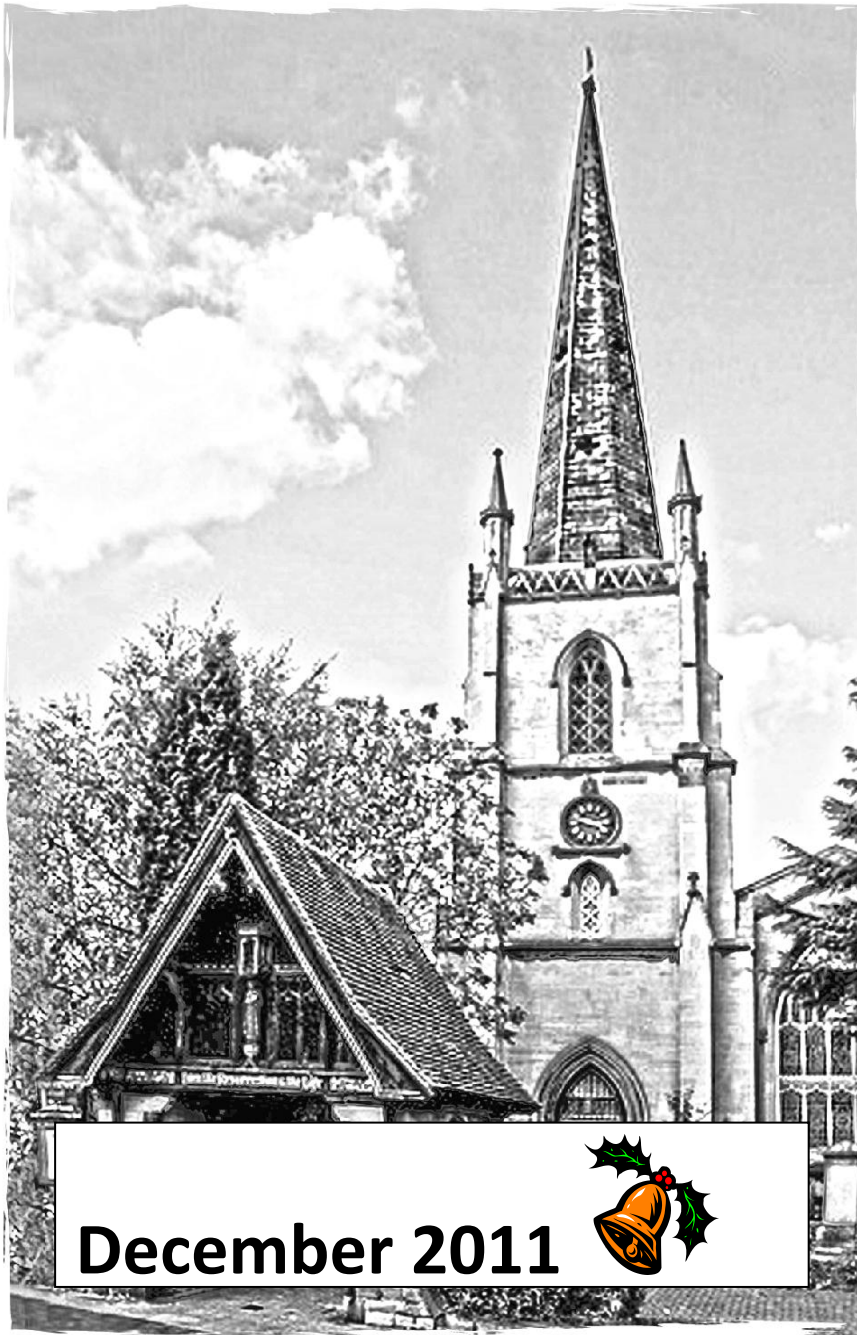


St matthews church

Prayer Diary



December 2011



Dear
We
that
finding
Matthew's
Diary a
addition

Friends,
hope
you are
the St.
Prayer
useful
to you daily

*St Matthew's aims to be an Acts 2 Church,
Valuing Awe, Unity, Generosity, Hospitality and Growth.*

prayers. You will notice that there are three parts to each daily prayer. Following the date is the title of the prayer for that day and this could be used for personal meditation. Then there is a short prepared prayer which can be used alongside personal response or as a collective response.

