



St Matthew's Walsall - Bulletin

Sunday 26 April 2026

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

Sun 26 Apr	8.45am	- Parish Communion
	10.00am	- Service Bell Ringing
	10.45am	- Morning Praise & Children's Church
	1.00pm	- Asian Congregation
	3.00pm	- Asian Congregation (Centre)
	6.30pm	- The Evening Service (Centre)

Mon 27 Apr

Tues 28 Apr	8.00am	- Blue Coat Academy Assembly
	10.00am	- Places of Welcome

Weds 29 April	10.00am	- Bible Study (Prayer Chapel, Church)
	10.00am	- Baby Massage (Centre)
	3.30pm	- JAM After School Club (Centre)
	6.00pm	- Guides (Centre)
	6.30pm	- Bell Ringing
	7.30pm	- Community Choir (Centre)

Thurs 30 Apr	9.30am	- Stay and Play (Centre)
	12.30pm	- Sensory Play for Babies (Centre)
	2.00pm	- OWLs (Centre)
	7.00pm	- Music Ministry Team Rehearsals

Fri 1 May	8.00am	- Blue Coat Academy Assembly
	9.00am	- Church Cleaning and Flowers
	1.30pm	- Bell Ringing

Sat 2 May

Further ahead

Thurs 14 May	- Blue Coat Academy Holy Communion
Fri 15 May	- Palfrey School Visit
Sat 16 May	- Wedding of Jennifer Worley and Callum MacKay

Mon 18 May

Fri 22 May

Sun 31 May

Sat 9 June

- Church Council Meeting

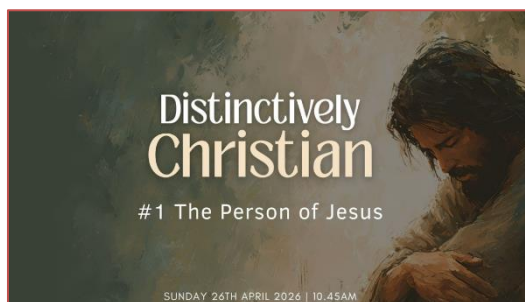
-- Blue Coat Academy Leavers' Ceremony and Lunch

- Annual Parochial Council Meeting

- Bell Ringing

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

Prayer requests – Please continue to pray for all those struggling with health and wellbeing, including, Maureen Platt, Iris Taylor, Michelle Whitehouse, Heather Samuels, Sue Webster and Iris Mallaband.



10.45am service

On **Sunday 26 April**, we have a new series starting: 'Distinctively Christian', with Jeremy Sargent talking to us about 'The Person of Jesus'. Services are always streamed live on YouTube or can be replayed later on.

Homegroup fun!

A brand-new pub-based homegroup is starting on **Monday 27 April** at 7.30pm in the *Black Country Arms*, led by Andrew Clayton and Gary Killeen. If you're interested in joining, please speak to Andrew or Gary. For full details and a list of all the current homegroups, please speak to Judith or Priscilla. With groups meeting in different venues and at different times, there's something for everyone and all are welcome!

Day	Time	Special features	Topic studied this term	Location	How often?	Contact
Monday	10.00 – 12.00 noon	Daytime group	Exodus: Lessons from the wilderness	Church Centre	Fortnightly All year	Judith Ridgway
Monday	7.30 pm	Meets in a pub	TBC	Black Country Arms Pub	Fortnightly Termly	Andrew Clayton Gary Killeen
Tuesday	7.00 – 8.00 pm	Meets via Zoom	Exodus: Lessons from the wilderness	Zoom	Fortnightly All year	Judith Ridgway
Tuesday	8.00 pm – late		Exodus: Lessons from the wilderness	Pelsall	Weekly Term time	Daniel Barker
Tuesday	7.30 – 9.30 pm		Exodus: Lessons from the wilderness	Various homes	Fortnightly Term time	Diane Edlin
Wednesday	10.00 – 11.00 am	Daytime group	Daytime Bible study group based on upcoming sermon at 8.45 Sunday service	Church	Weekly All year	Paul Davico
Thursday	8.00 – 9.30 pm		Miracles of Jesus	WS1	Fortnightly Term time	Priscilla Trood Jim Trood
Thursday	7.30 – 9.15 pm		"Wisdom labs" by LICC. Exploring issues such as racial injustice, sexuality and AI.	Various homes	Fortnightly Term time	Sam Fawkes
Thursday	7.30 pm		"Believing God" by Beth Moore	WS4	Weekly Term time	Izzy Butterfield Ben Butterfield

For more information on any of these groups please contact:

Priscilla Trood on 07984 626637 or priscillatrood@btinternet.com
Judith Ridgway on 07490 488144 or ridgway@talktalk.net

Flat in Lichfield at Dr Milley's Hospital

Studio flat available, with use of large communal garden and shared laundry room. For single women of all ages. Affordable rent (conditions may apply).

