



St Matthew's Walsall - Bulletin

Sunday 20 September 2026

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

Sun 20 Sept	8.45am	- Parish Communion
	10.00am	- Service Bell Ringing
	10.45am	- Morning Praise & Children's Church
	1.00pm	- Asian Congregation
	6.30pm	- The Evening Service (Centre)
Mon 21 Sept	10.00am	- Homegroup (Centre)
Tues 22 Sept	8.00am	- Blue Coat Academy Assembly
	10.00am	- Places of Welcome
Weds 23 Sept	10.00am	- Bible Study (Prayer Chapel)
	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 24 Sept	9.30am	- Stay and Play (Centre)
	12.30pm	- Sensory Play for Babies (Centre)
	2.00pm	- OWLs (Centre)
	7.00pm	- Music Ministry Team Rehearsals
Fri 25 Sept	8.00am	- Blue Coat Academy Assembly
	9.00am	- Church Cleaning and Flowers
<u>Further ahead</u>		
3 Oct		- Diocesan Leadership Training for PSO
4 Oct		- Peal Event
10 Oct		- Hope in Harmony
15 Oct		- Funeral of Paul Grainger
16 Oct		- Blue Coat Federation Junior Harvest Service
		- Wedding of Sophie Turner and Niall Campbell

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

Prayer requests – Please pray for anyone you know in need, including Joan Cartridge, Philip Blackshaw, Joan Nock, Sue Webster, Brenda Franklin, Richard Hey-Smith, Maureen Platt, Iris Taylor, Michelle Whitehouse, Heather Samuels and Iris Mallaband.



10.45am service

Rev Yemi will be considering 'Reflections on stewardship 2: Can we take Genesis seriously in a scientific age?' during the service on **Sunday 20 September.**

Heritage Weekend

Another wonderful weekend was had by all, with visitors enjoying the history of St Matthew's and tours of the crypt and tower. The volunteers worked so hard to make it the success it was, so enormous thanks to all involved! Below are just a few of those who contributed...



- Memorial Garden preparation: Walsall Council and St Matthew's garden maintenance team
- Teddy Bear trail and craft activities – Ros Clewes and her pastoral care team
- Refreshments: the refreshments team, aided by generous donations from Asda and Morrisons
- Sound stage, food truck and Teddy Bear limousine: Nigel

Dutton and Lock Stock

- Publicity: Mike Ray and the Pastoral team
- Assembly and dismantling the gazebo village: everyone!

Forthcoming events at St Matthew's

On **Saturday 10 October** we will be hosting Hope in Harmony, a fundraising concert featuring our own Community Choir, Wulfruna Ladies Choir and Great Barr Brass – see the article below for more details about this!

On **Saturday 21 November** we will once more be hosting Apollo Academy Youth Orchestra for a rehearsal and concert.

On both these dates, it would be lovely to have a few volunteers to welcome our visitors, keep the urn hot and generally extend the warmth and love of our church to both the performers and their audiences. If you are able to help, please speak to Andrew Clayton in church or via email - andrew@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk - for details and to volunteer.

Hope in Harmony

Join us for Hope in Harmony at St Matthew's Church on **Saturday 10 Oct** at 7pm - an uplifting evening of live music in aid of two wonderful local causes: Walsall Bereavement Support Service and The James Brindley Foundation.

Enjoy incredible performances from Great Barr Brass, the St Matthew's Community Choir, and special guest soloists Jorja-Jo (Walsall's Got Talent finalist) and Ian Davies. Tickets are just £5, available on the door or in advance www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/events

Come along for a brilliant night out and help us support our community!



Children's Church

Parents - as Children's Church starts back, please could you:

- take your child to the back of church when it's time for the children to leave to meet with the group leaders
- if you're new, please fill in a registration form and tell the group leader of any special needs or allergies
- wait in church until your child is brought back around 12.00 noon or collect them from the Centre (not between the Centre and the Church).

The Evening Service

This term we are starting our Sunday evening service by considering some big questions and what the Bible might have to say about them. These include:

1. Can we take Genesis seriously in a scientific age?
2. What about strange laws and customs, including slavery?
3. Does God condone warfare and violence?
4. Why does God allow people to suffer?
5. Do Miracles and Exorcisms still happen?
6. Is the New Testament's teaching about sex outdated?
7. What about Judgement and the afterlife?

The services start at 6.30pm in the Centre, with refreshments from about 6.15pm and include talks and discussion time. All are welcome!

Homegroups and Bible study groups – Autumn term 2026

Would you like to learn more about the Bible? Do you want to study God's word with other people and find out what God is saying to you? Would you like to meet with other Christians during the week for fellowship and prayer support? If so, you might like to join a small group such as a homegroup or Bible study group.

There are groups on different days of the week, at different times of day, and in different locations including the Church, Centre and people's homes. There's even a group that meets in a pub and another that meets online. You'd be very welcome to try a group without having to commit to it. If you want more information about any of the groups, pick up a list from the welcome desk or speak to Judith Ridgway or Priscilla Trood. Priscilla on 07984 626637 or priscillatrood@btinternet.com and Judith on 07490 488144 or ridgway48ja@outlook.com

Day	Time	Special features	Topic studied this term	Location	How often?	Contact
Mon	10.00-12.00	Daytime group	Integrity: Living with the truth	Church Centre	Fortnightly All year	Judith Ridgway
Mon	19.30	Meets in a pub	Core principles of discipleship	Black Country Arms Pub	Fortnightly Term time	Andrew Clayton Gary Killeen
Tues	17.00-18.00	Meets via Zoom Early evening	Integrity: Living with the truth	Zoom	Fortnightly All year	Judith Ridgway
Tues	19.30-21.30		God's book: The 7 toughest topics	Various homes	Fortnightly Term time	Diane Edlin
Tues	20.00		Discipleship in "The Chosen" series 3	Pelsall	Weekly Term time	Daniel Barker
Weds	10.00-11.00	Daytime group	Daytime Bible study group based on upcoming sermon at 8.45 Sunday service	Church	Weekly All year	Paul Davico
Weds	19.30-21.15		Basic Discipleship: Lordship	Various homes	Fortnightly Term time	Sam Fawkes
Thurs	20.00-21.30		Character: Who you are when no one is looking	WS1	Fortnightly Term time	Priscilla Trood Jim Trood
Thurs	19.30		Practicing the Way DVD course	WS4	Weekly Term time	Izzy Butterfield Ben Butterfield

Diocesan questionnaire

Many thanks from Jeremy Sargent for all who took the time to fill in the diocesan questionnaire about how St Matthew's supports and enables people to give financially. We had 33 submitted, which I was told was probably a record! The diocese has now given me the results, which were very interesting, and I will pass them on to Jim.



St Matthew's Church Weekend Away 2027 – save the date!

Mark your calendars - we're heading to The Quinta Christian Centre in Oswestry from **Friday 8 to Sunday 10 January 2027** for our church weekend away. It's set to be a fantastic time of fellowship, relaxation, and fun together. More details and information on how to book will be coming soon, but for now, make sure to save the date!

Don't miss Together Festival 2027

Together Festival 2027 will be taking place on **12 June 2027** at Himley Park – one day, one church, all together!. Make a note not to miss this one!

The Bereavement Journey—a place to talk

Are you grieving the death of a loved one or struggling with the long-term effects of loss? Then join us for this film and discussion course, The Bereavement Journey, being run by the Hidden River Methodist Circuit. Topics include:

- Attachment, separation and loss
- The impact and pain of bereavement
- Adjusting to change
- Anger and guilt
- Coping with others' reactions
- Moving on healthily



Sessions will be held at St John's Methodist Church, Victoria Avenue, Bloxwich WS3 3HS on Monday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm on **21 and 28 September, 5, 12 and 19 October**, with an optional faith session on **26 October**. We ask for a donation of £10 per person, which includes the Guest Manual, but we would not want cost to prevent someone attending.

If you would like more information or would like to book a place, please email: bereavementjourneywalsall@gmail.com or call Bev Boden on 07970 808819. More information on the course is available at www.thebereavementjourney.org

National Emergency Briefing film

If you care about local flooding, air pollution, the cost of living and food prices, you might want to catch this.



You are invited to a screening of *The People's Emergency Briefing*. This eye-opening film features nine leading UK scientists and experts updating us on the latest in the climate and nature crisis, and its impacts on everyday life. It will be followed by a short open discussion about what we can do and what it means locally. This film is only shown at in-person screenings and not online, so bring a friend or neighbour, and book your free seat asap.

Film screening and discussion, including refreshments, will be at All Saints Church, Streetly B74 3JL on **Friday 2 October** at 7pm.