You will notice that each day we are asking for prayers for the residencies that are in St Matthew's Parish boundary.

We will have prayed for all the residencies in our parish half way through this month. We suggest that for the remaining days of the month you may want to pray for your street or road or for the many homes that families and friends live in that are outside our parish boundary.

Christmas Prayer of Pope John XXIII

O sweet Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas. Put into the hearts of men and women this peace for which they sometimes seek so desperately and which you alone can give to them. Help them to know one another better and to live as brothers and sisters children of the same Father. Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness and purity. Awaken in their hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness. Join them all together in your love. And give us your heavenly peace.

Amen.

Thursday 1st. December: Healing Ministry.

Dear Father, we ask that you support Colin and those across the Diocese who are attending the Healing and Deliverance course today. We pray that they will be refreshed to undertake your work of bringing healing and support to those in need. As givers and receivers may we offer thanks to you and ask for the inspiration and resilience to help in the healing process, to recognise the skills of others and to be grateful for our own gifts. May we respond without hesitation to the call of the Holy Spirit in testing situations. Amen. Please pray for the residents of Princes Avenue and Sandwell Street.

Friday 2nd. December: Church Panto.

Thank you Lord that you gave us the gift of laughter. We pray that all those children and adults who come to the two performances of the pantomime feel and share this gift. Be with all the members of the company so that they can use their talents to enhance the atmosphere of fun and enjoyment. Lord

during this time of Advent, the business of getting ready for Christmas, the excitement and anticipation, may we keep in our minds and hearts that it is all about you. The gift of your son coming to live amongst us. Amen
Please pray for the residents of Sandymount Road and Springhill Road.

Saturday 3rd. December: Messy Church – the Gift of Christmas.

Dear Father, we ask that you are present at the Messy Church activities today. We pray that those families who have come along regularly will be there so the bond between you, them and the church can be strengthened. We pray also for those who have not been for a while that they will be hear the invite and be able to bring their children to meet with you through fun and friendship. May this afternoon be supported by many helpers that can deliver the programme of activities planned by our Children's Worker, Liz. Fill them with the love and energy to do your work. Amen.
Please pray for the residents of St Matthew's Close and Sutton Road.

Sunday 4th. December: Coming with Hope.

Lord we pray that you fill us with the Holy Spirit that can sustain the belief of your return. Through those who are preaching today about the letter from Paul to the Thessalonians may we gain greater understanding that death is not the end. Open our ears, minds and hearts to the message and inspire those who are preaching with words of wisdom and clarity. Amen.
Please pray for the residents of Sutton Road.

Monday 5th. December: Faithworks Team.

Thank you Lord, for the work that the Faithworks Team are doing with the youth of Walsall. Thank you for the encouragement they feel, and your continual blessing. May the many projects they have started continue to flourish. We pray that you will work through them to bring a whole new group of young people to know you and know of your amazing love for them. May your protecting presence be around the team supporting and guiding them. Amen.
Please pray for the residents of Elm Court and Kerry Court.

Tuesday 6th. December: The Glebe Centre.

Lord we give thanks for all those who work or give volunteer support at The Glebe Centre. As the weather becomes colder the centre is a place where those who need shelter or companionship can meet. We pray that the community will provide food, warm clothing and money to support this work.

Where shelter is provided, the hungry are feed, the naked are clothed we know that you are there too Lord. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Springhill Court and Tasker Street.

Wednesday 7th. December: Christian Literature at The Hub.

