



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 31st October 2021

Church News

What’s on this week...

Sun 31st	8.45am	- Holy Communion (Church)
	10.00am	- Bell Ringing
	10.45am	- All Age Communion (Church)
	1.00pm	- Asian Congregation (Centre)
	6.30pm	- Service of Remembrance and Lament (Centre)
Mon 1st	10.00am	- Staff Team Meeting (Centre)
Tues 2nd	8.40am	- Blue Coat Academy Key Stage Assembly (Church)
	10.00am-4.00pm	- Places of Welcome (Church)
Wed 3rd	9.30am-11.30am	- Toddlers (Centre)
	10.00am	- Mid-week Communion (Prayer Chapel in Church)
	4.00pm	- Joint Christian Union (Crescent Baptist Church)
	7.30pm	- Alpha (Centre)
	7.30pm	- Bellringing Practice
Thurs 4th	2.00pm-4.00pm	- OWLs (Centre)
	7.30pm	- Children’s Church Meeting (Rectory)
Fri 5th	8.40am	- Blue Coat Academy Assembly (Church)
	9.30am	- Church Open, Cleaning and Flower Arrangers (Church)
	7.30pm	- Signs for Worship Walsall (Church)

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 Sue Webster, Henry Styche, Maddie, Christine Jones, Daniel Townsend, Liz Blewitt, Marian Masters, and Rob Bradburn. Please pray for the family and friends of Christine Styche, Danny Slater, and Beryl Holland.

Danny Slater We are sorry to hear that Danny Slater died on Monday 11th October. Danny had been ill for some time but continued to attend our 10.45am service where he had been a regular for a number of years. His funeral will be held at Streetly Crematorium on **Thursday 11th November at 11.30am.**

Service of Lament and Remembering This last two years have proved challenging for many people in so many ways. As society cautiously starts to move forwards, we feel it is right to mark this time with a service of Lament and Remembering for the wider community. We would like to invite you to this special service which will take place at **6.30pm on 31st October 2021** at St Matthew's Church and will last about an hour. During the service we will be remembering the events of the pandemic and giving people a chance to light a candle as a symbol of lament, remembrance, and hope. If you are interested in joining the choir, the music is being organised by Andrew Clayton (brother of Jimm Rennie). Please contact him by email (notejuste@gmail.com). Alternatively, you can express an interest by going to the event on Facebook

<https://facebook.com/events/s/sing-with-us-lament-and-rememb/931569494237709/>

Children's Church Meeting The next Children's Church meeting will be on **Thursday 4th November at 7:30 pm** at the Rectory (48 Jesson Road). It would be great to have some new helpers so have a word with Priscilla (07984 626637) or come along to the meeting to find out more.

Refreshments at 10.45am services We have restarted refreshments at the 10.45am Sunday services. If this is something you could help serve (pouring drinks and washing some mugs) - please speak to Diane Edlin or the church office.

A prayer of thanks and for forgiveness Lord God, hear our prayer. Father, as we remember the long, distressing months when we first entered the pandemic, we give thanks for all those at St Matthew's, who helped us to be together and in touch through online services and meetings, regular phone calls, emails, prayer support, shopping and prescription runs. We thank you for the days of good weather and the opportunity to slow down and to notice your beautiful world, changing throughout the seasons. Thank you for the development of the Covid vaccine, for the easing of restrictions and the ability to meet and worship together again. Lord Jesus, as we move cautiously away from those times of sadness and worry, we ask for you to help us embrace all those at St Matthew's and in our local community. We are sorry for where we have fallen short both as individuals and as your church. We are sorry if we have hurt anyone with our words and actions or lack of them, and we pray for guidance in bringing us all back together as one. May your healing Spirit be with us at St Matthew's as we seek to be open to welcome and embrace all, and that anyone feeling hurt, rejected, or side-lined may once again feel your love and the love of your church. Amen.

November Prayer Diary This is available on our website, or contact the office for a print copy.

Daily Prayer Emails We have set up an email option for receiving the daily prayer diary prayers. You can sign up at: <https://www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/signup> or contact the office.

Morning Prayer If you want to join with Rev Jim, Rev Joe and others for Morning Prayer it takes place on Zoom from Monday to Thursday at 8.30am (Meeting ID: 895 8349 9139, Password: 949576). It usually lasts about 15 to 20 minutes.

Coronavirus Precautions Mask wearing is now optional and for the individual decision of those who attend our services. Other precautions still in place include: Respecting others space (social distancing), hand sanitiser stations, keeping a list of attenders so we can notify people in the event of a positive case, and Communion in one kind only. We would also like to remind people if you have symptoms of Coronavirus or test positive you should not attend church. Regular self-testing using lateral flow tests is also recommended.

Operation Christmas Child We will be packing shoeboxes at Owl's next month and would be very grateful if you would like to support this, with the following: empty shoeboxes, toys, crayons, pencils, toothbrushes, flannels, hats, gloves, socks, hair brushes, slides, skipping ropes, cars etc. It costs £5.00 per shoebox so money towards the postage will be very gratefully received also. Please bring any items to church **on or before Sunday 14th November**. We managed between us to send 76 boxes last year so it would be lovely to match or beat that amount. If you require any more information, please call Anne on 07518339606.

