



Current Services

Sunday

8.45am Holy Communion (church)

10.45am Morning Praise
(church and online - YouTube)

4.00pm Asian Congregation
(online - Skype)

Wednesday

10.00am Holy Communion (church)

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 18th July 2021

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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 Marian Masters; Margaret Rawe; Judith Craddock; Rob Bradburn.

Returning to normal The government are lifting restrictions with effect from 19th July. However, they will also be providing guidance on how we can remain safe in this time of pandemic. The Church of England will also be advising us. At this time, we feel it is important to hold on to some strong Christian principles from the Bible:

- Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. (Philippians 2:3-4)
- Do to others as you would have them do to you. (Luke 6:31)
- Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. (Ephesians 4:2)

This means we will be gradually returning to normal in various steps, whilst also retaining practical measures like hand sanitisation stations. The first step will involve the chairs being put back to normal. People may sit where they choose. However, some may prefer to be socially distanced, and the balcony will be left open and accessible. People should not feel pressure to sit close to others. At this time, we advise people to continue to wear masks. Further guidance including information about congregational singing (possibly wearing masks to begin with), will be issued as we gradually move forward.

Children's Church The children will start off in church and then go over to the Church Centre for their groups, as we used to, before being brought back to church at the end of the service by the Children's Church leaders and helpers. There will be Children's Church on **18th July**. During the school summer holidays, Children's Church will not be meeting but there will be activity sheets provided in church for children to use during the sermon, similar to the ones we have been posting on the church website each week. From September the normal pattern will resume of All Age Services on the 1st and 5th Sundays and Children's Church on 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays.

Annual Mission Giving Meeting Wednesday 21st July 7.30pm Please join us - in Church - as we determine how best to distribute our available funds from our 2020 income. If you have any suggestions for suitable charities, let Rev Jim or me know, or bring them to the meeting. We need to choose 3 overseas charities, and 4 local charities. Joan Nock, jbn crescent@hotmail.co.uk

Place of Welcome (Tuesdays) One of the most important ministries we have to the people of Walsall is making our church a place of welcome.

As part of this, Place of Welcome has re-opened from 10am-4pm. However, we could do with a few more volunteers to join the team and to help. It involves being friendly to people who want to come into the church either to visit, look around, pray, chat, or just have some refreshments. The commitment is 3 hours a month on a Tuesday during the day. If you think you might be able to help with this, please contact Kirsten in the church office or Sara Hartshorne.



July & August Prayer Diary This is available online at <https://www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk> or contact the office for a print copy.

Beware – Emails & Texts Please continue to beware of emails or texts you may receive, claiming to be from someone within the church, they may not be legit. How can you protect yourself?

- The risk to yourself as an individual is very low provided that you are vigilant when responding to emails or texts. Here are some tips to when looking out for suspicious emails or texts:
 - Check the sender's email address looks correct.
 - Check our websites contact page for the correct phone numbers.
 - Notice the tone and language used in the email and text - if it doesn't sound like the person you think it is, it probably isn't!
 - Be wary of any request asking you to donate or spend money.
 - Double check any links in the email before clicking them (hover over the link and check where it is actually going to send you)

Who is our data protection officer?

- Our data protection officer is Rev. Jim Trood. If you have any questions about this incident, or anything to do with data protection, please contact him.

Wedding Celebration of Richard & Kirsten Groom As we got married last year just before lockdown, we now have the opportunity to celebrate with friends and family in person. We are celebrating our marriage at St Matthew's at **3.00pm on Monday 26th July**. Anyone wishing to join us for the service ceremony in church, or watch the livestream on the church YouTube page are very welcome. Mr & Mrs Groom

Morning Prayer If you want to join Jim and Joe for Morning Prayer:

- 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)



Church Office Closure The church office will be closed **Monday 26th-Friday 30th July**. Please be aware that there will be a joint Bulletin for Sunday 25th July and Sunday 1st August, and there will be no envelopes delivered for Sunday 1st August.

