



## St Matthew's Walsall - Bulletin

**Sunday 1 December 2024**

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

### What's on this week

<b>Sun 1 Dec</b>	8.45am	- Parish Communion
	10.00am	- Service Bell Ringing
	10.45am	- Morning Praise (All Age Worship)
	1.00pm	- Asian Congregation
	6.00pm	- Bell Ringing
	6.30pm	- The Evening Service (Church)
<b>Mon 2 Dec</b>	8.00am	- Morning Prayer
	10.00am	- Homegroup (Centre)
<b>Tues 3 Dec</b>	8.15am	- Blue Coat Academy Assembly
	10.00am	- Places of Welcome
	3.00pm	- After School Bell Ringing Club
<b>Weds 4 Dec</b>	10.00am	- Bible Study
	3.30pm	- JAM After School Club (Centre)
	6.00pm	- Guides (Centre)
	6.30pm	- Guitar Circle (Centre)
	6.30pm	- Christmas Community Choir (Church)
	7.00pm	- Bell Ringing
	7.30pm	- Community Choir (Centre)
<b>Thurs 5 Dec</b>	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
	7.00pm	- Music Ministry Team Rehearsal
<b>Fri 6 Dec</b>	9.30am	- Church Cleaning and Flowers
	7.30pm	- Signs for Worship Service (Centre)

### Further ahead

<b>8 Dec</b>	- Civic Carol Service
<b>9 Dec</b>	- Funeral of Dorothy Derby
<b>11 Dec</b>	- Carols in Pubs: The Wheatsheaf
<b>16 Dec</b>	- Carols in Pubs: The Black Country Arms

- 20 Dec** - Blue Coat Federation Christmas Service
- 22 Dec** - Nativity Service
- St Matthew's Carol Service
- 24 Dec** - Christingle
- Midnight Communion
- 25 Dec** - All Age Christmas Communion

**December's Prayer Diary** – available at <https://www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/resources/>

**Prayer requests** –Please pray for Graham Smith, and also Natasha's sponsor Sarah. Others who also wish to be kept in your prayers include Barbara, Martin Bull, Foxx Charvis Ward, Mike, James and Louise Tolley, Rosemarie Burgess, Iris Taylor, Sue Webster, Iris Mallaband, Maureen Platt, Ann Hazzard and Heather Samuels.



### **10.45am Service**

On **Sunday 1 December**, we will be celebrating the first Sunday of Advent, as Christians get ready for the birth of Jesus Christ!

### **Evening service 1 December**

Please note that this week's service will be held in Church and not the Centre, and will be sung worship. This may run on a little longer than usual as it will be so much fun!

### **Down to Earth: A Christmas devotional journey**

Throughout Advent, join us as we get inspired to follow the down-to-earth Saviour in our everyday lives with Down to Earth, a new Advent devotional journey. We'll consider the amazing humility Jesus shows in his incarnation; the huge scope of his redemptive work on Earth; the invitation he gives all kinds of people to be part of that work; and what it looks like for the church to go out into his world, joining in his down-to-earth mission.

Each devotional is the perfect length to read as you have your morning coffee, commute on the bus, or enjoy a few moments of quiet whilst your baby naps. Join in via the YouVersion Bible app (search 'LICC Down to Earth') or sign up for daily emails from LICC at [licc.org.uk/downtoearth](http://licc.org.uk/downtoearth)

### **Decorating for Christmas**

All are welcome to come and help Jan decorate the Christmas tree in Church on **Friday 6 December**, 9.30am. (And it would be very helpful if you are free on **Tuesday 7 January 2025** at 9.30am to help pack away all the Christmas decorations and put out all the banners around the gallery.) Have a word with John Edlin on 07546 504904 if you can help.

### **Blue Coat Academy food bank collection**

The Student Faith Leadership team at the Academy are organising a food bank collection for the Black Country Food Bank at Ablewell. If anyone would like to donate, the Student Faith team members will collect the items by **10 December**. Please label any donations 'Blue Coat Academy food bank'.

