



Bulletin from St Matthew's Walsall
Sunday 16th January 2022

Worshipping God; Equipping His people; Growing His Kingdom; Serving Walsall

What's on this next week...

Sun 16th	8.45am	- Holy Communion (Church)
	10.00am	- Bell Ringing
	10.45am	- Morning Praise (Church)
	1.00pm	- Asian Congregation (Centre)
	6.30pm	- The Evening Service (Centre)
Tues 18th	8.40am	- Blue Coat Academy Key Stage Assembly (Church)
	10.00am-4.00pm	- Places of Welcome (Church)
Wed 19th	4.00pm	- Joint Christian Union (Crescent Baptist Church)
	7.30pm	- Bellringing Practice
Thurs 20th	2.00pm-4.00pm	- OWLs (Centre)
Fri 21st	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, Heather Samuels and Judy Appleby whose son passed away recently. Please pray for the family and friends of Pat Marriot, Dick Sargent and Sue Evans.

Sad news Many of you will know the sad news that Pat Marriott unexpectedly died last week. Pat was the organist at St Matthew's for many years but also a member of the church for many years before that. Needless to say, this a great shock to our church community as Pat was playing the Organ in church the week before and showed no signs of ill health. Please do keep Sue in your prayers as well as Pat's family.

Compassion Last Sunday James Spencer came to speak to us about the work of Compassion UK. If anyone is interested in sponsoring a child, Rev Jim has a few profiles that have been left behind and would be happy to show you them. Please contact Rev Jim if you would like to see them.

Contactless machine We have become aware that a few people are trying to give by contactless payment to the church, but the amounts are not being registered. Due to data protection rules we are unable to obtain the information to identify who these people are. However, when you use the machine, please wait for it to confirm the transaction before leaving the machine. If you notice a problem, please speak to a warden or member of clergy who will be able to help you.

Annual Remembering Service At 3pm on **Sunday 30th 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.

St Matthews Toddlers will resume after the February half-term.

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)



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)

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 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.

January Prayer Diary The current prayer diary is available via <https://www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/January-2022-Prayer-Diary.pdf> or a hard copy can be found in Church or obtained from the Church 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.

A blue square logo with the words "Daily Prayer" in white, stacked vertically.

Wider Church & Local News

Lichfield Cathedral will be praying for Walsall deanery on **Saturday 29th January**, and Thursday 3rd March in their public and private prayers. Anyone is welcome to join them in the Cathedral for the Eucharist at 12.30 or Evening Prayer/Evensong at 5.30pm. You can also join online, at [Lichfield Cathedral Daily Worship | Facebook](#)

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](#).

Modern Slavery in Plain Sight These popular sessions are in their third year now and have helped equip many people to spot the signs of Modern slavery and where to report them. Together we can make a difference and help bring an END to exploitation during this session I will let you know how, each and EVERY one of us CAN do something. Modern Slavery is present in every major town and city. We want to create a communities that are safe for all and where everyone can thrive and flourish. **WHO ARE THESE SESSIONS FOR:** Community residents, including churches, faith groups, charities, volunteer groups dealing with the public **who ALL play a key role in safeguarding their members and residents. WHAT WILL THE SESSIONS DO:**

These sessions will equip, empower and encourage all attendees to know **how to recognise and spot the signs of Modern Slavery** in their community and **how to respond and report suspicions** in a way that safeguards them and those exploited by this horrific crime. **WHO LEADS THE SESSIONS:** This training will be led by Debbie Huxton. She is a Modern Slavery Campaigner, employed by Transforming Communities Together and funded by Lichfield Diocese Mothers' Union.

Bringing Communities together to help one another. Check out

[https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/its-hidden-in-plain-sight-free-modern-slavery-awareness-2022-tickets-](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/its-hidden-in-plain-sight-free-modern-slavery-awareness-2022-tickets-221346963727?aff=odeimcmailchimp&mc_cid=0d0222c9b4&mc_eid=5f6955861f)

[221346963727?aff=odeimcmailchimp&mc_cid=0d0222c9b4&mc_eid=5f6955861f](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/its-hidden-in-plain-sight-free-modern-slavery-awareness-2022-tickets-221346963727?aff=odeimcmailchimp&mc_cid=0d0222c9b4&mc_eid=5f6955861f) to book a FREE sessions.

Walsall College Work Programme Walsall College has a number of FREE sector-based work academy programmes (SWAP) to help give people the training they need, support with their CV and a guaranteed job interview! The SWAPs can last up to six weeks and are open to all jobseekers aged 19+. They have close links with a number of great employers such as the NHS, Midland Metro, National Express, Grosvenor Casino, Accord Housing, 5 Care Services, McDonalds and McArthurGlen Retail Group. These SWAPs will be run at either our Cannock Campus or our Hawbush Campus in Leamore, Walsall. To find out more about the opportunities and for anyone interested in any of the SWAPs available, please register via - <https://www.walsallcollege.ac.uk/regional-skills-recovery-programme-2/#register>

LLF training As churches across the diocese engage in Living in Love & Faith, the national LLF team are offering additional facilitation training sessions on **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](mailto: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.

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. Session available on **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



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 office@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk (Mon-Thurs)

Website: www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk

