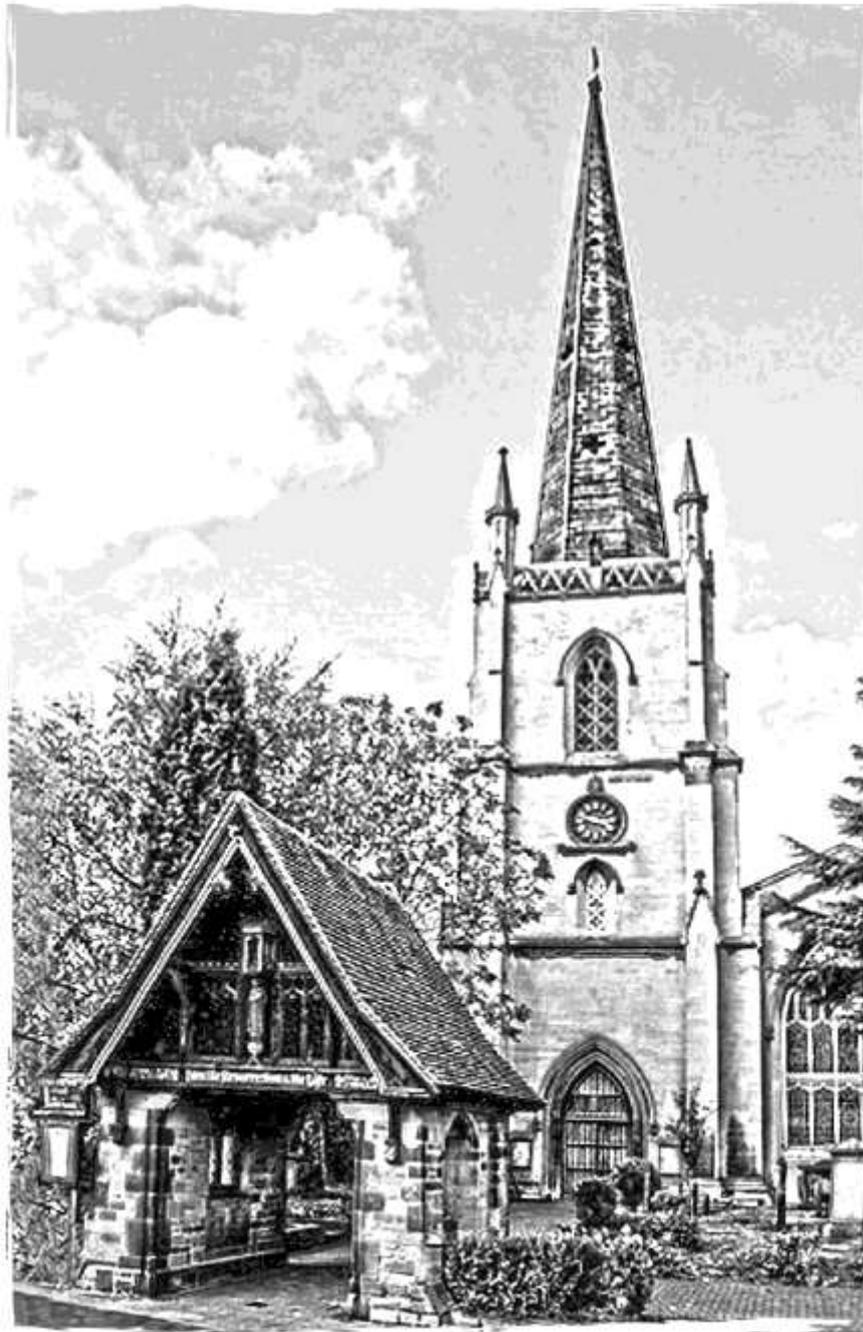


St matthews church

Prayer Diary



December 2021



St. Matthew's Church – **Worshipping** God; **Equipping** his people
Growing his kingdom; **Serving** Walsall.

“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

**Wednesday, 1st December: Alpha & Deanery Synod Reflection.
Corporation Street**

Lord Jesus, we know that you are always watching over us and care so much about us. Please especially be with those taking part in these meetings. Let us hear you speaking in our hearts. Let us get used to the sound of your voice, so that we recognise you when you speak to us and guide us in our daily lives. Help us to be more humble and to not think we can do it all on our own. We need to put our trust in you and to allow you to fashion our lives and direct us in the direction you wish us to follow. Amen

**Thursday 2nd December: Love Walsall, Living in Love, Faith Diocesan
Advocacy Group. Deanery of Aldridge.**

Loving Lord, on this busy day in our church and community, we thank you that there is so much activity in our area that we can attend and support and in so doing join others in glorifying your name. Please be with all those involved, let these events run smoothly and all who attend enjoy the time they spend together in fellowship. Amen

Friday 3rd December: The Homeless at Christmas. Waterly Lane

Dear Father, we pray for all who care for those in homeless shelters around the country. May their efforts to feed, clothe and give shelter bring God's blessing to many during this season. We give thanks for the humble birth of Jesus Christ. Help us to love and serve in humility. Give strength and hope to all those who are in circumstances that make their lives really difficult and sad. Amen.

Saturday 4th December: For Strength and Courage. Tasker Street

Dear Lord, we pray today for all who are without faith, hope or love. We pray for those who are sick, desperate or bereaved and for those who care for them and seek to bring them relief from their suffering. Give them the strength and courage to carry on, and hope for the future. We pray especially for all those known to us who are in special need of our prayers. Amen

Sunday 5th December: Christmas Celebrations. Woodcutter Close

Dear Father, as we all become increasingly busy with all the preparations for Christmas help us not to lose sight of the real reason for all the celebrations and to put you in at the centre of our thoughts and hearts. You gave us the greatest gift of all – the gift of your son who was prepared to sacrifice his life for us. We thank you, for this wonderful gift and as we celebrate His birthday, help us to think of Him as we give and receive gifts. Amen

Monday 6th December: Standing Committee Meeting. Midland Road

Dear Lord, we hold up to you all those taking part in this meeting tonight as they plan ahead for St Matthew's in 2022. In these difficult times, we do not know what next year will bring but we know that with your help anything is possible and no obstacle insurmountable. Give them your wisdom and may any decisions they make be in accordance with your will. We thank you Lord for their dedication. Help us to appreciate their commitment and the time they give up to help run our church. Amen.

**Tuesday 7th December: Licensing of Rev Rob Hall at St Paul's/St Lukes.
South Street**

Dear Lord, we pray especially for this service today. We thank you for guiding Rob to St Paul's/St Lukes and pray that with your support, he will find fulfilment here. Give him wisdom and energy so that he is able to reach out to those in this church community, bring them into fold of friendship and show them the love of Jesus. Amen

**Wednesday 8th December: Christmas Services in our Church.
Camben Street.**

Dear Father, at this busy time of the year we pray for all who preach of St Matthew's. May their words reach out to people who only attend our services at Christmas that they might wish to learn more about you Lord. Please help these people to take the first step. We also pray that our publicity will be effective as it is delivered to every home in our parish and that many of the people who read it will wish to celebrate your birth with us here in St Matthew's. Amen.

Thursday, 9th. December: Prayer for Rev Jim. Deanery of Rushall

Heavenly Father, we pray for the spiritual well being of our Rector Jim. As he leads us forward to the celebration of the birth of your son, Jesus, keep him strong in faith and physically well at such a busy time in St Matthew's church life. We give thanks for the support of Priscilla and their family. Amen

Friday, 10th. December: Street Ministry. Rutter Street

Father, as this witness of your love for the people of Walsall group begins to set up again, we pray that more people from churches across our borough are able to join them. The past year and a half has given us time to reflect on our isolation and many feel the need to share their worries with others. May a listening ear be there on a Friday evening with the reassurance of your love for us. Amen.

Saturday, 11th. December: Walsall Rotary. Spout Lane

As the excitement of Advent begins to echo through shops and our streets we pray for charities that take time to support those in need in our communities and across the world. May the work of the Rotary club and the Operation Christmas Child shoe box appeal be a reflection of our love for you and each other. Amen

Sunday, 12th. December: 3rd. Sunday in Advent. Milton Street

God of light and might, bring to our world a new beginning, a fresh start to your people. May we rejoice in all that lies ahead as we move from darkness into light, from repentance to forgiveness, from despair to hope. Help us to be prepared for change in ourselves and in your Church, for now and forever. Amen

Monday, 13th. December: Going Green, Rev Joe. Junction Street

Loving Father, as the talk from **COP26** begins to be taken over by other news we pray that the decisions promised are being implemented by nations across the world. We give thanks that Rev Joe is leading St Matthew's congregation into awareness of how we can make a difference in our daily and church life to protect our precious world. Amen

Tuesday, 14th. December: Care and Residential Homes.

South Street Gardens

Dear Heavenly Father, we pray for all those who live in residential homes in our parish. We ask that you give support to those who are physically weak and comfort to those who find life so confusing due to declining age. May the staff be able to get rest from the overwhelming responsibilities they carry each day. We pray protection for staff and residents from Covid. Amen

Wednesday, 15th. December: School Christmas Services. Thorpe Road

What joy it is to be able to welcome local schools into St Matthew's for them to celebrate Christmas in church. Father, we pray for all the children, staff and parents that come into the church at this time of Christian celebration that it has a meaningful significance, the birth of God's son, Jesus. Amen.

Thursday, 16th. December: Civic Carol Service.

Deanery of Sheffield and High Heath.

Thank you Lord for the Civic Carol Service being held in St Matthew's today. We are so grateful for all the Council officers and politicians have done over the last 2 years to deliver the public services needed in our town, and we pray that your love and compassion will be at the heart of each of the decisions the Council makes over the year ahead. Amen

Friday, 17th. December: Blue Coat Schools. Arundel Street

As the Federation Christmas Assemblies are held today in St Matthew's, we give thanks for the term that has just passed with its challenges, its opportunities and its achievements. May all at these schools and the others across the town have a restful holiday so that they may return refreshed for the new term in January. Amen

Saturday, 18th. December: This year's baptisms. Windsor Street.

