

Verse for the Year  
2025



Be completely humble  
and gentle; be patient,  
bearing with one  
another in love.

Ephesians 4:2



## St Matthew's Walsall - Bulletin

Sunday 19 January 2025

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

|                     |                                 |  |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Sun 19 Jan</b>   | 8.45am                          | - Parish Communion                                 |
|                     | 10.00am                         | - Service Bell Ringing                             |
|                     | 10.45am                         | - Morning Praise and Children's Church             |
|                     | 1.00pm                          | - Asian Congregation                               |
|                     | 6.30pm                          | - Alpha Course (Centre)                            |
| <b>Mon 20 Jan</b>   | 8.00am                          | - Morning Prayer                                   |
|                     | 1.00pm                          | - Baby Massage (Centre)                            |
| <b>Tues 21 Jan</b>  | 8.15am                          | - Blue Coat Academy Assembly                       |
|                     | 10.00am                         | - Places of Welcome                                |
| <b>Weds 22 Jan</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 23 Jan</b> | 8.00am                          | - Morning Prayer                                   |
|                     | 9.30am                          | - Stay and Play (Centre)                           |
|                     | 11.30am                         | - Blue Coat Academy Stilling and Reflection Course |
|                     | 12.30pm                         | - Sensory Play for Babies (Centre)                 |
|                     | 2.00pm                          | - OWLs (Centre)                                    |
| 7.00pm              | - Music Ministry Team Rehearsal |  |
| <b>Fri 24 Jan</b>   | 8.00am                          | - Blue Coat Academy Assembly                       |
|                     | 9.30am                          | - Church Cleaning and Flowers                      |

### Further ahead

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Sun 26 Jan</b> | - Baptism of Halo Eden and S'Raela Zuri                        |
|                   | - Installation of Rev Jim as Prebendary of Lichfield Cathedral |
| <b>Sun 2 Feb</b>  | - Young Ringers Quarter Peal                                   |
| <b>Sun 9 Feb</b>  | - Remembering Service  |

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

**Prayer requests** – Some of you will know that Henry had a fall at Owls last week. He has since had his broken hip operated on and the plan is to let his shoulder mend naturally. Please pray for a speedy and uneventful recovery. His family would like to thank all at Owls and St Matthew's for all the kindness and love always shown towards Henry.

Please pray Wendy Barker also keep all the following in your thoughts and prayers: John Westwood, Graham Taylor, Foxx Charvis Ward, Rosemarie Burgess, Iris Taylor, Sue Webster, Iris Mallaband, Maureen Platt, Ann Hazzard and Heather Samuels.



### **10.45am service**

Please join us for a Holy Communion service on **Sunday 19 January** with Rev Jim Trood. For those who cannot attend in person, the service will be livestreamed at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUzR9E0hvSI>

### **Alpha course**

Starting this **Sunday 19 January!** Are you curious about faith, life's big questions, or simply looking for a space to talk and connect? We're excited to invite you to Alpha, a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith in a relaxed, open, and friendly environment.



The course will run for ten weeks, from 6.30pm-9.30pm in the Centre. Each session includes food, a short talk, and time for discussion where you can share your thoughts or just listen. No pressure. No judgment. No charge.

Whether you've never set foot in a church or are looking to reconnect, Alpha is for everyone. Bring your questions and a friend! Sign up at [www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/alpha](http://www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/alpha)

### **Weekend Away Highlights!**

What an incredible weekend we had together! From powerful times of worship, inspiring teaching, and heartfelt prayer, to fun activities, laughter, and building deeper connections with one another — God truly met with us in a special way.

Here are some highlights from our time away—take a look and relive the joy!

Special thanks to Ben for organising it all, Hannah for running the kids work, Alex for running the activities, and everyone else

for getting stuck in over the weekend. There is also a video showing all the fun at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I29U2i9x1IA>



## **The 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).

## **Installation of new Prebendaries at Lichfield Cathedral**

We are delighted to tell you all that Rev Jim has accepted the Bishop of Lichfield's invitation to be a Prebendary of Lichfield Cathedral, and he will be installed on **Sunday 26 January** at 3.30pm. At this service, Jim will be installed in his prebendal stall in the Quire, and he will become **Prebendary of Wolvey**. Jim's official title will become The Revd Prebendary Jim Trood.

Image designed by Freepik



## **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**.

## **New Archdeacons for Walsall and Salop**

Christmas was given an additional sense of expectation for two clergy who were offered Archdeacon's posts in Lichfield Diocese following a selection process at the end of last year. It has now been announced that The Revd Canon Elizabeth Jackson is to be the next Archdeacon of Walsall and that the Revd Nick Watson is to be the next Archdeacon of Salop. They will both commence their ministry on **Sunday 4 May 2025**, when they will be installed at 3.30pm Choral Evensong at Lichfield Cathedral.

Commenting on these appointments The Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave, Bishop of Lichfield, said: "We have found two remarkable priests who have a variety of gifts and experience that will make them effective, pastoral and mission-minded Archdeacons. They are an excellent fit for the journey we want to take towards the goals we have set for our diocese for the next five years and beyond."



Image courtesy of Steve Buckley & Oxford Diocese

The Rt Revd Tim Dr Wambunya, Bishop of Wolverhampton said of the Revd Canon Elizabeth Jackson: “Liz Jackson brings extensive mission experience and strong administrative leadership to her new role as Archdeacon of Walsall. We are excited to welcome her to the Wolverhampton Episcopal Area team in the Lichfield Diocese where her gifts and skills will be warmly embraced. May God bless and support her new ministry among us.”

The Rt Revd Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford said: “Liz has been a great gift to the Area Team in Berkshire and to the wider Diocese of Oxford. Liz has both a wider strategic vision and an eye for detail together with a willingness to grasp nettles when required. Liz brings a passion for justice and for the marginalised to everything she does and will flourish in her new role.”

Canon Liz said: “I look forward to coming to the Wolverhampton area, where I long to support parishes in becoming ever more effective as disciples of Christ and as agents of change in their communities. They already have much to offer. I want to build on that.”

### **Soul Food**

The next Soul Food course, a Spirituality Resource from Lichfield Diocese exploring ways of praying, starts early 2025. Previous participants have called the course ‘a gift’, with ‘wonderful course leaders’ allowing ‘time for practice and sharing experiences’.

The course will run online and in person (three Saturdays in Eccleshall) from **January to May 2025**. Full details can be found at

at <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/mission/spirituality-resources/spiritual-direction-courses/> or go straight to application form <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/apply-to-join-the-soul-food-course-9139.php>.

Cost: £144 (i.e. £12/eve plus £24 per day session). This reflects the running cost of the course; however if cost presents an obstacle please still apply as we may be able to help.

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