



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 5th December 2021

Church News

What’s on the next two weeks...

Sun 5th	8.45am	- Holy Communion (Church)
	10.00am	- Bell Ringing
	10.45am	- All Age Worship (Church)
	1.00pm	- Asian Congregation (Centre)
	6.30pm	- The Evening Service (Centre)
Mon 6th	7.30pm	- Standing Committee (Church)
Tues 7th	8.40am	- Blue Coat Academy Key Stage Assembly (Church)
	10.00am-4.00pm	- Places of Welcome (Church)
Wed 8th	9.30am-11.30am	- Toddlers (Centre)
	10.00am	- Mid-week Communion (Prayer Chapel in Church)
	11.00am	- Hydesville Christmas Concert (Church)
	4.00pm	- Joint Christian Union (Crescent Baptist Church)
	7.30pm	- Alpha (Centre)
	7.30pm	- Bellringing Practice
Thurs 9th	2.00pm-4.00pm	- OWLs (Centre)
Fri 10th	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 Joan Cartridge, Christine Jones, Daniel Townsend, Liz Blewitt, Sheena, Kim, Marian Masters, and Rob Bradburn.

Coronavirus Health and Safety update

Due to the recent changes in advice following the situation with the Omicron variant, we are now encouraging anyone who attends any services, assemblies or concerts at St. Matthew's church to wear a face covering (unless exempt). If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch.

"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." (Phil 2:3-4)





Children's Church Christmas Party

The Children's Church Christmas Party will be on Sunday 19th December from 10.40-12.00 noon in the Church Centre. There will be Christmas crafts, games and prizes. All children aged 3-11 are welcome to come along.

Christmas Cards and Christmas Services

There are still a few batches of cards to be delivered to the parish. If you are able to help, please pick them up from the church on Sunday morning. Our specific Christmas services this year will be...

Thursday 16th December	6.00pm Civic Carol Service
Sunday 19th December	6.30pm Carol Service
Christmas Eve	5.00pm Christingle Service (Book Tickets – see below)
	11.15pm Midnight Communion
Christmas Day	9.00am Holy Communion
	10.45am All Age Communion
	1.00pm Asian Congregation
Boxing Day	10.45am Boxing Day Communion
	1.00pm Asian Congregation (On Skype)

The only service we are asking people to book for is the Christingle service. The link for where to book can be found at www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/christmas.

Fundraising – thank you

Thank you to those who purchased items from Joan Nock's craft stall. It has raised £155.50 for church funds. Thank you to Joan for organising this.

Toys on offer

St Matthew's Toddler Group have been sorting through their toys. We have some that are considered surplus to requirements but are in good condition. These will be placed under the Christmas tree in church for people to take for themselves or for other children?

Planned services from February 2022

Moving forward with our services next year we are going to try and return to the same pattern we had before the pandemic. These will restart the first Sunday in February. However, this may be subject to change depending on how things progress. The planned service pattern will be:

Sunday	8.00am	Book of Common Prayer Communion
	9.00am	Holy Communion (Common Worship) with hymns
	10.45am	Morning Praise
	1.00pm	Asian Congregation (Church Centre)
	6.30pm	Evening Service (Church Centre)

The final Wednesday morning communion service will be on Wednesday 15th December. This service will be replaced with something different in the New Year – watch this space....

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

Do you serve at St Matthew's on a rota?

If you are on a reading, prayers, music, welcome rota etc. please check the Planning Center rota and make sure you block out dates when you are not available.

If you would like to serve the church community by joining a church rota, please speak to Rev Jim, Mike Ray or Kirsten Groom and they will add you to the relevant ones.

December 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.



Wider Church & Local News



Christmas TV Alpha UK presents Is God Dead? with Guvna B, airing on TBN this December. The show explores topics such as healing, prayer, social action, forgiveness and there's even a Christmas special! It's the perfect thing to tune into for those who are thinking about faith or considering doing an Alpha course.

You can catch this every Thursday and Friday in December at 8pm (apart from Christmas Eve!) on TBN finishing with the Christmas special on Thurs 23rd December. They can also watch the series on our global Alpha YouTube from this Friday.

TBN can be found on channel number 66 on Freeview and on channel 582 on Sky.

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 and 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

Love Black Country Job Noticeboard

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

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

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

