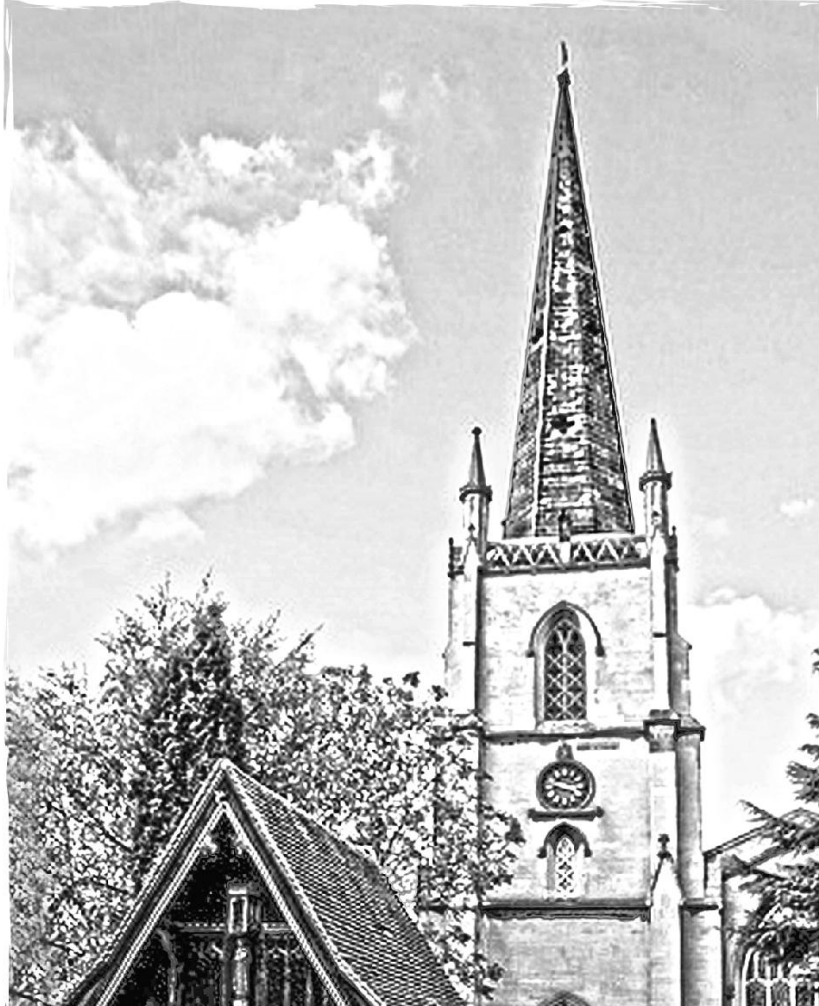


Prayer Diary



January 2012

Dear
Friends,
We hope
you are
the St.
Matthew's
Diary a useful

that
finding

Prayer
addition

to you daily prayer. St. Matthew's aims to be an Acts 2 Church, each daily prayer following the lectionary, the General Prayer Book and the Book of Common Prayer. Following the lectionary, the General Prayer Book and the Book of Common Prayer 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.

Sunday 1st. January: A New Year- Year of Discipleship.

Thank you Lord for the passing of the past year and all the times we have called upon you and you have been there for us. With excitement we look to what the new year will bring. Lord we pray that we can keep 2012 as a "year of discipleship" that we may all grow in our walk with you during the year. Please pray for the residents of Bath Street and Barley field House.

Monday 2nd. January: The Mayor.

We give thanks that the leading citizen of our town, the Mayor Gary Perry, is a Christian. We pray that through his work and decision making you will be with him, guiding and counselling. Help him to bring a real sense of community to Walsall and may this be extended into our homes to our streets, to our places of work and places of study. Amen. Please pray for the residents of Beaconsfield Court and Bell Road.

Tuesday 3rd. January: New Year/New Term.

Dear Father we pray for all those starting back to work or school today. During Advent your presence in the workplace and schools is strongly acknowledged through Christmas decorations, parties, the giving and receiving of presents. Now these are packed away for another year and thanks said we pray that you will still be felt in those places. Be with the Headteachers and Governors of the Blue Coat Schools who have to make difficult decisions this year. Amen Please pray for the residents of Belvidere Road and Beacon Drive.

Wednesday 4th. January: John Truscott Report.

Father this important report on the way forward for St Matthew's church on its structures and staffing has been received. We pray that your Holy Spirit is with those at the staff meeting this evening as they discuss how to prioritise its implementations. We ask that through your guidance people will respond positively and honestly, seeing the need for change and press on to take new opportunities. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Birmingham Road.

Thursday 5th. January: Post-Alpha.

Lord we give thanks for the Alpha course that has just finished and to all those who were called by you to organise and be involved weekly. We pray that all those who meet with you for the first time or had their faith renewed and strengthened will carry the knowledge of your love through 2012. May they become regular worshipers at St Matthew's and feel able to join a supportive home/cell group. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Spring Court and Beech Court.

