



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 28th November 2021

Church News

What’s on next week...

Sun 28th	8.45am	- Holy Communion (Church)
	10.00am	- Bell Ringing
	10.45am	- Morning Praise with Baptism (Church)
	1.00pm	- Asian Congregation (Centre)
	6.30pm	- The Evening Service (Centre)
Mon 29th		
Tues 30th	8.40am	- Blue Coat Academy Key Stage Assembly (Church)
	10.00am-4.00pm	- Places of Welcome (Church)
Wed 1st	9.30am-11.30am	- Toddlers (Centre)
	10.00am	- Mid-week Communion (Prayer Chapel in Church)
	10.00am-2.30pm	- One Walsall Community Networking Event (details below)
	4.00pm	- Joint Christian Union (Crescent Baptist Church)
	7.30pm	- Alpha (Centre)
	7.30pm	- Bellringing Practice
	7.30pm	- Deanery Advent Reflection – all welcome (St John’s Pleck & Bescot, details below)
Thurs 2nd	2.00pm-4.00pm	- OWLs (Centre)
Fri 3rd	8.40am	- Blue Coat Academy Assembly (Church)
	9.30am	- Church Open, Cleaning and Flower Arrangers (Church)
	7.30pm	- Signs for Worship Walsall (Church)

OFFICE CLOSURE The Office will be closed from Monday 15th November and will reopen on Monday 6th December. In case of an emergency please contact Rev Jim, Rev Joe or the wardens.

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 Joan Cartridge, Christine Jones, Daniel Townsend, Liz Blewitt, Marian Masters, and Rob Bradburn.

Celebrating advent

Walsall Deanery Synod are celebrating advent on Wednesday 1st December at 7.30 pm at St John’s Church Pleck and Bescot (Scarborough Road, Walsall WS2 9RTR - car park at side of church) with the Very Revd Adrian Dorber Dean of Lichfield as guest speaker. Everyone is welcome to attend

St Matthew's at the One Walsall Community Networking Event

St Matthew's have a stand at the One Walsall Community Networking Event - with a focus on Heritage. Please come along and support me for an hour if you can spare the time. This is a chance to chat with other community groups about why St Matt's is important to you.

Wednesday, 1 December 2021 from 10:00 to 14:30

Frank F Harrison Community Association Ltd

Stephenson Square

Walsall WS2 7DY

Ideally, please register before the event - but don't worry if you haven't registered.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/one-walsalls-community-networking-marketplace-tickets-199228386467>. For more information contact John 07546 504904

Job vacancies

Love Black country have highlighted a number of items and job vacancies in their latest bulletin. For more information go to

<https://loveblackcountry.org.uk/category/noticeboard/> or contact Jim. These include

- Job Vacancy: Marketing and Data Analyst
- Mental Health Awareness Training
- Job Vacancy: Researcher/Administrator (P/T)
- Job Vacancy: Coaches/Mentors – KICK
- Job Vacancy: Director of Regional Development – KICK
- Job Vacancy: Training and Skills Coordinator
- Dementia Friends Information Session
- Christmas Lunch Project 2021
- Coffee Morning in aid of Baby Bereavement Support
- Job Vacancy: Facilities Manager



Ales, Beers and Carols

This will be the 10th Anniversary for Ales Beers and Carols. To celebrate, this year the aim is to take the Christmas Carol festivities to 10 different venues. Three of the venues are in our parish and all of the pubs can be found on the flyer that is in the entrance foyer. The carolling events that will be taking place in our parish are:

8pm Wed 15th December - The Black Country Arms

8pm Mon 20th December - The Wheatsheaf

8pm Tues 21st December - Walsall Rugby Club

Avian influenza

We have been asked to inform our networks that Avian influenza has been confirmed by Defra in Walsall in the wild bird population in Walsall. The public are urged not to touch sick or dead birds. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is now urging people in Walsall not to touch any sick or dead wild birds in the borough with avian flu confirmed in the swan population in the Stubbers Green area. The risk to human health is considered very low, however it is vital that people do not touch sick live birds or bird carcasses, and infection control measures may be necessary if they do. For mor information go to

https://go.walsall.gov.uk/news/news_details/public-urged-not-to-touch-sick-or-dead-birds-160as-avian-influenza-confirmed-by-defra-in-walsall

Service patterns for the remainder of 2021 Due to rising Coronavirus numbers, we have decided that we should keep the same pattern of services till the end of December. These are: Sunday

- 8.45am (alternating BCP and Common Worship communion services)
- 10.45am (Morning Praise)
- 1.00pm (Asian Congregation in the Church Centre)
- 6.30pm (Evening Service in the Church Centre)

Wednesday

- 10.00am (alternating Common Worship and BCP communion services)

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.

Christmas Card deliveries to the parish Once again we are hoping to deliver a Christmas card from St. Matthew's to every house in our parish, delivering a message of hope and an invitation to attend our Christmas services this December. But we need your help! Please could you spare an hour or two to deliver some of the cards to a few streets? If so, please click the link to sign up and choose which streets you would like to deliver to: <https://stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/christmas-card-deliveries>

The Daily Prayer Emails and **December Prayer Diary** are now available on our website and will be in the daily email posting. Please contact the office for a printed copy. To sign up for the email option for receiving the short daily prayer diary prayers contact the office or go to <https://www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/signup>.

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.



Wider Church News

Doorstep Carols Doorstep Carols returns on Wednesday 15 December, 6-7pm, inviting people to tune into local radio and sing in their streets and raise money for charities. Last year over 100,000 people joined in. What started as a community event in Shrewsbury grew when over 30 local BBC radio stations streamed carol music to communities around the country. This year's supercharged event means that no one need be isolated this Christmas. This event will use music to unite people who are separated from their loved ones with organisations including Great Ormond Street and Birmingham Children's Hospitals planning events. It is easy to join in - all BBC local radio stations in the diocese and BBC Sounds will play the backing tracks to the nation's favourite carols and Christmas songs on 15 December. Simply download the free song sheets sing along!

New Wine Events New Wine Local Network Teaching Morning: 'Living out Jesus' Kingdom - Glory in the Mire' with Mark Aldridge - Assistant Leader of NW. **Saturday 4th December, starts at 9.30am**, held at St Philip's Bradmore, Wolverhampton, WV3 7EN. New Wine Local Network Celebration Evening with Mark Aldridge - Assistant Leader of NW. **Saturday 4th December, starts at 7.00pm** at St Martin's Bilston, Slater Street, WV14 8PF, will include: Worship, Teaching & Ministry.

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.

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 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:

- **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.

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

