



**Verse for the year:**  
“When your steps are guided by the Lord and you delight in his way, though you stumble, you shall not fall headlong, for the Lord holds you fast by the hand.”  
Psalm 37: 23-24

**Bulletin from St Matthew’s Walsall**  
***Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021***

***Church News***

**Prayer requests** Please pray for those known to you and the wider church who are struggling at this time. Please also remember in your prayers Rob Bradburn; Marian Masters; Viv’s nephew Graham in Canada; Paula; Kennard; Mark; Agnieszka; and Ian. Please pray for the family and friends of Meg Caine. Please remember everyone who belongs to St Matthews – whatever life is giving them at present that our loving Lord will be with them giving them strength and the ability to cope. Continue to pray for all who have Covid or are recovering from Covid.

**Funeral of Meg Caine** This will take place on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April**. Unfortunately, numbers are severely limited due to the Coronavirus restrictions. However we plan to broadcast the service via zoom for those who are unable to be there. Please contact Jim for the zoom details.

**Electoral Roll Deadline Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April**. We are revising our Electoral Roll from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April. If you are not already on the electoral roll or have moved in the last year, please fill out the form online at <https://stmatthewswalsall.churchcenter.com/people/forms/236672>. Alternatively, there is a paper signup sheet in church. If you are not sure whether you are on the electoral roll, contact Jim. To be on the electoral roll you must make a declaration to say that you are committed to the church. If you are struggling to answer the question about whether you live in the parish, go to <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/> and type in your postcode and it will tell you what parish you live in.

**Church Services** Our **8.45am service** in church are back up and running. This will run alongside our current **10.00am service** online at our St Matthew’s Walsall YouTube channel and you can also listen to our Bible readings and sermon from this service by phoning our “dial a service” number 01922 664 606. Calls are charged at the normal rates. Asian Congregation still meet via **Skype at 4.00pm** on Sundays.

**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 January we will have kids’ recommendations that run alongside our all age section of our 10.00am service.

**Jesus appears to his disciples RightNow Media (18<sup>th</sup> April)**

- Popular Kids Shows / Friends and Heros / Series 3/ Session 13 (26 minutes)

**Annual Church meeting – Advance notice** The Annual Church meeting will now take place on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021**. The PCC will meet the week before on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May. This will allow the PCC to meet and approve the audited financial report prior to presenting it to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) also known as the AGM.

**April Prayer Diary** This is now available online at <https://www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/April-2021-prayer-diary.pdf> or contact the office for a print copy.

### **A Roadmap to re-opening the church (Hopefully)**

This broadly follows the steps outlined by the government.

- Step 1b**      **Palm Sunday 28th March** – 8.45am service restarts
  - Step 2**      **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April** - restart the midweek 10am service  
                  **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May** - Begin a “re-engaging with children” service
  - Step 3**      Start to “test” live streaming the 8.45am service in preparation for step 4
  - Step 4**      **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June** - restart the 10.45am service & move to online streaming rather than recording for YouTube
  - Step 5**      **September** – consider restarting separate 8.00am BCP and 9.00am CW service
- Obviously, this needs to remain flexible and many other things are also being discussed but this represents our current planning.

**Opening up Children’s Church** As lockdown eases, the children will be following the church’s roadmap to recovery, which we hope will be as follows:

- **From Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April** – The children’s slot in the online services will be simplified with a children’s Bible story and prayer rhyme. The weekly activity sheets and RightNow Media suggestions will continue and can be found in the weekly emails, bulletin, and resources section of the church website.
- **From Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May** – A new short, fortnightly children’s service, Jesus and Me (or JAM), will start at 9.30 am in church. It will be aimed at families with children under 11 and include action songs, Bible stories, and family activities. More information and invitations to this will follow shortly.
- **From Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June** – When the 10.45 am service restarts, (as the government reaches step 4 of its roadmap to recovery) Children’s Church will also resume with groups for all ages. This is the earliest Sunday that this will begin.



### **You and your children can get involved by**

- Watching the online service together and joining in with the songs and prayers
- Watching the suggested RightNow Media videos together
- Singing and dancing along to the Coronavirus Keep Fit videos with Rev Jim on our YouTube channel
- Downloading and using the weekly children’s activity sheets
- Having a go at the suggested children’s activities each week
- Sharing photos and videos of your child doing Children’s Church activities on our social media pages
- Volunteering to participate in the online services e.g. by recording your child saying the Lord’s prayer or prayer rhyme
- Coming along to JAM when it starts
- Returning to Children’s Church when it restarts

If you or your children would like to be involved in recording the Lord’s prayer or prayer rhyme for a future online service, please contact Priscilla at [priscillatroad@btinternet.com](mailto:priscillatroad@btinternet.com) or on 07984 626637. If you need help with recording, please contact Jim, who can come and record you on your doorstep.

**Baby Massage** A new baby massage class will start on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April** at 1.00 – 2.30 pm in the Church Centre. The 5 week course costs £30 and is suitable for babies under one and their carers. Baby massage can help with bonding, relaxation, and pain relief. For more information and to book a place, please contact Priscilla at [priscilla.meandmybaby@gmail.com](mailto:priscilla.meandmybaby@gmail.com) or on 07984 626637.

## Wider Church News



**VaccinAid** The Church of England is supporting the 'VaccinAid' campaign which aims to help fund the biggest vaccination drive in history. It is being led by UNICEF. The campaign offers people a practical way to give thanks for their Covid-19 vaccination, by making a voluntary donation to help pay for jobs for other people around the world. It aims to help fund almost two billion vaccines for health workers and the most high risk and vulnerable people on our planet. Archbishop Justin Welby has encouraged people and congregations to donate and to spread the word in the community, as a practical demonstration of Jesus's command to love our neighbour. If you want to know more information or want to make a donation you can go to [www.vaccinaid.org](http://www.vaccinaid.org)

**Thy Kingdom Come** is a global movement of prayer that takes place **between Ascension day (13<sup>th</sup> May) and Pentecost (23<sup>rd</sup> May)** inviting Christians for more people to come to know Jesus. It covers around 170 countries and it's not just for Anglican's. Christians from loads of different denominations are involved. There are loads of resources and more information is available from <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/> During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ
- Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus
- Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness

This year the online resources include Children and Family activity sheets and some great videos from the

Cheeky Pandas: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/cheekypandas>. You can watch the first full episode here: <https://vimeo.com/528774133/baf1d57af5> featuring Archbishop Justin Welby and also check out the accompanying resources including the church service outline, activity pack and prayer booklets. An exclusive NEW episode of the Cheeky Pandas every Sunday, at 4pm BST, from the 11<sup>th</sup> April onwards on our YouTube and Facebook pages, until Thy Kingdom Come begin.



**Together Apart - The Gathering** We're happy to announce that we will be hosting our 4th regional Together Apart gathering on **Sunday 9th May at 6pm**, live on Facebook and Zoom. We'll be reflecting on a year in lockdown, including interviews with leaders from across the region about how they have seen God move through the togetherness of His Church during the pandemic. We'll also be chatting to Bishop Ruben King (NTGD Harvest Temple), reflecting on how we can build bridges between black majority and white majority churches in the light of one year since the murder of George Floyd. Our previous Together Apart gatherings saw hundreds of people tune in live to watch and we hope that if you were one of them, you'll join us again and if you weren't, you'll be able to make it this time. We're sure it will leave you blessed and encouraged. The gathering is best enjoyed if you're part of the Zoom room. This will allow you to stay on Zoom after the live-stream ends and ask questions to our participants. To access the Zoom room details, please email [info@loveblackcountry.org.uk](mailto:info@loveblackcountry.org.uk).



**Diocesan Day of Prayer** Churches, schools, chaplaincies and everyone across the diocese are invited to join a 24-hour Diocesan Day of Prayer on **23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> April, starting on 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7am**. Deaneries are playing a central part in Shaping for Mission, so it seems appropriate that they should be central to our day of prayer. We'll shortly be contacting Rural Deans, Lay Chairs and Shaping for Mission Enablers to ask them to prepare an hour's session to pray for the fulfilment of our diocesan vision in their context. We hope to have a deanery somewhere in the diocese praying for the whole 24 hours! Specific groups such as diocesan departments, chaplaincies, schools, fresh expressions, the cathedral and our partners overseas are also invited to take an hour slot. We'd also love to hear from individuals, local groups and churches who may pledge to pray alone, in small physical or larger online groups. If anyone would like to lead an hour's session on behalf of St Matthew's, please speak to Jim.