Friday 6th. January: Epiphany.

God of all ages and time, create in us the wonder felt by the magi as they travelled far in faith and hope. Send your Holy Spirit to awaken in us the surprise of the shepherds, the acceptance of Joseph, the joy of the angels and the love of Mary. As our Christmas gifts lose their shine, may your gift to us grow in importance, shaping our lives and pointing us to a bright future with you. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Edward Court and Elmsdale Court.

Saturday 7th. January: Urban Spirit

Thank you Lord for this amazing idea to bring the young people from across the borough together to learn and meet with you. We give thanks too for the leaders and organisers who give up their personal time to serve you in this way. We pray that there is unity between all the churches and that they will encourage and support the young people to become involved. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Parklands Gardens and Boscobel Road.

Sunday 8th. January: CHP Worship Band.

How blessed are we to have these musicians using their talents to lead us in meaningful worship, thank you Lord. We pray for the continuing commitment of the worship leaders, Matt, Josh, Jen, Ray and Andy as they prepare and select the music that creates a time and space for us to personally meet with you Lord. Amen

Please pray for the residents of Broadway North.

Monday 9th. January: St Matthew's Church.

Lord God, we give thanks for our church and all who worship there. Help us to reach out to our neighbouring churches, learning from them and listening to them, showing and sharing fellowship and joining together on mission

projects in our community and beyond. May our focus be local but our vision much wider, as your Son's was. Amen.

Please pray for the residents The Crescent and Keble Grove.

Tuesday 10 January: That we may be guided by God in 2012

Open our eyes wide Lord to see the way ahead

Stretch out your hand to guide us, stretch out your hand to support us, stretch out your hand to bless us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil on this narrow road.

Amen

Please pray for the residents Christchurch Grove and Magdelene Road.

Wednesday 11 January: Thanks for all that happened in St Matthews in 2011

We give thanks for all that happened in our church last year. We remember things such as the alpha course, the Holiday Club, the growth of messy church, and the arrival of Lee. We are also thankful though for the many other things that were less noticed such as the answered prayers, the healing at our services, and the people who came closer to you. May we never take the work you do for granted, and may we never stop looking for you working in our church and our lives Amen

Please pray for the residents New College Close and St. Catherine's Close.

Thursday 12 January: The use of our Church building

We thank you Lord for our church building – its beauty, its prominence in the town and the way in which it has been soaked in prayer for hundreds of years. May we be good stewards of this special place. Please show us how to use it properly. Show us how to repair its structure and how to modify its inside to suit present day needs. Please give us a vision too for the reordering church yard, and may our church building remain for many many more years a place where people come to worship you. Amen

Please pray for the residents Brookhouse Road and Canute Close.

Friday 13 January: The Bishop of Lichfield and Lichfield Diocese

We pray for Bishop Jonathan and also for the bishops of Wolverhampton, Shrewsbury and Stafford. We ask that you guide them in their ministry in the diocese, and that you give them Godly wisdom in their leadership. Amen

Please pray for the residents Caldmore Road and Earls Court.

Saturday 14 January: For fellowship among St Matthews's members

Dear Lord, we pray for tonight's New Year party and the opportunity it offers for us to get together informally. May it be a time of fun and happiness when we can enjoy each other's company and welcome in those who are new to our fellowship. Amen

Please pray for the residents Corporation Street West and Dandy's Walk.

Sunday 15 January: May God move in today's services

Dear Lord, we ask that today's services are pleasing to you and bring you glory. May the words, music and prayers meet the needs of those who are there and may they be times when people move closer to you and feel their faith being challenged and refreshed. Amen

Please pray for the residents Emery Street and Emery Court.

Monday 16 January: The Mission Aviation Fellowship

We give thanks for the Mission Aviation Fellowship, and pray especially for the commitment and skill of its staff as they take aeroplanes to remote parts of the world with your message and much-needed supplies. We ask that you keep them safe in their travelling and may those who run the organisation have a clear sight of the work you want MAF to do. Amen

Please pray for the residents Flinkford Close and Hart Street.

Tuesday 17 January: All-age worship

Dear Lord, please be with those meeting today to plan the all-age services. We thank you for their dedication as they work on this important job. We ask Lord that you give them a vision, so that they may be able to present your message in a fresh way that meets the needs of the wide range of people who come along. Amen

Please pray for the residents Gorway Close and Gorway Gardens.

Wednesday 18 January: Unity in St Matthews

It is wonderful that, although we are all so different, we are bound together by a love of you and a realisation that we need your salvation. We ask dear Lord that through those we can be united together as a church, working for the common aim of seeking your will and following your way. Amen

Please pray for the residents Gorway Road and Little Gorway.

Thursday 19 January: The PCC

Give wisdom to all on our Church Council as it meets tonight. Help them Lord, to see through all the distractions and focus on your will and your way for St Matthews. Amen

Please pray for the residents Hanch Place and Grove Terrace.

Friday 20 January: God's strength

God is our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not be afraid, even if the earth is shaken (Psalm 46). We ask that we never forget that truth and may it be a foundation on which our lives are built. Amen

Please pray for the residents Highgate Avenue and Highgate Road.

Saturday 21st January: Messy Christingle Service.

Dear Lord, we pray today for all those children and families that attend our Christingle Service. May they all enjoy being in your presence today and be eager to learn more about you. Each will take home a Christingle and we ask that they will remember what each part of it represents. The lit candle - Jesus as the light of the world, the fruit and nuts - God's creation and the 4 seasons, the red ribbon - the love and blood of Jesus and the orange – our world. Help them to want to make Jesus a bigger part in their lives. Amen.

Please pray for the residents Jesson Close and Jesson Court.

Sunday 22nd January: Bishop Clive's Visit to Asian Congregation

Dear Father, we thank you for our Asian Congregation and the important part that they play in the family of St Matthews. We ask that you bless this visit of Bishop Clive today and pray that it will encourage Pastor Fiaz in all the good work that he does. We pray that with his dedication and commitment and your help, the Asian Congregation will grow stronger in both faith and numbers. Amen.

Please pray for the residents Jesson Road and The Rectory.

Monday 23rd January: Home Groups.

Dear God, we thank you for our Home Groups, for all those people who meet together to learn more about you and share in fellowship and friendship. We pray for the support they give to each other. We thank you for the leaders of these groups and pray that those people who attended our recent Alpha course will be encouraged to join a House Group and in so doing with grow closer to you. Amen

Please pray for the residents Lincoln Road and Little Caldmore.

Tuesday 24th January: Cluster Meeting and Town Centre Ministry Meeting.

Dear Father, please bless and guide all the other clergy in our cluster group as they meet tonight and also the members of the Town Centre Ministry who are also meeting. May each church and committee member help and support each other. Please guide them all in any decisions they make so that they see the paths and direction that you wish them to follow. We pray that through your guidance your church in Walsall will grow stronger in both faith and in numbers. Amen.

Please pray for the residents Loriners Grove and Mandeville Gardens.

Wednesday 25th January: Gifts Course.

Dear Father, we thank you for all the gifts that you have given to us. Help us to identify those gifts and guide us in the best way to use them so that they are not wasted but instead used in your service. We pray for all those who attend this course today and ask that you will be with them and help them to develop and fulfil your purpose in their lives. Amen

Please pray for the residents Lysways Street and Highgate Court.

Thursday 26th January: Liz Chamberlain's Training at Swanwick.

Dear Lord, we thank you for Liz and all the work she does within our parish. Thank you for her spirituality, her pastoral care and most of all for the fun and joy which she brings to everything she does in your name. We ask you to be with her on her training course and provide her with all that she needs to continue her important work in proclaiming your name. Amen.

Please pray for the residents Lysways Court and Maret Court.

Friday 27th January: Church Staff.

Dear Father, we thank you for all the people who work and help in the running of St. Matthew's Church. There are many jobs to be done behind the scenes and we pray for all those who work so tirelessly in the office to make sure that all runs smoothly. Help them to realise how important their role is and to feel appreciated by all members of the congregation. Amen

Please pray for the residents Mount Street and Orwell Road.

Saturday 28th January: That the members of St. Matthews may be comforted in this challenging world.

Do not be afraid – I am with you

I am your God – let nothing terrify you

I will make you strong and help you

I will protect you and save you.

Isaiah 41 verse 10

Please pray for the residents New Street and Whiston House.

Sunday 29th January: Children's Church.

Dear Lord, we pray today for all the children who attend our Children's Church. We ask that they really enjoy their time in learning more about you each Sunday. We thank you for the commitment and dedication of all the leaders and ask that their own faiths will grow stronger as they teach the children. Our children represent the future and renewal of your church and we pray that more will come to know you and follow your teaching of loving friendship and caring for each other. Amen.

Please pray for the residents Orlando Gardens and Orlando Hose.

Monday 30th January: Blue Coat Comprehensive School.

Dear Father, we ask for your blessings on all our Blue Coat Schools but today we pray especially for the Comprehensive School as they seek to find a new sponsoring body for their Academy status. We pray that the uncertainty will soon come to an end and that this school may move forward and continue to improve as it did during 2011. Amen

Please pray for the residents Porterfield House and Woodcutter's Close.

Tuesday 31st January: Harmony.

Dear Father, we pray today for your guidance and help that we might all live together in harmony. Help us to be slow to judge and quick to forgive. Help to show patience, empathy and love to all. Please Lord, help us to accept people as they are and to love them whatever we see as their faults. Give us the sensitivity to see and the generosity to help any that need our support.

Amen.

Please pray for the residents Princes Avenue.

