



St Matthew's Walsall - Bulletin

Sunday 3 May 2026

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

Sun 3 May	8.45am	- Parish Communion
	10.00am	- Service Bell Ringing
	10.45am	- Morning Praise
	1.00pm	- Asian Congregation
	6.30pm	- The Evening Service (Centre)
Mon 4 May		
Tues 5 May	8.00am	- Blue Coat Academy Assembly
	10.00am	- Places of Welcome
Weds 6 May	10.00am	- Bible Study (Prayer Chapel, Church)
	10.00am	- Baby Massage (Centre)
	1.00pm	- Funeral of Alan Wrighton (Streetly Crematorium)
	3.30pm	- JAM After School Club (Centre)
	6.00pm	- Guides (Centre)
	6.30pm	- Bell Ringing
	7.30pm	- Community Choir (Centre)
Thurs 7 May	9.30am	- Stay and Play (Centre)
	12.30pm	- Sensory Play for Babies (Centre)
	2.00pm	- OWLs (Centre)
	7.00pm	- Music Ministry Team Rehearsals
Fri 8 May	8.00am	- Blue Coat Academy Assembly
	9.00am	- Church Cleaning and Flowers
	1.30pm	- Bell Ringing
Sat 9 May	1.30pm	- Bell Ringing

Further ahead

Tues 12 May		- Memory Café (Centre)
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		- Church Council Meeting
Fri 22 May		- Blue Coat Academy Leavers' Ceremony and Lunch
Sat 23 May		- Peal Event
Sun 31 May		- Annual Parochial Council Meeting
Tues 19 May		- Whitehall Junior School Visit

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

Prayer requests – Please pray for the family and friends of Alan Wrighton as they grieve his so recent loss. Please also continue to pray for all those struggling with health and wellbeing, including Richard Hey-Smith, Maureen Platt, Iris Taylor, Michelle Whitehouse, Heather Samuels, Sue Webster and Iris Mallaband.



10.45am service

This **Sunday 3 May** it is an All Age service, when the team will explore the topic of 'When God speaks to Jacob'. A lovely way to share faith and exploration as a whole family!

Local elections

Rev Jim is sharing this prayer to help during the upcoming local elections – please use it to help you make your decision. He will explain more about the elections on Sunday.

*Almighty God, the source of all wisdom,
give grace to all those who will vote in the coming Election,
and bless with your spirit of humility and charity
all who will be elected to public office.*

*Make your kingdom of love visible among us,
and make all things subject to your just and gentle rule,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Left to their own devices

Recent research discovered that half of all 11-17 year olds get 237 or more notifications per day. Many parents feel disempowered, ill-equipped or just unaware of how dangerous the digital streets can be.

'Left to their own devices' is an event run by the excellent Care for the Family organisation. This event is for parents about tech-savvy kids and how to raise them, and will cover the areas of Content, Contact and Conduct to assist parents in helping their children navigate a world of technology.

Various events are taking place including at Telford Minister from 7.30pm-10pm on **Wednesday 3 June** (tickets cost just £6 if booked before 6 May). More information, including how to get tickets, can be found at

<https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/events/tourevents/left-to-their-own-devices>

Diocesan bulletin

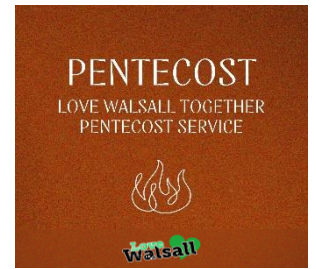
We can never cover all the information about what is going on in the Diocese in our newsletter each week, so if you would like to have the whole picture then go to:

<https://mailchi.mp/lichfield/bulletin-5548862?e=4d865a8cbc> and sign up for the fortnightly bulletins to come to you directly.

Love Walsall joint Pentecost service

We are so excited to invite the whole Walsall community to come together for our Love Walsall Together Pentecost Service! This is a unique opportunity for Christians from across our town to unite in worship and prayer.

It will held Sunday 24 May at 6.30pm at St Matthew's Church, St Matthew's Close, Walsall WS1 3DG. We are delighted to have Tim Summersby (Lead Pastor at Walsall Community Church and member of the Love Black Country core team) sharing with us. So let's celebrate the birthday of the Church together. Everyone is welcome!



Prayer for the 100th Bishop of Lichfield

Eternal Father

*you have provided faithful pastors in every age
to watch over your people and lead them in your ways:
as you chose your servant Chad to be the first bishop of your church in Lichfield,
so raise up for us, who follow Christ in his footsteps today,
a shepherd to lead your people
in the joy and steadfastness of the Holy Spirit,
that all may know the abundant life
which you give us in Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.*



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.

Diocesan day of prayer

The Diocesan Day of Prayer starts at 10am on **Wednesday 6 May!** Yes, 10am not 12noon: two hours earlier than previously will get in an extra four prayer slots.

Bishop Sarah will be at St Georges Church, Shrewsbury to lead the last session online and in person - anyone nearby is welcome to come along to pray, share lunch and then join a prayer-walk around the town. See the full programme, and the details of how to join in on Zoom, at [Diocesan Day of Prayer - Diocese of Lichfield.](#)

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**.

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.