Wider Church News

Generous insights Lichfield Diocese are looking for stories of generosity for a new video series. Do you have people in your congregation who are a shining example of generosity – with their time, talents, or treasure? Email comms@lichfield.anglican.org telling us who and why!

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

<https://tctogether.org.uk/whats-new>

**TRANSFORMING
COMMUNITIES
TOGETHER** ⊕

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. To book and for more info visit the website or contact John Underhill on 07936 300297.

Autumn BSL workshops If you're interested in learning some simple Christian British Sign Language signs there are two-hour online Zoom sessions to choose from on **Monday 15 November** and **13 December** all at 7pm at Rising Brook Church in Stafford.

Guvna B and Amy Orr-Ewing at Fulfil Youth Event The Autumn Fulfil is on **Friday 19th November** to which we welcome Guvna B and Amy Orr-Ewing. This will be an in-person event back at our regular venue of Mount Zion Community Church in Aston. Our spring date is **11th March**, and the date of the summer event will be confirmed soon but it will either be **8th July**. Why not plan to bring your young people to these events?! If you are new to BCM and BCM's youth team you can view this little introductory clip: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZyN_UN9igQ&t=1sand

Sight Loss Friendly Church Taster sessions Every 6 minutes someone in the UK starts to lose their sight. Sight Loss Friendly Church (SLFC), from Torch Trust, the UK Christian sight loss charity, are pleased to announce further dates of our popular Tasters. These 30 minute Zoom sessions offer the opportunity to hear all the benefits of SLFC, meet the SLFC team and ask your questions. Sessions available are:

- Wednesday 10 November at 2:00 PM
- Tuesday 16 November at 11:00 AM
- Wednesday 12 January at 2:00 PM
- Monday 24 January at 2:00 PM

To register please visit <https://www.sightlossfriendlychurch.org.uk/taster>. For more information please email SLFC@torchtrust.org.uk

Tread lightly into Christmas and 2022 The Chad Living team hosts two one-hour online sessions which are open to all, no booking necessary:

- **Tuesday 2 November 12pm – Ethical Christmas Seminar** - Join us for this session where we share ideas for small changes we can make over the Christmas season to make our celebrations a bit lighter on the earth and kinder to our brothers and sisters around the world. [Zoom link](#). Meeting ID: 865 9337 5745. Passcode: 470637
- **Wednesday 1 December 12pm – Re:Dress – Why our clothes matter** - Join us for this session where we'll look at the worldwide clothes production industry post-Covid, explore some of the environmental and ethical impacts of fast fashion and share our tips about slowing down fast fashion. We will also be launching out Re:Dress 2022 Challenge! [Zoom link](#). Meeting ID: 857 4746 9970. Passcode: 620480.

Love Black Country Job Noticeboard

<https://loveblackcountry.org.uk/category/noticeboard/>

Current job vacancies:

- Job vacancy: Complex Care Assistant



Hear the Gospel according to Luke! As we look towards Advent and the start of the church year, the DVE team invites you to move into Lectionary Year C by listening together to the whole of Luke's Gospel. The readings will be online at midday **Monday – Thursday for the first four weeks of November**. You are welcome to join as often as you are able as we take time to listen to the Gospel, and to hear the word of the Lord. We will be reading one or two chapters per day. All welcome.

Praying with your Cathedral One of the good things to have come out of lockdown has been the small community of 40+ people from across the diocese – and across the world! – who now worship daily with the Lichfield Cathedral community through Facebook. If you would rather pray with others than alone, do join them at 8am for Morning Prayer (Common Worship) and at 5.30pm for Evensong (Book of Common Prayer) or Evening Prayer (Common Worship). Find the services on the [Cathedral website](#) or [on Facebook](#). Their Sunday services continue to be live-streamed on [YouTube](#) at 8am, 10.30am and 5.30pm. If you know of someone who is housebound, and whose own parish church is unable to live-stream services, please do encourage them to worship online with their Cathedral.

Calling Children's Society Supporters The Children's Society have pleasure in inviting you to a Supporter Event celebrating 140 years of The children's Society, where they will also share findings of their Good Childhood Report, now in its 10th year. There will be the opportunity to hear about one of their services, Climb, which provided positive activities for young people who may otherwise be drawn into crime. You will also hear about their most recent campaigns and successes. The free event is on **Monday 1 November, 10.30am-12.30pm**, at Shrewsbury Abbey, 25 Abbey Foregate, SY2 6BS. Places are limited, pre-register [here](#). Refreshments will be served!

COP26 opportunities and resources As the UN COP26 Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in November approaches, there are many opportunities for churches and individuals to get involved. The Revd Preb Chris Thorpe, from St Andrew's Shifnal, has produced these [COP26 resources](#) for RSCM's Sunday by Sunday to help churches with creative material. For info on 'Why Faith Matters at COP26' see this [visual presentation](#) from Green Christian. Churches are invited to join [Tearfund's national COP26 church service](#) online on **Sunday 7 November** featuring Pete Greig, Carol Ng'ang'a and Celtic Worship. Meanwhile, details about upcoming [environmental webinars](#) are available from the national Church.



**UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

Diocesan Prayer Diary The weekly Diocesan Prayer Diary has a deanery focus in line with Shaping for Mission – let 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.

Key Contacts:

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

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

Church Office: Kirsten Groom 01922 626039 / 07856 966631 office@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk (Mon-Thurs)

Website: www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk

