



St Matthew's Walsall - Bulletin
Sunday 19 November 2023

Worshipping God
Equipping His people
Growing His Kingdom
Serving Walsall

What's on this week ...

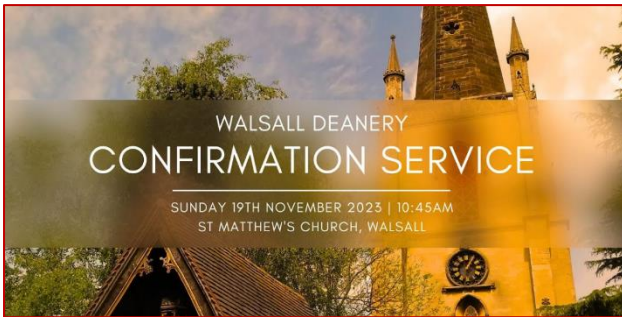
Sun 19 Nov	8.45am	- Parish Communion
	10.00am	- Service Bell Ringing
	10.45am	- Deanery Confirmation Service
	1.00pm	- Asian Congregation (Centre)
	6.30pm	- Evening Service
Mon 20 Nov	8.00am	- Morning Prayer
	10.00am	- Ethnic Identity Course (Centre)
	7.00pm	- Angel Chorus Practice (Centre)
Tues 21 Nov	8.15am	- Blue Coat Academy Assembly
	10.00am	- Places of Welcome
	7.30pm	- Ethnic Identity Course (Centre)
Wed 22 Nov	9.30am	- Baby Massage (Centre)
	10.00am	- Bible Study
	6.30pm	- Christmas Community Choir (Centre)
	7.00pm	- Bell Ringing
	7.30pm	- Ethnic Identity Course
	7.30pm	- Community Choir (Centre)
Thurs 23 Nov	8.00am	- Morning Prayer
	9.30am	- Stay and Play (Centre)
	12.30pm	- Sensory Play for Babies (Centre)
	2.00pm	- OWLs (Centre)
	3.30pm	- Organ Practice
	6.00pm	- ROAR (Centre)
	6.30pm	- Hymn Club (Centre)
	7.30pm	- Angels Chorus Practice
	7.30pm	- Ethnic Identity Course (Centre)
Fri 24 Nov	8.00am	- Blue Coat Academy Assembly
	9.30am	- Church Cleaning and Flowers
	7.00pm	- St Matthew's Youth Club
Sat 25 Nov	10.00am	- Walk of Awareness
	10.00am	- Nativity Rehearsal (Centre)
	7.00pm	- Youth Orchestra Concert

Further ahead

Sun 26 Nov	12.00pm	- Bring and Share Lunch
30 Nov		- Nativity Play Rehearsal
	1.00pm	- Funeral of Freda Evans
1 & 2 Dec		- Nativity Play
10 Dec		- Civic Carol Service

Prayer Diary for November - Available at <https://www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/resources/>

Prayer Requests – Please pray for Christine’s uncle Mark’s wife Kim as she undergoes aggressive hospital treatment. Pray also for all those medical staff who will be involved in her care and, if it is the Lord’s will, full healing. Please continue to pray for Diane Edlin and her family, Mark and Esther Westbury, Sue Webster’s friend, Sophie, Maureen Platt and Iris Taylor, David, Bozz, Natasha, Julie and Jane Griffin, Colin’s friend Hon, Iris Mallaband, Ann Hazzard and Heather Samuels.



10.45am Service

The Right Reverend Jonathan Clark, Acting Bishop of Wolverhampton, will be officiating at a Service of Confirmation and Holy Communion this **Sunday 19 November**. Please come and support all those being confirmed, and welcome them into the Church with joy!

Parking for the Confirmation Service

Blue Coat Academy have very kindly made their car park on Birmingham Street available, so please park there on **Sunday 19 November**. It is highly unlikely there will be any space on St Matthew’s Close itself.

Help needed to deliver Christmas cards to our 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 peace and offering an invitation to attend our Christmas services in December. But we need your help! Could you spare an hour or two to deliver some of the cards to a few streets?

If you can, please sign up and choose which streets you would like to deliver to at www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/christmas-card-deliveries

You’ll need to be available to deliver the cards at some point in the first half of December (ideally before our first Christmas service on **Sunday 10 December**). Cards will be available to pick up from church from **Sunday 26 November**, or we can arrange to get them to you if necessary. You can choose more than one batch if you want!



Bring and share lunch

Please join us for a bring and share lunch after the 10.45am service on **Sunday 26 Nov**. Bring along some food to share – this can be hot, cold, sweet, savoury, homemade or shop-bought. Food will be placed on tables to make a large buffet for everyone to share after the service. There is no requirement to bring food as everyone is welcome to eat with us!

West Midlands Police Band Concert – last call!

Our Autumn concert season is concluding with a very special concert from the West Midlands Police Brass Band.

Join us on **Saturday 18 November** at 7pm in St Matthew's Church, Walsall. Tickets are £5 or FREE if you have a Blue Light card. No need to pre-book - just turn up!



Church breakfast 18 November

All are welcome to friendly breakfast at Toby Carvery, Broadway, Walsall, on the third Saturday of each month. The best destination for good conversation, laughs and lots of food! Call Neal 07717 192513 for information, or just turn up 8.30am onwards.

Children's Christmas Shoe Box Appeal – thank you!



As ever, an amazing response from the wonderful St Matthew's community to the OWL's annual charity gift request. They filled a total of 56 shoeboxes, and Anne sends her enormous thanks to everyone for their generosity in donating items for the shoeboxes and money to cover the postage. And, of course, to the OWLs themselves for filling and wrapping them, and for making the project fly!

The Nativity - tickets are being snapped up, so make sure to book now!

The Nativity is a new adaptation of the story of the birth of Jesus, as told in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

This unmissable community theatre production takes the story back to the basics: the shepherds are labourers who don't wear dressing gowns; the Magi are figures of authority; Herod is a frustrated vassal of Rome; and Mary and Joseph are a young couple facing enormous responsibility.

Performances are on:

Friday 1 December, 7pm

Saturday 2 December, 2.30pm & 7pm

Book at www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/nativity





Church Weekend Away: Fri 12 Jan -Sun 4 Jan 2024 – booking essential

You are invited to our annual Church Weekend Away. It's a wonderful time to relax, to build friendships, and to get closer to God. The weekend is for the whole church: all ages, abilities and life-stages. Find out more and book:

www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/weekend-away

Wider Church & Local News

Sanctuary Mental Health and Well-being Church Conference

This conference will create a space for you to explore how churches and Christian communities can become sanctuaries that champion positive mental health and well-being. Taking place on **Friday 24 November** from 9.30am to 3pm at LifeCentral Church in Halesowen, booking is essential via Eventbrite (just search for the conference title).

Any Questions? At Lichfield Cathedral

BBC Radio 4's *Any Questions?* was first broadcast in October 1948. Every week it visits a different part of the country with a panel of four speakers who answer questions from the audience. On **Friday 1 December** it will be at Lichfield Cathedral. Admission is by ticket only and doors will open to the audience at 6.30pm. (Children under 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.) See the cathedral website for full details including booking tickets.

<https://www.lichfield-cathedral.org/what-s-on/any-questions>

Movement in Worship



Love Black Country is offering an opportunity to explore using rhythm and movement in worship. Our base gatherings have a small amount of teaching, with plenty of time set to worship together in movement and rhythm. Movers, drummers and those interested exploring creative ways to worship are all welcome!

Key Contacts:

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

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

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