

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> May 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; Maureen Platt; Viv’s nephew Graham in Canada; Paula; Mark; Tina; Ian and Joan Nock’s brother, Ron. Please pray for the family and friends of Kennard. 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.

**Electoral Roll**

We are revising our Electoral Roll – please contact Jim if you need to check your details.

**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.

**Confirmation** Walsall Deanery is hoping to have a confirmation service later in the year for everyone in Walsall who is wishing to get confirmed. This is likely to be in **early October**, although a venue for this has not yet been announced. If you would like to be confirmed, please speak to Jim.

**An encouragement from Jim** You may or may not have heard about the Church of England's vision for the 2020s published in the last few weeks. I have just read the "Theological reflection on our emerging vision and priorities". It did not take long and is straightforward to read. It can be found on the Church of England website (<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/emerging-church-england/vision-church-england-2020s>)

**May Prayer Diary** This is now available online at <https://www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/May-2021-prayer-diary.pdf> or contact the office for a print copy.

**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.

**rightnow** MEDIA

**Jesus cooks breakfast RightNow Media (2<sup>nd</sup> May)**

- Popular Kids Shows / Superbook / Season 2 / Session 11 / Peter's Denial (25 mins)  
For younger children –
- Sing along kids shows / Little Worship Company / Session 14 / My Friends (11 mins)
- Ages 4-7 continued / Yancy and Friends Little Praise Party / Session 3 / Don't monkey around with the devil (2 mins)

**Annual Church meeting** 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.

**Good news about Youth work** We're delighted to be able to begin to more face-to-face offers for youth as things start to open up. **JCU back in person** JCU is the Walsall Schools Joint Christian Union, and it is open to all 11-18 year olds across Walsall. JCU has been meeting online whenever required but is now back in person. We meet at the Crescent Baptist Church every term time Wednesday, 4-6pm (doors open at 3.30pm). Get in touch with me Ben Butterfield if you have any questions.

**Ecclesiastical Insurance Trust130 home insurance offer**

Ecclesiastical Insurance, who insure St Matthew's Church, are offering to make a donation of £130 to a church of the policyholder's choice for anyone who requests a quotation for home insurance and subsequently takes out a home insurance policy with them. Details are as follows:

"For every new home insurance policy taken out with us, we're donating £130 to a church or cathedral of the policyholder's choice through our Trust130 promotion.

Small donations making a big impact.

Since 2017, we have donated over £430,000 to churches chosen by our customers through this promotion. We are delighted that so many churches have benefitted so far, and to help more churches take advantage of these donations we have extended the offer to run throughout 2021. To take advantage of this offer please call our team for a quote on **0800 7830 130** and quote **Trust130**.

These donations have already made a massive difference to churches and cathedrals across the country, and while £130 might not sound like a vast sum, these donations can make a big difference to churches large and small. Many churches have also benefitted from multiple donations as more than one member of the congregation has taken up the offer." To find out more information you can view some literature on our website at the following links:

- <https://www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/trust130-poster-1.pdf>
- <https://www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/trust130-poster-3.pdf>
- <https://www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/trust130-poster-5.pdf>
- <https://www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/trust130-terms.pdf>
- <https://www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Trust130-home-insurance-offer.docx>

**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:

- **JAM has started** – It runs every other Saturday morning, Jesus and Me (or JAM). It starts at 9.30am in church. It is aimed at families with children under 11 and includes action songs, Bible stories, and family activities. You will need to book online to attend at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/jam-family-service-tickets-147440405221>
- **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
- 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 [priscillatrood@btinternet.com](mailto:priscillatrood@btinternet.com) or on 07984 626637. If you need help with recording, please contact Jim, who can come and record you on your doorstep.

## ***Wider Church News***

**Racial Justice** Last week was an important week in racial justice. The Church of England released its report *From Lament to Action* put together by the Archbishop's Anti-Racism Task Force <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/FromLamentToAction-report.pdf> and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) published its report on the lack of recognition given to people of colour who participated in the war effort, spotlighting a point made by in *Lament to Action*, the necessity for a "healthy revision of memory and history in a way that will provide scope for education and formation". BBC's Panorama programme also explored the question 'Is the Church Racist? However, we mustn't just talk about this as an "issue" without engaging further and acting to make a difference. Jim would like to arrange a Sunday when we can learn more about Racial Justice with the aim of being more proactive. If anyone would like to share any thoughts or ideas with Jim, please contact him. He is especially keen to hear from the many members of the church who are from UK Minority Ethnic (UKME) or Global Majority Heritage (GMH) backgrounds. Additionally, the Diocese of Lichfield Taskforce on Racial Justice is co-convened by Rev Pamela Ogilvie and Archdeacon Julian Francis. If you would like to know more, or are seeking help to address racial injustice, please do contact them.

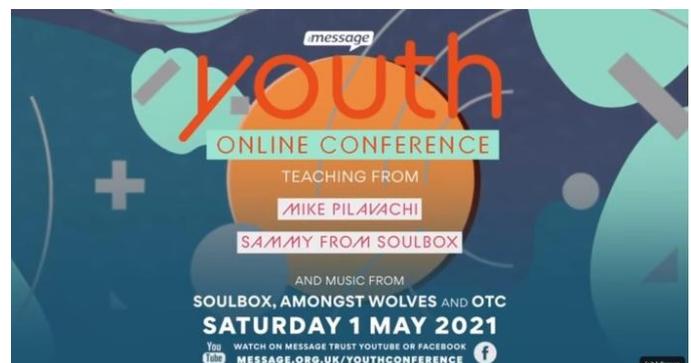
**Thy Kingdom Come** is a global movement of prayer that takes place **between Ascension day (13<sup>th</sup> May) and Pentecost (23<sup>rd</sup> May)** inviting Christians for more people to come to know Jesus. It covers around 170 countries and it's not just for Anglican's. Christians from loads of 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

### **The Message Youth Online Conference**

Walsall's own Greg Cooper writes, "I'm really excited to be working on this online youth conference being broadcast on Saturday 1 May! We have guest speakers Sam Jabangwe (of SoulBox) and Mike Pilavachi! We also have special guest appearances from Gavin Calver (Evangelical Alliance) and Andrew Pilau (Luis Pilau Association) with more guests to be confirmed! We will be running 2 competitions through the day (1 for individual youth and 1 for a youth group). Sessions run from 11am-Midday, 5pm-6pm and 7pm-9pm and will be broadcast through the Message Trust Facebook page and YouTube channel (and of course are free to access!) Any questions please contact [greg.cooper@message.org.uk](mailto:greg.cooper@message.org.uk)



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## Love Black Country: Together Apart 4 - A year in lockdown

**Sunday 9th May | 6-7:15pm**

Live on Zoom and Facebook

A whole year has gone by since the Prime Minister announced the first national lockdown. In that time, churches across the region were forced to close their doors and open their hearts to the prospect of being used in completely new ways by the Lord. The Sun newspaper recently quoted Boris Johnson where he praised the “selfless stoicism” of congregations banned from group worship but who still helped others. According to the PM, “over the past year, the teachings of Jesus Christ were brought to life”. On **Sunday**



**9th May**, you are invited to join virtually with Christians from across the region to celebrate the ways in which the Black Country Church has responded to the pandemic by reimagining the ways their buildings and ministries can be used. We will hear from church leaders from across the area about the very real ways that the "teachings of Jesus have been brought to life", right here on our doorstep. We will also be reflecting on a year since the death of George Floyd, by chatting with Bishop Ruben King (NTCOG, Harvest Temple), to explore how bridges are being built between black majority and white majority churches in Wolverhampton and to dream and imagine what this could mean for the future. It has never been more important for the Black Country Church to stand TOGETHER as one, to pray, to celebrate and to imagine what God is doing and what else He has planned to meet the needs of our area moving forward. So please, put the date in your diary and join us on **Sunday 9th May, 6-7:15pm**, live on Zoom and Facebook. *Please contact Jim if you would like the Zoom details – they will not be published on social media*