Further details from the Administrator, 07580 971928.





Andrew Bailey, Ordinand

Andrew, is an Ordinand within the Lichfield diocese, currently training part time at the Queens Foundation and we are delighted that he is going to be on placement with us for 12 weeks.

Andrew, grew in a Christian home with his father being a pastor of a Pentecostal church. At the age of 15 Andrew came to faith, and have been involved in some sort of church ministry ever since.

Sixteen years ago, Andrew and his family started visiting St Philip's CofE in Wolverhampton, and soon after got involved supporting the music ministry, then leading service and preaching, which lead him being licenced as a Lay Reader in 2018. Andrew passionate about evangelism and have run Alpha courses between 2018 and 2025. He is equally passionate in participating in a community that support each other in their life journey and in the development of their personal Christian faith.

Mobile phone and Social media use

Recently the Blue Coat Federated schools issued some helpful advice to parents about children using mobile phones. Rev Jim thought others in our church family might be interested in these.

Here is a reminder of some important points:

- Due to minimum age requirements, infant and junior children should not be using WhatsApp, Snapchat or other social media apps at all;
- WhatsApp terms and conditions mean that you need to be 16 to use WhatsApp;
- Nearly all other social media services require users to be at least 13 years of age to access and use their services. This includes Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok and Discord;
- Avoid group chats – these are not appropriate for primary aged children, they are areas where children can stray into unacceptable behaviour away from any adult supervision, leading to children becoming hurt or upset.
- If your child sees something that upsets them or makes them feel uncomfortable, they should take a screen shot and show it to a trusted adult straightaway;
- Behaviour that would be unacceptable in a face to face situation is also unacceptable on the internet or social media;
- Children should not have access to their phones after their bedtime. Have a place downstairs where mobile phones are left at night.
- Children should be happy and comfortable with an adult checking all of their mobile phone content; messages, videos, photographs and drafts within TikTok etc.
- Children should not have passcodes locking their phones that parents do not know about.

The Church of England also encourages individuals to follow good practice on Social Media and encourages people to sign up to a simple digital-charter which focuses on Christian principles for social media use. Details about it can be found at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/digital-charter>

Electoral Roll

Are you over 16 and baptised? Have you been attending St Matthew's Church for at least six months? Would you like to consider yourself a member of St Matthew's Church? If you answer "yes" to all of these, please make sure you are on the electoral roll or complete a copy of the application form. The electoral roll is the membership list of St Matthew's Church and entitles you to have a say in who is on the Church Council and other decisions. Please speak to Rev Jim for more information or email him asking for a copy of the form. The deadline for applications is **16 May 2026**.

Sing-along event

Join us for 1960s favourites and more, like the Searchers, Beatles, Elvis, the Everly Brothers and the Drifters... All the fun is to be had at St Columba's Church, Banners Gate Road, Sutton Coldfield B73 6TX for only £10, **Saturday 23 May** at 2.30pm, with proceeds in aid of Dementia UK. Tickets are available from the Church and choir



Prophetic word for St Matthew's Church

God sometimes reveals to us what He's doing in a particular season or what He's about to do to give us encouragement and strength to help us endure.

Hebrews 12:26-29

At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire."

God may be taking the church through a time of testing. A time where God will shake us so that what cannot be shaken will remain. We are to walk with each other through this, but most importantly, from the start of Hebrews 12: 'To fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him, he endured the cross'.

You may like to pray this prayer while listening to *Firm Foundation* (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x9ndiD0_qNk&list=RDx9ndiD0_qNk&start_radio=1). Lord, give us the strength to endure as we look to You and also lean on each other.

If you would like to hear Izzy talk about this, you can watch her sermon from last week on our YouTube channel.

Knitted 'Britain at War' comes to Lichfield Cathedral

'The Longest Yarn 2' is a knitted 80-metre diorama created in knitting and crocheted scenes depicting the theme 'Britain at War'. It is the successor to 'The Longest Yarn' created in 2024 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day. You can see it at Lichfield Cathedral **1-31 May** during cathedral opening hours. Entry free, donations welcome.