## Christmas at St Matthew's

### **Sunday 8 December**

10.45am Civic Carol Service

### ***Carols in the Pub***

### **Wednesday 11 December**

8.00pm The Wheatsheaf

### **Monday 16 December**

8.00pm The Black Country Arms

### **Sunday 22 December**

10.45am Nativity Service

6.30pm Carol Service



### **Christmas Eve**

5.00pm Christingle Service

11.15pm Midnight Communion

### **Christmas Day**

8.45am Holy Communion

10.45am All Age Christmas Communion

1.00pm Asian Congregation

## Recycling printer cartridges

Thank you for recycling your printer cartridges in The Recycle4Charity box at the back of the Church. With your help we have kept 396,446kg of ink cartridges out of landfill sites, and your cartridges have generated a donation of £11.40 for charity!



## Deck the Mall – join us for carols around Walsall!

Come spread Christmas cheer across some of Walsall's favourite shopping and culture spots! On **Saturday 7 December**, we're singing carols at the following venues:

10am: The Light Cinema

2pm: Saddlers Centre

11am: The New Art Gallery

3pm: The Table Coffee Shop

Join us at any (or all!) of these locations for some festive singing and community spirit! Let's Deck the Mall together!

## Carols in the Pub – join us for festive cheer!

Get into the Christmas spirit with Carols in the Pub! Sing your favourite Christmas carols with us while enjoying a cozy evening at these great local spots:

**Wednesday 11 December** at 8pm, The Wheatsheaf

**Monday 16 December** at 8pm, Black Country Arms

Bring your friends, grab a drink, and let's fill the air with festive joy! Everyone's welcome – singing voice not required, just a love for Christmas and good company!



## We're hiring a Site and Operations Assistant

St Matthew's Church is seeking a committed practical individual to work on a flexible, part-time basis to support the work of the Church. The successful applicant will perform a wide range of duties related to the maintenance of the Church property, preparation of rooms (including moving furniture), administrative duties and digital and technical support during Sunday and occasional services. Go to [www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/jobs](http://www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/jobs) for more information and details on how to apply. Applications are open until **Sunday 15 December**.

## **Blue Coat Nursery and Year 2 families primary school place preferences**

If your child will be four by 1 September 2025, you must submit your preferences for where you would like them to go to school when they move into Reception. Children in Blue Coat Nursery do not automatically move into Blue Coat Reception - you **MUST** apply for a place through the local authority by **15 January 2025**.

If your child is in Year 2, you must submit your preferences for their move to Year 3. Children in our Year 2 do not automatically move into Blue Coat Junior School - you **MUST** apply for a place through the local authority by **15 January 2025**.

If you want a faith place you must complete a form and request a letter from Rev Jim:  
<https://go.walsall.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-08/Walsall%20Faith%20Schools%20Supp%20Form%202025%20-%20Accessible.pdf>

## **Children and communion**

We are looking at holding a preparation day for children wishing to be admitted to communion before confirmation. This is open to any baptised children in Year 3 or above. If any child wishes to attend the preparation day and their parent(s) are in agreement, please pass your details to Rev Jim by the end of the November.

## **Church Weekend Away**

We're super excited for our Church Weekend Away from **Friday 10 to Sunday 12 January 2025**. It will be 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. We are staying in Quinta Hall, a 'handsome mansion' with 35 bedrooms, cosy lounges and a large meeting room. It is situated on a vast site with lakes, woodland, a sports hall and various activities on offer. Why not join us? Sign up now at [www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/weekend-away](http://www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/weekend-away)

## **Wider Church & Local News**

### **Deanery Advent Reflection**

It's always a busy time of year as we prepare for the beginning of advent, and in the midst of the busyness you are very warmly invited to take some time for reflection at our annual Deanery Advent Reflection, held on **5 December** at 7.30pm, Christchurch Blakenall. Our speaker will be the new Bishop of Wolverhampton, Rt Revd Tim Wambunya. This is an open invitation to all people to come and there will be refreshments afterwards.

### **Lichfield for singing**

Are you a singer aged 13-19? Would you like develop your skills to a higher level? If so, join in a new choral course created in partnership between Lichfield Cathedral and The Gesualdo Six. It is on **Sat 11 Jan 2025** but you must book online before **2 December**. Visit [www.lichfield-cathedral.org/singing](http://www.lichfield-cathedral.org/singing) to apply. Cost is £85 per participant (including lunch and refreshments). For any enquiries, contact us at [singing@lichfield-cathedral.org](mailto:singing@lichfield-cathedral.org)

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

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

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

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