Father, the owners/managers of The Hub bookshop took the bold step to move to new premises out of the town centre, where there was space to set up a café area. We pray that the additional venture is successful and those who visit the shop are able to select books and literature in a welcoming atmosphere. As it is situated near the town's magistrates court what a wonderful opportunity the staff have to bear witness to your love and understanding. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Midland Road and The Ditch.

Thursday 8th. December: Christmas Service at The Acorns.

Thank you Lord that there is a sharing of the joy of Christmas between the residents, staff and members of St Matthew's Church. We pray that as carols are sung and prayers are said it will bring comfort to often elderly people who live away from family and friends. As you Lord would have joined in religious celebrations with your family in Nazareth, may there be a sense of family celebration at The Acorns. Amen

Please pray for the residents of The Acorns Residential Home.

Friday 9th. December: Home/Cell group Leaders.

Lord you said that when two or more meet in your name then you are there too. We are so grateful that members of St Matthew's are willing to open their homes mid-week to welcome you in to meet with us. As the leaders of these groups come together this evening to have a Christmas celebration may they relax, enjoy each other's company and feel revitalised to continue the work you call them to do. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Vicarage Walk and Wednesbury Road.

Saturday 10th. December: The Town Centre ministry team

We thank you Lord so much for the work of the Town Centre Ministry team, as it tells those who live and work in the town centre about your love for them. We pray that today's carol service will be relevant and moving, bringing alive the Christmas story. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Walsall Town centre.

Sunday 11th. December: The bereaved at Christmas

We remember those for whom Christmas is a time of sadness as they think of loved ones who are no longer with them. We thank you for the love they have for the departed, and we ask that, at the bereavement service today and throughout Christmas, you will somehow bring them comfort and support. Amen

Please pray your own personal prayer for the families and friends of those known to you, who have lost loved ones this year.

Monday 12th. December: The Vine

Dear Lord please continue to bless The Vine. Give wisdom and stamina to Kevin Davis, the Chief Exec, and to all his team. We pray especially for the Goldmine project that is now being built. May that be a place where teenagers and young adults can not only learn new skills but can also see your love in action. Amen

Tuesday 13th. December: School carol services

We give thanks for the carol services in church for the schools of Queen Mary's (today), Mayfield (tomorrow) and The Blue Coat Schools (Thursday & Friday). Through all the wonder and excitement of Christmas may the pupils see the real gift that was given to us all those years ago, and may it be something that lives in their hearts and lives from now on. Amen

Please pray for all the pupils and staff at schools in our town.

Wednesday 14th. December: For our parish

We ask dear Lord that you will show us how to be a relevant church for the people who live in our parish. Help us to learn what their needs are, and give us the boldness and faith to reach out to them. We pray at this time for our Christmas advertising: may it not get lost in all the other advertising or forgotten about amidst the rush, but may it be appealing and draw people in. Amen

Thursday 15th. December: Those who went on the Alpha course

Dear God, thank you so much for the Alpha course – for the teaching and the fellowship and, most of all, for the opportunity people had to find out about you. We pray that those who went along will reflect on the message they heard and that you will be a real part of their lives in 2012. Amen

Friday 16th. December: One of our link charities, Christ For All

We give thanks for all who are part of Christ For All in Andhra Pradesh, and we praise you that the work of that charity is so blessed at the moment. Please guide the leader, John Mark, showing him where and how you want him to witness to you in that needy land, and giving him wisdom in the many decisions he has to face. Amen

Saturday 17th. December: The faith of St Matthews

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

Dear Lord, may we, as a church, realize how wonderful it was that Jesus came down to earth for us. May that inspire us in the months and years ahead, to be united together working for you and following your ways. Amen

Sunday 18th. December: The Carol service

We give thanks for the beauty of the carol service and the many many who come. We pray that your message will shine through the words, the prayers and the music, so that those who are there will not think of Jesus' birth as a traditional story from history, but also as an event that is relevant to them today and touches their lives. Amen

Monday 19th. December: That the Christmas message will move anew in our hearts

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray

Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels, their great glad tidings tell

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel

This Christmas Lord may we each invite you into our lives afresh. Amen

Tuesday 20th. December: The homeless

Dear Lord, you were homeless when you were born. At a time when we so value our homes we pray for those in this town who will be without a home over Christmas, and we ask that they may find warmth and comfort. Thank you for the Glebe Centre, Hi's 'n' Lows, the Salvation Army and all the other charities that work so hard over Christmas to bring the celebration to the lives of these people. Please bless them in their work. Amen

Wednesday 21st. December: Carols at Residential Homes.

Dear Father, we remember those of our community who live in care homes, especially those who have no family members to visit them. We pray that they enjoy singing carols with us today and tomorrow and that our visit will

bring joy to their hearts and make them feel wanted and loved. We also thank you for the dedication and patience of all the staff in these homes. Amen.

Thursday 22nd. December: Clergy

Dear Father, at this busy time of the year we pray for all the clergy of St Matthews. Please give them the strength and energy to conduct all the extra services that take place at this time. May their words reach out to people who only attend our services at Christmas that they might wish to learn more about you Lord and want to attend other services at St Matthews. Please help these people to take the first step. Amen.

Friday 23rd December: Faithworks Cafe

Dear Father, today we pray for Faithworks café as they seek to provide company and support for the young people of Walsall. Guide the steps of those who need their help to their door. May the leaders provide those who visit with the opportunity and encouragement to meet with you Lord, perhaps for the first time or after a long absence. Amen.

Saturday 24th. December: Crib Service and Midnight Communion

Dear Father, as we gather together to worship you at these services today, help us remember the real meaning of Christmas - the birth of Jesus. As we enjoy our time with our families and friends may we share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Amen

Sunday 25th. December: Christmas Day

Dear Lord, thank you, for the wonderful gift of your son, Jesus, as we celebrate His birthday. Help us to remember Him as we give and receive gifts, taking time to pray for each person and for those who have nothing. Help us, Lord, to fill this Christmas with you and with your love, peace and joy. Amen

Monday 26th. December: Asian Church

Dear Father, we are so blessed to have the Asian Church as part of St. Matthews Church family. Please bless Pastor Fiaz and give him the energy and vision that he needs to guide his congregation. Help us to give them the support that they need and we pray that they may grow in friendship and fellowship with the other congregations of St. Matthews. Amen.

Tuesday 27th. December: Colin's Holiday

Dear Father, we pray that after the busy time of Christmas Colin will enjoy his holiday. Thank you Lord for all the good works that he does in your name and for the guidance and inspiration he gives to many people. May he enjoy his time with his family and return refreshed and renewed after his break. Amen.

Wednesday 28th. December: The Homeless

Dear Father, today after most of us will have spent Christmas with our families, we think of all those who are homeless and have had to spend Christmas alone.

We thank you for the kindness and dedication of all the people who work in the care organisations that support them. Father, hear the voices of those who need you and help them to feel your love. Amen.

Thursday 29th. December: Alpha Course

Dear Father, we ask for your blessing on each person who attended our recent Alpha Course. It's now a month since it finished and we pray that those who attended are still eager to learn more about you and that their faith is growing. Help them to find the answers they seek and by reading the bible regularly and praying, come to know you better and how important you can be in their lives. Amen.

Friday 30th December: St Matthew's Children

Dear Father, we pray today for all the children who come to St Matthew's Children's Groups, whether they come to Children's Church, Messy Church, Crèche, Youth Group, Toddler Group or After School Club. Whilst they are having fun at this very commercial time of the year, please help them to remember the real meaning of Christmas and the love that you showed to them all by sending your son to live amongst us. Bring them back to all our clubs in the New Year eager to learn more about you. Amen.

Saturday 31st December: New Year's Eve

Dear Father, today as a new year is about to commence we pray that 2012 will be a year of peace. You are a God of peace and we ask you to be with the world leaders. Grant them wisdom and guidance in all their decisions and by your holy spirit enable the nations of the world to live together in harmony and peace. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Amen