Dear Lord, we remember those who got baptised this year at St Matthew's - Ethan, Arthur-Louis, Hayden, Kylo, Calvin, Tangeni, Joey-Ray and for Makhun. We thank you for this step of faith taken by them or on their behalf, and we pray that their faith in you will grow in the years ahead as they learn to trust you and follow your ways. Amen

Sunday, 19th. December: Carol Service. Brookhouse Road

When the angels had left them the shepherds said to one another 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us'. (Luke 2 v15)

We thank you for the joy of the Carol Service: for its music, its message and its readings. We pray especially for those who may be with us tonight but don't come often. We are so grateful they have made this step of faith, and we ask that they are touched by what they hear and the people they meet, so that like the shepherds they can return home praising and glorifying you.

Amen

Monday, 20th. December: Carols and ales in the Wheatsheaf (tonight) and the Rugby Club (tomorrow) Cornwall Road

'I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people' (Luke 15 v 10)

It is wonderful Lord that we have been invited into both The Wheatsheaf & The Rugby Club to share our faith in this way. We pray that through our carols and our witness, those present will start to recognise that the wonderful message of Christmas is for them. Amen

Tuesday, 21st. December: Preparation. Edinburgh Road

And John the Baptist, you will go before the Lord to prepare a way for him' (Luke 1 v 76)

Lord, as you tried to prepare the people long ago for the coming of Jesus by sending John, please prepare us too. Prepare our hearts and minds, so we may be ready to see Christ in our world, and may we show the joy of the Advent message in our lives day by day. Amen

Wednesday, 22nd. December: Offering our gifts. Orwell Road

And the magi bowed down and worshipped the baby Jesus. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts' (Luke 2 v 11)

As we are so preoccupied about what we are to give and receive on Christmas Day, may we never forget that you gave us so much leaving heaven for earth. May we therefore be willing, this Christmas, to give to you our love, our time, our dedication, our commitment and our talents so they may all be used to your glory and to bring us closer to you. Amen

Thursday, 23rd December: Refugees. Deanery of Streetly.

Joseph got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and left for Egypt' (Matthew 2 v 14)

We pray dear Lord for all who have had to leave their home for whatever reason and are refugees this Christmas. Please comfort the lonely, and may they feel the Christmas message of your peace wherever they are. We pray too Lord that you will show us what we can do to help those in this situation, and show them your love and compassion. Amen

Friday, 24th. December: Christingle/Midnight Communion.

Boscobel Road

Dear Father, we pray for all the people who will come through St Matthew's doors over the Christmas period and see the true meaning of Christmas away from the bustle of shops. May your Holy Spirit touch each individual and may they feel your peace descend on them. May our Christingle service be enjoyed by many as we celebrate the start of our Christmas services. Amen

Saturday, 25th. December: Christmas Day. Princes Avenue

Lord help us to remember that Your birth is a sign of new hope, new beginnings for us all and a sign that you wish to draw a line under all our past failings. May the wonder of your presence and the thought of you being with us always light up our hearts and minds scattering the darkness to bring us the blessing of your love this Christmas and always. Amen (Prayer Trust)

Sunday, 26th. December: Boxing Day Communion. The Crescent

As we come together to share communion today, may our love for one and all be evident. We ask for your peace to reign in our hearts and may your love be always at the heart of our own families and also our church family. May our thoughts, our lives and all our decisions have You firmly at the centre. Amen

Monday, 27th. December: All Those Who Are Lonely. Magdalene Rd

We pray for all the those who have been on their own this Christmas. We ask Father for you to come into their loneliness with your friendship. In their weariness bring your strength, their suffering your comfort and their sadness consolation. Come Father and show them your loving care. Amen

Tuesday, 28th. December: May Our Lord Take Care of us. Keble Grove

When we face difficult decisions may we always remember how much Our God loves us. When we get things wrong, make wrong decisions or take the wrong turn, let us know our God is there with open arms ready to take care of us once we realise our mistakes and ask for forgiveness. Amen

Wednesday, 29th. December: Flower Ladies/Holy Dusters.

St Catharine's Close

We remember with love and gratitude all the people who give their time to keep St Matthew's clean and beautifully decorated with flower arrangements and for all the extra work they have taken on during the Christmas period. Thank you for their dedication and service to you and may they know how much they are cared for by You. Amen

Thursday, 30th. December: Clergy/Church Wardens. Deanery of Pheasey

We give thanks to all our church wardens for all their hard work in keeping the church running smoothly and especially over the Christmas period. Thank you also for Jim & Joe as they have led our services all through the Christmas season and the run up to it with all the concerts and carol services. Bless them Lord and may they be able to find some time for themselves and their families. Amen

Friday, 31st. December: New Resolutions. New College Close

As we look to start a New Year we pray for new beginnings, enthusiasms and for renewed commitment to you. Help us Father to look at Your world with new respect and to all make a conscious effort to help stop the damage that we have done. Guide us in our thinking and behaviour in looking after your beautiful creation and make steps to change how we live each day. Amen