: Personal Committee.

Father, may your presence and guidance be felt by those on this personal committee as they make decisions that may affect those who are employed by the church. The continuing spread of the Covid virus makes working conditions so difficult for so many. Give us hope, we pray. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Draymans Close

Friday, 15th. January: Storms of Life.

Lord as we go through our daily lives help us to glorify you and not ourselves when we open our mouths. Thank you that your faithful presence and love is enduring throughout all the storms of life. We pray that we may stay strong in the knowledge that you love us and know us inside out. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Highgate Close

Saturday, 16th January: Tomorrow's services

Dear Lord, we rejoice that we live in a country where we are free to meet in worship. May tomorrow's services, whether in church or on line, be special times where your message is proclaimed, your love is shown, and your people inspired. May the hearts of all who attend or listen in be touched by the good news that is at the heart of our fellowship and be drawn to you.

Amen

Please pray for the residents of Highgate Drive

Sunday, 17th January: Youth work in the town

As Ben goes to meetings of Black Country Next Gen and Walsall Youth and Kids Worker Hub tomorrow, we thank you Lord for the Christian youth work in this town as it provides the children and young people with Christian teaching and guidance in enjoyable and fun settings. May all who lead be

sensitive to the many pressures that children today are under and may they be able to respond and support with sensitivity and compassion. Amen
Please pray for the residents of Canute Close

Monday, 18th January: Finance Committee

We give thanks for the many people who give so selflessly of their time, talents and money to St Matthew's, as through their generosity our fellowship can continue to do its wonderful work. When the finance committee meets today to discuss the financial aspects of our church's life, we pray its members will be given the vision to spend the money wisely and to your glory. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Little Gorway

Tuesday 19th January: The environment

Lord, you have put us in a beautiful, beautiful world, but we are sorry that as a society, as a church and as individuals we have not looked after it as well as we should. As we start to think more earnestly about how St Matthews' can become 'greener', we pray that you will direct our thoughts and move our hearts, so that we may develop a responsible, Bible-based attitude to your creation. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Lincoln Road

Wednesday, 20th January: Federation Curriculum Committee

Thank you for the dedication and commitment of all those who are in positions of leadership at the Federation, whether they be staff or governors and trustees. In tonight's meeting and indeed in the various other key meetings that are held, may they be able to keep their focus on the well being of the children and the delivery of top-class education in a truly Christian context. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Parklands Gardens

Thursday, 21st January: New Wine Network Leaders Meeting

Please be with all involved in this meeting today. New Wine has been such a source of blessings over the years and we pray that looking forward the leaders will be able to discern your will and see how it can continue to be as focussed and relevant as ever. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Christ Church Grove

Friday 22nd January: St Paul's & St Luke's

We pray dear Lord that you will be with these two fellowships as they look for a replacement for Mark Kinder, who left them as their vicar in April. Please strengthen and guide those who are running the churches in the meantime, that they may have the wisdom and the vision to lead the congregations forward. And we pray too that you will be preparing the heart of the person you have chosen to be their next minister: may he or she be open to your calling and have the faith and commitment to step forward. Amen
Please pray for the residents of Stablewood Grove

Saturday, 23rd January: Overseas dioceses

As the pandemic continues we remember the dioceses in Germany, Canada, Southern Africa and Malaysia that are linked with our own. Give wisdom to all their bishops, clergy and congregations so then can meet the needs of their people at this difficult time with love and sensitivity. Amen
Please pray for the residents of Beaconsfield Court

Sunday, 24th January: Tough Times.

Dear Lord, as we continue to tread with caution through this month we know that you never leave us and walk with us always, even carrying us through troubled times. With this in mind we know we can look to the future with confidence that things will improve. Help us to be quick to confess our own faults, patient with others and always mindful of your gracious work in all of us. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Loriners Grove

Monday, 25th January: PCC Meeting

Father we bring before you this meeting tonight and ask that you will guide all those present. Thank you loving Lord for all the people who serve on the PCC, that you have called them to serve in this way. We pray that you will continue to equip and strengthen them as they continue to do their best in obeying your commands. Amen

Please pray for the students on Walsall Campus, Wolverhampton University.

Tuesday, 26th January: Church Centre.

We bring before you Adrian, Kirsten and our church centre. We pray that the time for this building to throw open its doors to the local community once again will soon be upon us. We pray for Adrian and Kirsten as they work diligently to keep the centre safe but with the foresight as to when it may be fully functional again and thank them for their hard work in keeping so many people connected. We pray for all the people who once attended the many activities held there and pray that it will soon be able to embrace the community once more. Amen

Please pray for the residents of your road and neighbours.

Wednesday, 27th January: Federation Governors Meeting.

Father, we know you are a constant source of encouragement and pray for all the people attending this meeting today that they will feel your presence receive your encouragement and stand strong for you. As decisions are made for the success of the school and the students, we pray for your guidance and foresight to be at the very front of all matters arising. Amen

Please pray for the residents of George Street

Thursday, 28th January: Vicars of large Churches Network Meeting.

Father, we give thanks for the encouragement that you have poured into the lives of all the clergy far and wide. We pray for all those attending this meeting that your Holy Spirit will be evident in their discussions as they look to spread your word. Help them to share encouragement with one another and out to one and all. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Goodall Street

Friday, 29th January: Quiet Times with God.

Loving heavenly Father, thank you that you love meeting with us and for the way in which you nourish and strengthen our lives day by day. Amidst all the pressures of life help us to protect our special times with you, may we always find time to read your words and have time not only to sit and pray but also to listen. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Newport Street

Saturday, 30th January: Kick Start Scheme.

Lord, we pray for the Government's kick start scheme designed to help unemployed people into the work place. After all the pain of businesses and job opportunities being lost during the pandemic we pray that this will be a new opening and a glimmer of light. We pray especially for those coming to start at St Matthew's, may they find a welcome, friendship and hope. Amen
Please pray for the residents of Bradford Street

Sunday, 31st January: Day of Rest.

Father, thank you that you have designed one day each week to strengthen and renew us. In our busy society help us to look after this special day and use it wisely. We pray for all those who have to work on Sunday that they will have another day during the week where they can recharge their batteries and come alongside with you. Amen
Please pray for the residents of Bradford Lane