**Taste & See** Thinking about Reader Training but not sure what it looks like? Interested in knowing more? Why not come along to a Reader Training Taster Session? Designed to give you a broad introduction to the content and expectations of Reader Training - it's a great opportunity to gain insight and ask any questions you may have. Each session includes an act of worship, a general introduction to Reader Training and a taster teaching session. Sessions are on **Tuesday 22 April, 7.30-9pm**, and **Sunday 24 April, 10-11.30am**, via Zoom. To book email Helen Scheven ([helen.scheven@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:helen.scheven@lichfield.anglican.org)).

**Diocesan Prayer Diary** The weekly Diocesan Prayer Diary has a deanery focus in line with Shaping for Mission – let Philip Swan or Denise Keen know if you would like to receive it weekly as an email attachment. The prayer diary is a useful resource for those leading prayers as well as for individual use. We're keen to encourage wider ownership and use of it. The diocese also has a feed into the PrayerMate app which provides a very accessible and attractive platform for prayer on mobile devices. (Jim says, "if you haven't seen the PrayerMate app it is very good and something I recommend and use for my prayers")

**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. For further information, please contact [Cassius](#)

**Faith, Finance & Climate Change** The next session will be held on **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April** at 11.30am-1.00pm. Our aim with this session is to bring people together from across the Black Country and beyond to:

1. Increase people's knowledge of the different faith perspectives on climate change and the environment
2. Increase people's understanding of different religions
3. Increase social cohesion by bringing people together
4. Explore how we can all work TOGETHER across communities and faith groups, to improve financial wellbeing across the Black Country

Confirmed speakers include:

- Kartar Singh – Near Neighbours & University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust
- Dr Zahid Parvez - Markfield Institute of Higher Education
- Jasmine Khatri - Hindu Climate Action
- Simon Ross - Marches Energy Agency
- Rosie Venner - Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility
- Rev Richard Clarkson - Lichfield Diocese Environmental Officer

To book: visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/faith-finance-and-climate-change-tickets-143926300439>

## Walsall News

### **Caldmore Community Garden**

- We are starting a new free Garden Tots group for children aged 2-4 on **Thursdays 10-11.30am**. It will be a mix of sensory and messy play and outdoor activities, with the first class on **April 22nd**.
- Family Garden Saturdays are restarting from **Saturday 17th April 11am - 2pm**. Book in advance to register for one hour to enjoy cooking over a campfire, science or gardening and nature activities. Link to register online: <https://tinyurl.com/gardensaturdays>.
- Men's Shed is re-opening in April on **Mondays 10.00-12.00**. Come and have a hot drink and a chat, learn new practical skills, share your interests and get involved in some real projects to help improve the Garden and the community around it.
- Women's Tuesdays are restarting on **Tuesdays 10.00-12.00**. Come and get crafty, enjoy great company and share your ideas and experiences with other local women.

**Bringing People Together (BPT)** Is a network designed to 'connect people to others from the comfort of their own home'. People can join groups by landline, mobile or computer. BPT groups all share a set of principles based on inviting, welcoming and mutual respect. Find out more at [www.bringingpeopletogether.org.uk](http://www.bringingpeopletogether.org.uk)

**Free Health chats training and qualification from One you Walsall** One You Walsall's next Health Chats Training is on **Monday 26th April**. A half day free training course which comes with a level 2 qualification. The training provides individuals with skills to hold conversations with people with regards to improving their health. For further information and bookings please email: [oneyou.walsall@nhs.net](mailto:oneyou.walsall@nhs.net) or call: 01922 444044

**Walsall Works Jobs & Apprenticeship Bulletin** Please find the latest Walsall Works Bulletin online at [www.walsallworks.com](http://www.walsallworks.com) outlining some of the latest opportunities available.

**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.

**Morning Prayer** If you want to join Jim and Joe for Morning Prayer the arrangements have changed a little during lockdown.

- Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 8.30am on Zoom (Meeting ID: 895 8349 9139, Password: 949576)
- Wednesday at 8.00am joint with Blue coat Academy staff (details on request from Jim)

Daily  
Prayer

---

### **Key Contacts:**

Rector: Jim Trood 07939 587208, email – [rector@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk](mailto:rector@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk)

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 Tuesdays & 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)

