

## St Matthew's Walsall - Bulletin

**Sunday 2 February 2025**

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

|                    |         |                                      |
|--------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Sun 2 Feb</b>   | 8.45am  | - Parish Communion                   |
|                    | 10.00am | - Service Bell Ringing               |
|                    | 10.45am | - Morning Praise                     |
|                    | 1.00pm  | - Asian Congregation                 |
|                    | 4.00pm  | - Young Ringers Quarter Peal         |
|                    | 6.30pm  | - Alpha Course (Centre)              |
| <b>Mon 3 Feb</b>   | 8.00am  | - Morning Prayer                     |
|                    | 1.00pm  | - Baby Massage (Centre)              |
| <b>Tues 4 Feb</b>  | 8.15am  | - Blue Coat Academy Assembly         |
|                    | 10.00am | - Places of Welcome                  |
| <b>Weds 5 Feb</b>  | 10.00am | - Bible Study                        |
|                    | 3.30pm  | - JAM After School Club (Centre)     |
|                    | 6.00pm  | - Guides (Centre)                    |
|                    | 6.30pm  | - Guitar Circle (Centre)             |
|                    | 7.00pm  | - Bell Ringing                       |
|                    | 7.30pm  | - Community Choir (Centre)           |
| <b>Thurs 6 Feb</b> | 8.00am  | - Morning Prayer                     |
|                    | 9.30am  | - Stay and Play (Centre)             |
|                    | 12.30pm | - Sensory Play for Babies (Centre)   |
|                    | 2.00pm  | - OWLs (Centre)                      |
|                    | 7.00pm  | - Music Ministry Team Rehearsal      |
| <b>Fri 7 Feb</b>   | 8.00am  | - Blue Coat Academy Assembly         |
|                    | 9.30am  | - Church Cleaning and Flowers        |
|                    | 7.30pm  | - Signs for Worship service (Centre) |

### Further ahead

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Sun 9 Feb</b>               | - Remembering Service                      |
| <b>Thurs 13 Feb</b>            | - Funeral of John Westwood (Streetly Crem) |
| <b>Sat 15 Feb</b>              | - Community Choir Concert                  |
| <b>Tues 25 Feb – Sat 1 Mar</b> | - Blue Coat Festival                       |
| <b>Sun 2 Mar</b>               | - Blue Coat Sunday Service                 |

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

**Prayer requests** – Please pray for those in our community who are sad, lonely or troubled. Also, please keep in your prayers Joan Cartridge, Henry Nicholas, Heather Samuels, Wendy Barker, Graham Taylor, Foxx Charvis Ward, Rosemarie Burgess, Iris Taylor, Sue Webster, Iris Mallaband, Maureen Platt and Ann Hazzard, that they find comfort and relief from pain.

### **10.45am service**



Please join us for an All Age Worship service this **Sunday 2 February**. The topic will be Esau and Jacob are reconciled, so well worth joining in! The service will also be livestreamed on the YouTube channel to those who are unable to come in person.

### **Urgent notice**

The heating in the nave is still not working. The 8.45am service will be held in the side chapel, which can be heated, however the main church will be cold for the 10.45am service. Please wrap up warm and wear as many scarves, hats and gloves as you wish! You are also invited to bring a blanket and hot water bottle with you.

### **Calling all singers!**

This Easter weekend, step with us into the lives of Jesus' followers as they face life without their Master.

Will Peter go back to his nets? Matthew was a tax collector – what will he do now? Does Mary Magdalene have a plan now the man who cast out her demons has been executed and buried?



St Matthew's Church and St Gabriel's Church in Walsall are staging an original production by Andrew Clayton on **Holy Saturday, 19 April**.

We need six lead voices (one alto, two tenor, two baritone, one bass) and a small chorus to sing the story. Could you be our Peter or John? E-mail [andrew@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk](mailto:andrew@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk) for further information and to arrange an audition.

### **Eat out with us!**

Join the folk from St Matthew's for a bite to eat on **Friday 21 January**. We'll meet at Farmer John's, 251 Aldridge Road, Streetly B74 2DX at noon. Contact Brenda on 07792 938126 to book a place.



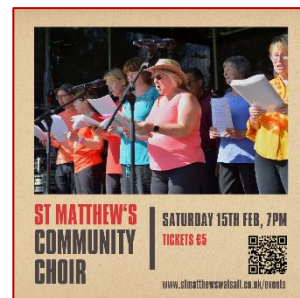
**Jim taking the stall belonging to the Prebend of Wolvey on 26 January**  
(Photos courtesy of Jimm Rennie)

## The St Matthew's spring concert season is about to start!

We're gearing up for some exciting concerts at St Matthew's, so book your tickets now at [www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/events](http://www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/events)

### **Sat 15 February, 7pm - St Matthew's Community Choir (tickets £5)**

Our resident Community Choir presents a selection of material to kick off our 2025 season. Come along to listen, or to sing along!



