



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 25th 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; Maureen Platt; Viv’s nephew Graham in Canada; Paula; Kennard; Mark; Tina 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.

Electoral Roll Deadline Sunday 25th April.

We are revising our Electoral Roll - 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.

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.

Thank You

Cliff and Carol Porter would like to thank all those who sent cards and messages when they moved to Otley, they very much appreciated them.

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>) However, I am particularly struck by how much the vision we are discerning as St Matthew's Leadership Team, reflects very strongly the thoughts in this document. I found it both extremely encouraging and challenging at the same time. I sense that the commonality of our church vision with the wider Church of England, arrived at without knowledge of each other, to be highly indicative of the Holy Spirit's working. Coincidentally it also chimes very strongly with the Christian vision for the Blue Coat schools that the governors discerned a few years back. If you have 15 to 20 minutes to spare, it is well worth reading.

rightnow MEDIA

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.

The Good Shepherd RightNow Media (25th April)

- Popular Kids Shows / Friends and Heros / Series 3 / Session 8 (26 minutes)

Annual Church meeting

The Annual Church meeting will now take place on **Monday 24th May 2021**. The PCC will meet the week before on Monday 17th 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 21st April - restart the midweek 10am service

Saturday 1st 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 27th 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 Saturday 1st 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 27th 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 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

Thy Kingdom Come is a global movement of prayer that takes place **between Ascension day (13th May) and Pentecost (23rd 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 11th April onwards on our YouTube and Facebook pages, until Thy Kingdom Come begin.

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.



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>.

Keeping young people safe

The Children's Society invites you to a webinar understanding more about the risks young people face from exploitation on **Wednesday 28 April at 11am**. Join the Revd Mike Todd (Church Engagement Manager - Regional) and hear from Bishop Sarah about her experience of young people at risk in urban Manchester as well as across rural Shropshire, James Simmonds-Reed who leads the charity's national prevention team and Laura Bryon on work with British Transport Police. Tickets are free but registration is essential. https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CTruZEUMTRGqRLffN5zycw

Faith, Finance & Climate Change

A session to increase people's knowledge of faith perspectives on climate change and to explore how we can improve financial wellbeing across Black Country communities. Speakers include diocesan Environmental Officer Revd Richard Clarkson, Near Neighbours' Kartar Singh and Jasmine Khatri from Hindu Climate Action. On **Tuesday 27 April, 11.30-1pm** online. Book at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/faith-finance-and-climate-change-tickets-143926300439>



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

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](#)

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

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 or call: 01922 444044

Walsall Works Jobs & Apprenticeship Bulletin Please find the latest Walsall Works Bulletin online at 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, sans-serif font. "Daily" is on the top line and "Prayer" is on the bottom line.

Key Contacts:

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

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 Tuesdays & Thursdays: Kirsten Groom 01922 626039 email -
office@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk

Website: www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk

