



### **Verse for the 2021:**

“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 26<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

**& Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022**

### ***Church News***

#### **What’s on the next two weeks...**

<b>Fri 24<sup>th</sup></b>	10.45am	- Funeral of Rob Bradburn (Church)
	5.00pm	- Christingle Service - Book tickets at <a href="http://www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/christmas">www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/christmas</a>
<b>Sat 25<sup>th</sup></b>	11.15pm	- Midnight Communion (Church)
	9.00am	- Holy Communion (Church)
	10.45am	- All Age Communion (Church)
	1.00pm	- Asian Congregation (Centre)
<b>Sun 26<sup>th</sup></b>	10.45am	- Boxing Day Communion (Church)
	1.00pm	- Asian Congregation (On Skype)
<b>Sun 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	8.45am	- Holy Communion (Church)
	10.45am	- All Age Worship (Church)
	1.00pm	- Asian Congregation (Centre)

**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, Heather Samuels, and Dick Sargent. Please pray for the family and friends of 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 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)



**Annual Remembering Service** At 3pm on **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022** we will be holding our annual Remembering Service where we remember those who have died in the last year and others who we miss dearly. If you know of anyone who might appreciate and invitation to the service, please pass their names and addresses to the Church Office.

**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 Beatitudes** We recently had a great series on the Beatitudes at the 10:45am service. We've put all of the talks into one handy playlist on YouTube for you to listen to/watch on the go. The Beatitudes are a short but profoundly beautiful and influential collection of sayings by Jesus. They sum up his teaching about what it means to live as a child of God's kingdom. They can be found right at the beginning of a long teaching discourse by Jesus in Matthew's Gospel, known as the Sermon on the Mount. In a few short sentences the Beatitudes are probably the most important, subversive, and revolutionary text in the Bible. In order to follow Jesus and live the Christian life we need to enter into the challenging world of the Beatitudes. Enjoy! <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfdy6Q-talte1hUqoMlxbSqU4nCQm8sOo>

**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.

**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. Morning Prayer will take a break over the Christmas holidays, and resume **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January**.



### ***Wider Church & Local News***

**Worshipping with your cathedral** For details of all the special services taking place at Lichfield Cathedral over the coming days, please take a look at the [cathedral website](#). Many of the services will be streamed on Facebook or YouTube.

**Crossroads Vocations Conference** A multi-date conference offering four opportunities to explore your vocation in 2022 with the diocese's vocations team, online or on person - where Christ, Church, world and self, meet. There will be online vocations conferences on **Saturdays 12 February, 10 September and 3 December and an in-person Quiet Day on Saturday 14 May**. Details to follow [here](#).

**Course with a Difference** Have you run the Difference course? Are you thinking about it? Having done it, are you wondering how to build on the learning? The theology behind the Difference course is our call as Christians to be reconcilers to one another and to creation, as we have been reconciled to God. The story of Jesus has reconciliation at its heart and is increasingly important at this time. There's a deep recognition of the need for Christians and the Church to be equipped to cross divides, navigate disagreement and engage with difference. The Difference course equips people to do this. You're invited to the Difference Hosts Gathering, led by a panel of facilitators and speakers from across the Midlands, **on 5 February**, 1.15-5pm, at Stoke St Michael Church, Coventry, CV2 4BG. Led by Emma Crick de Boom; Reconciliation Enabler for Coventry Diocese and the wider West Midlands, register [here](#).

**The Mission Forum: Charting the Change** Are you wrestling with mission as things continue to change around us? The Mission Forum is a gathering for anyone actively exploring the practice and direction of mission as we emerge from Covid and in the light of Shaping for Mission. It takes place from 10am-3pm at Wrockwardine Wood, Telford, on **Tuesday 8 February**. The forum offers networking opportunities to meet others developing mission in their setting, members of the Mission Team, Telford Minster and others. Topics include Pandemic and Lockdown: health and healing as mission; Shaping for Mission: vision into action; and Parish, Change and Mission. For more information or to book a place please email [Richard Barrett](#). To help shape the agenda please contact [Simon Foster](#).

**LLF training** As churches across the diocese engage in Living in Love & Faith, the national LLF team are offering three additional facilitation training sessions on **Monday 10 January from 2-4pm, Wednesday 19 January from 10am-12noon and Tuesday 25 January from 6-8pm**. You only need to attend one of the free sessions, which are likely to be the last opportunity to do this training. The sessions are designed for those who want to lead LLF courses and train others locally to do the same. Sign up by emailing [Georgina Morgan](#). LLF explores Christian teaching and learning about human identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. Find out more on [our website](#) where there's also a [new video](#) of people sharing their experiences of taking part in the LLF course.

**National online services:** Join online services from Christmas Eve to Boxing Day on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram. Our friendly online community are ready to welcome viewers. If you aren't worshipping online locally, you could share the national services.

**Daily Hope:** [The 24-hour Daily Hope line](#) provides prayers, readings, carols and full-length services, at the end of a phone line. Share the number with your community who can't make it to online or onsite services this week. 📞 **0800 804 8044**

**Virtual reality carols:** [Experience Christmas carols in Virtual Reality](#)– Best viewed on a mobile or tablet, it's as if you are in the room.

**Reflections for the 12 days of Christmas:** [The Christmas reflection journey](#) starts on Christmas Eve and ends at Epiphany on 6 January. On each day, a different contributor will share something that lies close to the heart of Christmas for them. You can access this via our app or sign up to receive email reflections.

**Are you excited about growing God's Kingdom among children and young people?** If the answer is 'YES!' then you need to contact us. Aldridge Methodist Church has a vacancy for a Youth, Children & Families Worker and wants to build on the great work undertaken in the past. We are passionate about bringing the Christian faith to children and young people in our community. If this is also your passion, then we want to hear from you. This is a three year post, for 16 hours per week, including evening and some weekends. Some flexible working will be necessary. The salary is £9.50p/h. Closing date for applications is noon on **7th January 2022**. Further information about the post and an application form are available from the circuit administrator, [walsallcircuit2804@gmail.com](mailto:walsallcircuit2804@gmail.com), or by post to Rev Ndoho, 34 Elizabeth Road, Walsall WS5 3PF. There is a genuine occupational requirement that the post holder is a Christian. The post will be offered subject to an enhanced DBS check and satisfactory references.

**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](mailto: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.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
*and*  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

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#### **Key Contacts:**

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

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

Pastoral Care Coordinator: Anne Tolley 07518 339606

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

Safeguarding Officer: Barbara Parker 01922 649909, [safeguarding@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk)

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

Website: [www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk](http://www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk)