### **Sat 15 March, 4pm – Melomane (suggested donation £5)**

Apollo Academy Youth Orchestra, fresh from a barnstorming 2024 season, present an orchestral play day open to all. Any musician is welcome to sign up in advance (<https://forms.gle/23g2Qjg1WR6jGnK58>) to play with the orchestra, which will present Mahler's first symphony in concert in the evening. This promises to be a landmark event, as the orchestra welcomes guests of all abilities from professional players to rusty amateurs, all under the experienced baton of Paul Ecclestone-Brown.

### **Sat 10 May, 7pm - Brass Band Play Day (tickets £5)**

Steve Pritchard-Jones, director of West Midlands Police Band and Shrewsbury Band, leads a play day for brass band players of all ages, culminating in a concert at 7pm where the day's work will be presented in performance. Registration to play is free. See our website for details.



### **Sat 21 June, all day - Birmingham Organists' Association (donations invited)**

The organ at St Matthew's was installed 250 years ago under the tenure of priest and composer John Darwall. Rebuilt in 1952 and 1999, it remains a fine example of its kind, and we're delighted to welcome organists in for a chance to play and listen to the instrument put through its paces.

## Bluecoat Festival needs you!

This year the Bluecoat Festival takes place in week commencing **24 February 2025**, and school pupils will be visiting the church on **Tuesday 25, Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 February**, starting at 9.15am. As with last year, we will need volunteers to welcome and help where necessary, and, if possible, to make some refreshments available for staff and visitors.

If you can help at any time during this period, please have a word with Judith in church or on 07490 488144 or email Judith at [ridgway@talktalk.net](mailto:ridgway@talktalk.net).

## Funeral of John Westwood

John Westwood's funeral will be held on **Thursday 13 February** at 11.15am in the East chapel at Streetly Crematorium. Please remember John in your prayers.

## Big parenting questions



### *Navigating the leap from childhood to adolescence*

Every stage of parenting has challenges.

But guiding your child through the pre-tween, tween and teenage years can be particularly hard work.

There might be times when you're disappointed with their attitude, finding unfamiliar and unwanted behaviours, or questioning if you have any influence anymore. BUT... they still need you.

So, if you have questions or you're just not sure how to get through this next phase, this event is for you. All events are at 7.30pm. Book now [cff.org.uk/bigparenting](http://cff.org.uk/bigparenting) or call 029 2081 0800.

Northampton **11 March**  
Nottingham **12 March**

Birmingham **13 March**  
Stockport **13 May**

Warrington **14 May**  
The Wirral **15 May**

## Regular online donations to St Matthew's – important update

If you set up an online regular donation to St Matthew's via the website or Paypal before January 2025, first of all, thank you! We are deeply appreciative of your generosity in supporting the work and fabric of the Church. However, please could you cancel your current arrangement and set up a new one either on the website (<https://www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/get-involved/serve/#give>) or by Standing Order with your bank. This is because we have changed our payment systems and so can no longer receive funds from Paypal or our old donation service.

And remember, if you are a UK income-tax payer we may also be able to claim Gift Aid on your donation, which means we can claim back an extra 25p for every £1 you give.

If you have any questions, please contact the office and we shall be happy to help.

## Remembering Service



There will be a Remembering Service at St Matthew's on **Sunday 9 February** at 3pm. This is a wonderful time to gather together to remember those whom we have lost, and to celebrate the joy we can find in their memories.

During the service an Act of Remembering will include the opportunity to light a candle. Please put the date in your diary, and come and share this poignant time together. Please give Nancy in the office any names that you would like included on the service sheet by **Monday 3 February**.

## FACE Walsall

FACE Walsall (Families and Carers Empowered) are very much looking forward to hosting their next information fair on **Friday 28th March 2025** at Bloxwich Active Living Centre,

High St, Bloxwich, Walsall WS3 2DA. The Fair will be open from 10am-12 but stall holders can set up from 9.30am.

This event is really useful for parents and carers of children and young adults with SEN in the Walsall area so keep an eye out for further information.

### **Black Country food bank**

Black Country food bank unhappily had a very busy year in 2024 – their perfect Christmas present would have been that they could shut up shop! However, there are still many people living in crisis and great need, and BCFB has produced a very interesting series of updates that you can read at <https://mailchi.mp/blackcountryfoodbank/how-many-thousands-of-children-needed-a-foodbank-in-dudley-last-year-13901922?e=eae827d705>

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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)

Pastoral Care Coordinator: Ros Clewes 07990 242466

Church Office: 01922 626039 / [office@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk](mailto:office@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk) /  
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