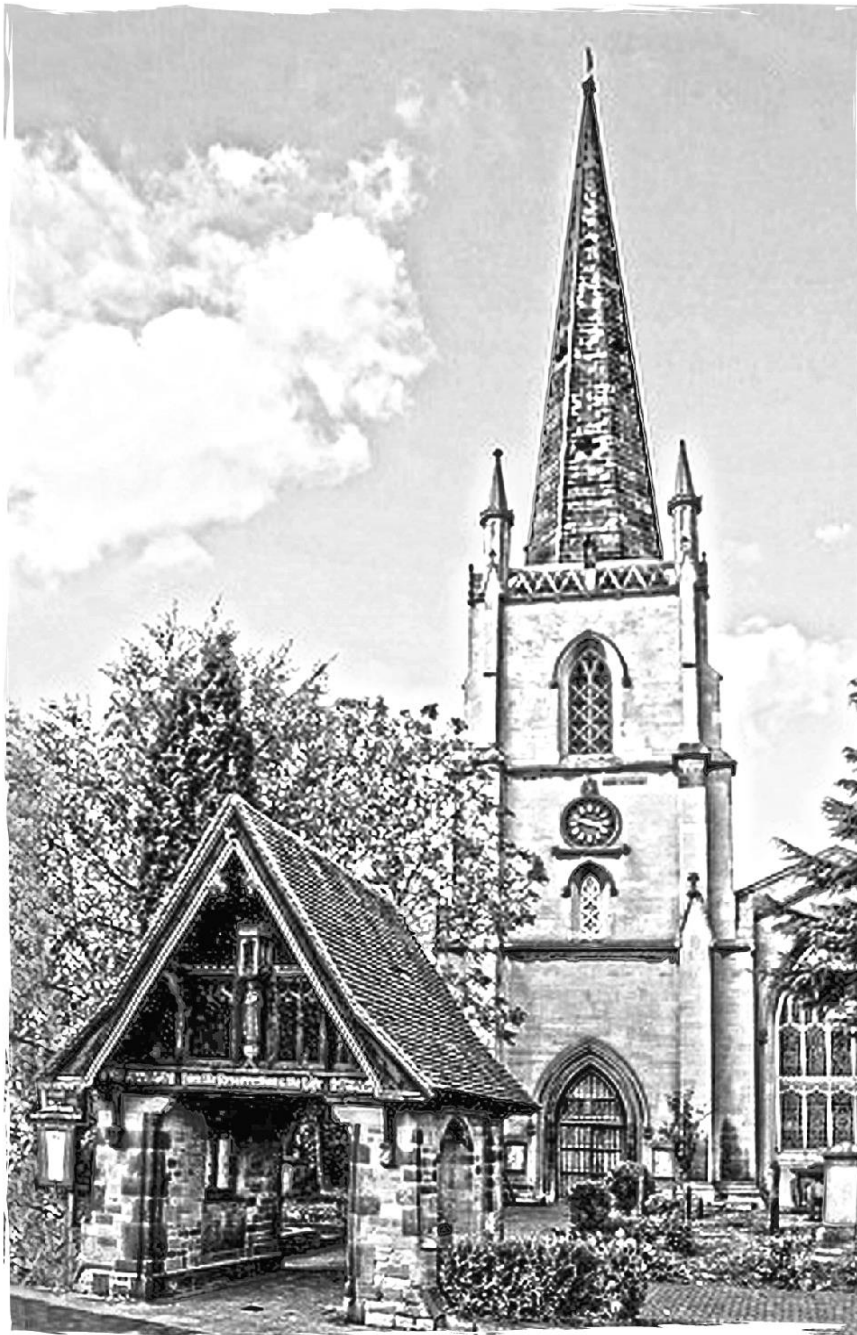


St matthews church

Prayer Diary



March 2024



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

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Philippians 4:8

War and Conflict

God of justice and mercy, we pray for war zones across the world, and especially Ukraine, Gaza and Israel, and for those caught up in conflicts as innocent bystanders. We pray for your peace, and may the leaders take stock of the consequences, intended and unintended, of prolonged conflicts and acts of violence. Amen.

Friday 1st March:

Junction 10 Youth Group

Heavenly Father, we thank you for all our children and young people, and we pray that many will attend this club and so enable it to flourish. We ask you to be with all those who attend, and pray that they will all enjoy their time spent together in a safe environment. We also pray for the leaders of this group and thank them for the time and dedication that they are showing in helping the young people of our area. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Bradford Lane.

Saturday 2nd March:

Blue Coat Festival; Church crypt & tower visits

Dear Lord, we ask for your blessing on this event in our Church. Please be with and guide all those involved, giving them the energy, ideas and enthusiasm to show off the work that goes on in these schools in an interesting and thought-provoking fashion. Thank you for the opportunity to show off our beautiful Church in allowing visitors into our crypt and tower. We pray that many people will visit and enjoy this exhibition and their time spent in our Church, hopefully to attend again at a later date and take part in one of our regular services. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Mountrath Street.