Wider Church News

Enabling Church At least 1 in 6 people in our communities (significantly more in those aged 60+) are impacted by difficulties with mobility, vision, hearing, or living with some kind of physical or mental disability - many of them hidden. Are you one of these 1 in 6 people with a lived experience of a disability? The [Enabling Church](#) team would love you to join their network. They'll be offering regular online meetings to help people share their experiences and build relationships with others from around the diocese. Email them at Enabling.Church@lichfield.anglican.org

#StandForSynod Being on General Synod is an opportunity to represent the concerns of your community and your diocese at a national level. Whether lay or clergy, you can have a say in national legislation that affects all parts of the Church of England. You can also raise issues and contribute to debates on social and policy matters. Nominations open on **30 July, closing on 8 September**. Find out more at <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/general-synod/general-synod-elections-2021#na> For any general queries about standing for election please contact diocesan CEO Julie.jones@lichfield.anglican.org, who's written a blog about the elections: <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/news/synods-and-saints-could-it-be-you.php>

Discipleship Today: Being And Doing This [joint day conference](#) between Lichfield Diocese and Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury Methodist District on **4 December 2021** features keynote speaker the Revd Roger Walton, at Yarnfield Park Conference Centre near Stone. This long established lay-led conference also features Bishop Michael and the Revd Rachel Parkinson, Chair of Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury Methodist District.

New horizons An afternoon on **Thursday 29 July**, 2-4pm, to pray with the artwork '[Loving Hurting Dreaming](#)' as we emerge and wonder what the future holds and what it is we have been through. For anyone who wants to grow in responsiveness to God, it is facilitated by Charles Ruxton (Diocesan Spirituality Adviser) featuring some guidance, time with the artwork and a chance for 1-to-1 spiritual direction. It's at St Thomas' & St Andrew's, Doxey, Stafford ST16 1EQ. Find out more and book via https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/calendar/event.php?event=321&monthly_view=grid&calendar_category_id=0

Fresh perspectives Sam Wells and Bishop Moon Hing Ng are the latest guests on Our Perspectives On The Church series of videos, supporting the vision-setting phase of [Shaping for Mission](#), Watch the videos on our Diocesan YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNRZczY-7_UOF-yvqiQ28Jostp7Klmc83 along with others from people including Katie Tupling, Bishop Philip North, Jonny Baker, Ian Paul, Anthony Reddie, Lucy Peppiatt, Brett Gray, Carlton Turner, Yejide Peters and Jonathan Deans. You can also watch them in our Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/DioceseOfLichfield/>

Give thanks for your vaccination! Our Give Thanks appeal with Christian Aid is nearing its £5,000 target. Why not give thanks for your vaccination? Funds from the appeal are helping vulnerable communities access soap, water, food, and vital health information in the face of the pandemic. Many face an uncertain wait for a vaccine due to questions about the cost and timing of a global vaccine programme. Find out more at: <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/news/give-thanks-for-your-vaccination.php> or: <https://giving.give-star.com/online/christian-aid/diolichfield>

Through a glass dimly After the disappointment of having to cancel in 2020, the Lichfield Diocesan Renewal Group are delighted to announce plans for a 'live' event this autumn. Open to clergy and those in lay leadership, it will be at Trentham Parish Church. The keynote speaker, Richard Moy, is no stranger to the diocese and will offer a practical guide to walking in step with the Spirit and discerning the voice of God – addressing the question of whether it is possible to grow in accuracy, depth, and insight in prophetic ministry. Doors open at 10am on **Thursday 16 September** for those who would like some quiet reflection before the first session at 2pm. The event closes at 1pm on **Friday 17th**. It costs £35 including dinner on Thursday evening and a complimentary breakfast and light lunch on Friday (no overnight accommodation available). Places are restricted on a 'first come, first served' basis. For more information contact Carol Law (claw@eclipse.co.uk)

Love Black Country Noticeboard with events and **lots of new job vacancies** including youth work roles, Safer Families for Children positions and some volunteer opportunities too. 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>



Dementia Introduction: Dementia-Friends & Dementia-Friendly Churches

An introductory session, with a "Dementia Friends Information Session" + overview of Diocese of Lichfield Dementia-Friendly Churches network

- Do you want to understand more about dementia?
- Do you want to embark on becoming a more dementia-friendly church at the heart of a dementia-friendly community?
- Are you keen to know more about our dementia-friendly churches network in the Diocese of Lichfield?