## Love Black Country Noticeboard

The Love Walsall Noticeboard is updated with events and job vacancies often. You can view it at: <https://loveblackcountry.org.uk/category/noticeboard/>

## Transforming Communities Together

You can find the latest information from the Diocese's Transforming Communities Together at:

<https://tctogether.org.uk/whats-new> One of the leaders in

this area "Cassius Francis" will be our guest preacher on **9th May** at both the online and in-person service in church.

**TRANSFORMING  
COMMUNITIES  
TOGETHER** ⊕

**Community of Evangelists** The Community of Evangelists is inviting people to a talk by the Revd Anne Roberts on Whispering His Name: Evangelism In The Context Of A Secular Institution on **Wednesday 9 June**. Anne is Interim Minister in the Central Telford Parish encouraging four small traditional churches in an expanding parish of 60,000. The talk takes

place at St Leonard's Malinslee from 6-9.30pm. Find out more at <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/calendar/event.php?event=265>



Our Bishops' teaching series on Holy Communion **has begun and runs until 12 June**, including pre-recorded video talks on different aspects of the Eucharist and two Zoom seminars. You can find out more at <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/bread-of-life.php>. During the nine weeks of 'Bread of Life', each bishop will take as the focus of their week one of nine dimensions of Holy Communion, drawn from a 2003 report of the Methodist Church called 'His Presence Makes the Feast'. They are as follows. Each talk will be available to watch on YouTube or downloadable as a pdf file. If you don't have access to the internet, please feel free to ask the office to print a copy of the talk.

Theme	Bishop	Available
Life in unity (koinonia)	+Michael, Bishop of Lichfield	<b>13 April</b>
Thanksgiving (Eucharist)	+Clive, Bishop of Wolverhampton	<b>20 April</b>
Remembering (anamnesis)	+Rod, Bishop of Maidstone	<b>27 April</b>
Sacrifice	+Jonathan, Bishop of Ebbsfleet	<b>4 May</b>
Presence	+Matthew, Bishop of Stafford	<b>11 May</b>
The work of the Spirit (epiclesis)	+Jan, Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Lichfield	<b>18 May</b>
Anticipation (eschatology)	+Alistair, Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Lichfield	<b>25 May</b>
Mission and justice	+Sarah, Bishop of Shrewsbury	<b>1 June</b>
Personal devotion	+Michael, Bishop of Lichfield	<b>8 June</b>

### **Sexual Exploitation Happens Here**

**25th May 2021**, Online 9:30am-4:30pm, Sandwell Anti-Slavery partnership

The Sandwell Anti-Slavery Partnership are working together to highlight the important work around sexual exploitation. 'Sexual Exploitation Still Happens Here' conference is a stark reminder that despite the best efforts to stamp out modern slavery, sexual exploitation still exists in our communities, regionally nationally and across the world.

[https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sexual-exploitation-still-happens-here-tickets-146730515923?aff=odeimcmailchimp&mc\\_cid=1d79d44e8b&mc\\_eid=5f6955861f](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sexual-exploitation-still-happens-here-tickets-146730515923?aff=odeimcmailchimp&mc_cid=1d79d44e8b&mc_eid=5f6955861f)

**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 ([cassius.francis@tctogether.org.uk](mailto:cassius.francis@tctogether.org.uk))

## **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.
- Family Garden Saturdays are on **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 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 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)

**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)

A blue square logo with the words "Daily Prayer" in white, stacked vertically. The word "Daily" is above "Prayer".

Daily  
Prayer

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**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)

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Website: [www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk](http://www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk)