Sunday 3rd March:

Blue Coat Sunday

Dear Lord, we give thanks for our Blue Coats Schools. We are so lucky to have these wonderful Church schools in our vicinity, and pray for the dedication of all the staff as they continue to teach the pupils in a Christian atmosphere. Today everyone is invited to share in worshipping you and we pray that many families will attend. May all feel your love surrounding them and wish to attend other services at our Church. We pray that with your guidance these schools in Walsall will continue to flourish. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Vicarage Place.

Monday 4th March:

Funeral of Graham Angell

Dear Lord, we ask you to be with the family and friends of Graham Angell, at his funeral today. Help them to celebrate his life and assure them of your love for them at this tough time. We also pray for all members of our congregation who are facing challenging times. Help them to know that you are always with them, and give them the strength and wisdom to deal with any demanding situations that they face. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Vicarage Walk.

Tuesday 5th March:

Walsall NHS Trust Youth group

Holy Father, during your ministry here on earth, you have healed many people, and today we ask that you continue to watch over all those who are working so hard in the NHS looking after us all. Today we think especially of those involved in tonight's NHS youth work session and pray that they have a successful meeting in our Centre. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Glebe Street.

Wednesday 6th March:

NHS Talking Therapies; Blue Coat Federation Governors' meeting; Alpha course; Lent lunch

Holy Father, on this busy day in our Church we ask you to watch over and support all those involved in all the activities that are taking place. May all the meetings be successful and achieve what they set out to do. Surround with love all those taking part this year's Alpha course and today's Lent lunch that they may feel your presence with them. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Hart Street.

Thursday 7th March:

Sensory Play for Babies

Dear Lord, today we ask you to bless this group. May they all enjoy their time together and thank you for this opportunity for the parent/carers to meet and talk together whilst the children play. We ask that you will be with these children today and throughout the rest of their lives, watching over them and keeping them safe in the knowledge of your constant love for them. Please bless them and their families. Amen.

Prayers for the Walsall Deanery, Beacon Church.

Friday 8th March:

Wedding of Melissa Lowe and Jason Paddock

Dear Father, we pray for Melissa and Jason today as they pledge their love for each other in your presence. Please be with them as they start their lives together as husband and wife. Help them to know that you are always with them and to let them feel your love and support. May the love that they feel for each other today grow stronger as the years pass. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Mount Street.

Saturday 9th March:

Burial of ashes of Barbara Cole

Father, we give thanks for the life of Barbara Cole and pray for comfort for her family and friends as they come together to bury her ashes in the memorial gardens at St Matthew's. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of White Street.

Sunday 10th March:

Climate change; the Big Plastic Count

Father, as many of the spring flowers and bulbs have already blossomed and died back, we see the effect of global warming and climate change. We continue to pray, Lord, that we all take the responsibility to reduce the rising temperatures through our daily use of natural resources. May The Big Plastic Count from 11-17 March bring a focus to all households, communities and businesses on their use and waste of plastics. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Brace Street.

Monday 11th March:

Diocesan Network meeting

Father, we pray for all those attending the meeting today that it will be both constructive and well attended. We pray for unity and love as larger churches share their concerns for their parishes. May you give them eyes of faith to see things as you do, and to feel your presence as they strive to come up with solutions for these individual and mutual concerns. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Corporation Street.

Tuesday 12th March:

Blue Coat Assembly

Heavenly Father, we pray that the students of Blue Coat Academy feel the power of your presence as they walk into St Matthew's Church for their assembly. We give thanks for the leadership of the staff in the development of these young pupils' lives. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Waterly Lane.

Wednesday 13th March:

JAM; Town Centre ministries

Father, what joy it is to have these young children in our church. Guide and protect them, their parents and their guardians in their Christian development. It is good, Lord, that leaders of churches of different denominations come together, work together to spread the news of your love across Walsall. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Tasker Street.

Thursday 14th March:**New Wine Leader's meeting**

Father, we give thanks for all those attending this meeting with the wonderful task of organising the forthcoming events and speakers for the New Wine festival. Thank you that we will have the opportunity of worshipping you with many other Christians from across the UK and visitors from further afield. Amen.

Prayers for the Walsall Deanery, St Margaret's Church.

Friday 15th March:**Sunday evening services**

Father, we pray for blessing upon those who attend the evening service in the Church Centre, for those who lead and for those who prepare food. May the format attract more worshippers to Church that aren't able to attend the morning services. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Woodcutter Close.

Saturday 16th March:**Bold 'z' Brass; Brenda Franklin**

Thank you, Lord, that our Church is being used for a concert tonight. May all who come along enjoy the wonderful music and the lovely building. And we give thanks too, Lord, for Brenda as she reaches her 100th birthday. Thank you for her years of witness and the faith she has shown, and may she have a happy, happy day. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Midland Road.

Sunday 17th March:**Asian Congregation**

As we meet today, we pray for our Asian congregation. Thank you for the witness of their amazing faith and commitment, and ask they are given wisdom as they reach out into their communities with the message of your love. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of South Street.

Monday 18th March:**Caldmore Primary School visit; Church Council (PCC) meeting**

Please bless the children and teachers from Caldmore as they come to our Church today, and are told about why the Church is here and what we believe. We pray, too, for the Church Council tonight. As it grapples with the decisions that affect the future of our fellowship, may the members be guided by you and by what you want St Matthew's to be in the future. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Camden Street.

Tuesday 19th March:**Academy Church meeting**

We ask your blessings be with the Academy Church today. May it be a time when those who attend come closer to you and see more clearly the plans you have for their lives. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Rutter Street.

Wednesday 20th March:

Community Choir; Lent Lunch; Alpha course

Dear Lord, thank you for the Community Choir, and may it be a time of fun, fellowship and support. We pray, too, for all who are going along to the Lent lunch and to Alpha. Thank you for their commitment and willingness to learn, and may what they hear speak to their hearts and help their faith in you grow. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Spout Lane.

Thursday 21st March:

Stay and Play; Deanery Standing Committee; Blue Coat Academy Governors

We pray that the Stay and Play today will be a time of support and love for carers and children alike. We ask, too, that wisdom is given to the Academy Governors and the members of the standing committee as they meet. May they be open to seeing your will for all their decisions. Amen.

Prayers for the Walsall Deanery. St Gabriel's Church.

Friday 22nd March:

Blue Coat Federation; St Matthew's Youth Club

We pray that in the Federation's Easter service the staff and pupils will hear afresh the message and meaning of your death and resurrection. We pray, too, for the Church's Youth Club. Please be with those who lead it, and may it be a place where those who go along can feel their faith being nurtured and growing. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Milton Street.

Saturday 23rd March:

wedding of Kate Largan and Sebastian Burgess

Thank you so much, Lord, for Kate and Sebastian. Please bless their marriage. May love be at its core and may they feel you always in their hearts. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Junction Street.

Sunday 24th March:

Blue Light Choir

We pray for the many events that are organised in the wonderful Church building and for those who enjoy whatever is being shared. We pray for the choir this evening that it will be well attended and enjoyed, and may St Matthew's ignite a candle in their hearts to attend again and enjoy the embrace of a service. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of South Street Gardens.

Monday 25th March:**Holy Week Evening Service; Release Potential**

As we begin Holy week, we give thanks for our Rector Jim for the services he will lead, and for the ability to help us reflect and learn as we walk again with you through this time. May our hearts reflect on all that you sacrificed for us that we may live in the security of having you always in our lives. We pray for the group running in the Church Centre. May the advice and training on hand help with guiding people into returning to work. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Thorpe Road.

Tuesday 26th March:**Places of Welcome**

Dear Lord, we give thanks for all those who give up their time to volunteer to open St Matthew's doors on Tuesdays, inviting people in to enjoy the surroundings, to pray and to enjoy conversation and refreshments. We ask that this will encourage people to attend St Matthew's at other times and enjoy the warm welcome, the hand of friendship but, above all, the experience of getting to know you. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Arundel Street.

Wednesday 27th March:**Guides**

We pray for St Matthew's guides as they meet tonight in the Centre. We thank you for the regular running of this group over the many years and for all the lives it has touched. We pray for all the leaders, the teaching and the friendships formed and pray that your presence will dwell in their hearts always. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Windsor Street.

Thursday 28th March:**Community groups**

We give thanks for our Church Centre and for all the groups that use the building throughout the week offering friendship, fun and laughter. We pray that more will come along and see what is on offer and use the time to meet new people, build friendships and feel part of the St Matthew's community. Amen.

Prayers for the Walsall Deanery. St Matthew's Church.

Friday 29th March:**Good Friday**

We pray for the people of Walsall to embrace the meaning of the Walk of Witness held around Walsall town centre today. We pray for the extension of the Witness this year, to share the Good News of your resurrection through song, engaging with children through activities and offering street prayers. May their hearts be open to all that happened years ago and what you did for us. Touch us all anew, Lord Jesus, with wonder, with love and for the abundant care and love for one another. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Brookhouse Road.

Saturday 30th March:

Easter services

We pray for all the services held today, Lord, and pray for peace in our world to be a priority. Lord, please guide our world away from war, away from disasters, both human-made and natural. We pray for our world to be a better place for everyone, especially for the children who will inherit the world after us with all its challenges to the environment. Please, Lord, guide our world along the path of peace. Amen.

(Prayer Trust)

Please pray for the residents of Cornwall Road.

Sunday 31st March:

From sadness to joy

Lord, when the women came in great sadness to your tomb to anoint you with spices, they found you not there and began to believe you were alive. Their sadness turned to joy. Lord, help us all to grasp the wonder of you rising from the dead and how it changes everything and our whole perception of the meaning of life, if only we allow ourselves, with your grace, to believe. Amen. (Prayer Trust)

Please pray for the residents of Edinburgh Road.