If so, this is the session for you! For more information, contact [Sarah Thorpe](mailto:sarah.thorpe@lichfield.anglican.org), sarah.thorpe@lichfield.anglican.org Dementia-Friendly Church Enabler, Diocese of Lichfield

Perspectives on the Church The video resource 'Perspectives on the Church' is via the Shaping for Mission page on the diocesan website

<https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/shaping-for-mission/>

Over the last two weeks we have shared many conversations with each conversation focuses on the questions: what do you think are the biggest challenges the church faces at the moment? what opportunities does that give us? What resources do we have to respond to the challenges? And what gives you hope for the church. There will be at least 6 more videos in the series so do check back on the website or Facebook page to see more.

Anxiety training for youth & children's workers With as many as 1 in 3 young people suffering with anxiety and wellbeing at an all-time low, now is the time to act. Love Black Country Next Gen are excited to be partnering with Reality Youth Trust again to offer youth and children's workers the chance to become licensed anxiety trainers for older children and young people. On **Tuesday 21st and 29th September**, LBC Next Gen will be hosting two training sessions on Zoom, delivered by Reality Trust Youth Project, to train and licence youth workers to go into schools and deliver the Tranquility Anxiety Course, a new 6 week course to help older children and young people find solutions to deal with their anxiety. It is designed to be run in secondary schools but can also be delivered in a variety of settings including churches and community groups. The training and licence will cost £75. You can book your place by emailing deb@loveblackcountry.org.uk

Walsall News

Covid Cash Recovery course The next [Covid Cash Recovery](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/covid-cash-recovery-course-tickets-162255230763) course is scheduled for **Monday 19th July**, 10:00-12:30. Book at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/covid-cash-recovery-course-tickets-162255230763> For further information contact; Cassius Francis, Finance Development Worker on 07891 611760 or email cassius.francis@tctogether.org.uk

Mental health and suicide awareness training from Walsall Council If you live or work in Walsall, why not book onto one of our free community events. This is a 4 hour online virtual course and is being hosted by qualified mental health instructors from Walsall Council's Learning and Development Team. Click on the link to book and for more information: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mental-health-and-suicide-awareness-training-tickets-147135372861>

Ablewell Advice Foodbank Current shortages include – tinned fruit, jam, noodles, bars of soap, shampoo, and deodorants. Donations can be dropped off at the office on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays or at Walsall Town Centre Co-Op. Thank you for your continued support.

Walsall Works Jobs & Apprenticeship Bulletin Please find the latest Walsall Works Bulletin online at www.walsallworks.com outlining some of the latest opportunities available.

Walsall Summer Holiday Activity Programme We have started planning for the Summer Holiday Activity Programme (HAF), If your family is aged 5–16 and is eligible for free school meals, you can sign up to get communication about Summer via our HAF Webpage - <https://go.walsall.gov.uk/forms/HAF-Sign-up-for-summer-news> Have a look at our Holiday Activities and Food Programme evaluation report from Easter delivery on [our webpage](#) Website: [https://go.walsall.gov.uk/children and young people/haf signup](https://go.walsall.gov.uk/children_and_young_people/haf_signup)

Other News

Look Closer- Child exploitation campaign- Children's society The National Police Chiefs Council and The Children's Society in asking the public to #LookCloser Exploitation can happen anywhere, to any child. Learn how to look beyond the obvious and spot the signs: bit.ly/3iVNxLI Along with our partners we regularly raise awareness of Child Exploitation including County Lines. We would like to share some material with you which has been produced by the Children's Society as part of their #LookCloser campaign.



Key Contacts:

Rector: Jim Trood 07939 587208, rector@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk (day off Friday)

Curate: Joe Smith 07946 398442, curate@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk (day off Friday)

Pastoral Care Coordinator: Anne Tolley 07518 339606

Email Prayer Requests (non-confidential): prayer@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk

Safeguarding Officer: Barbara Parker 01922 649909,

safeguarding@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk

Online Communications: Mike Ray rotas@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk

Church Office: Kirsten Groom 01922 626039 office@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk (Mon-Thurs)

Website: www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk

