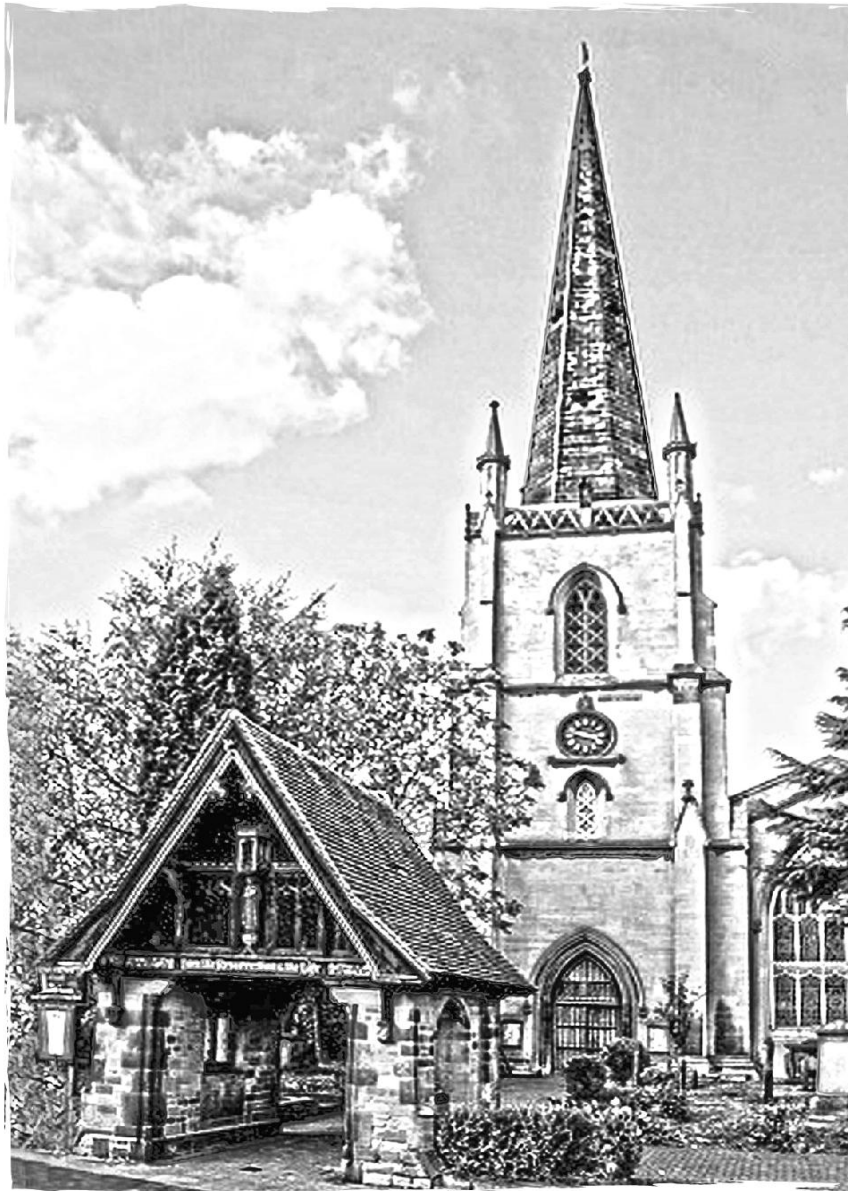


# St matthews church

## *Prayer Diary*



***October 2011***

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

Dear friends,

Welcome to the first edition of the revamped St. Matthew's Prayer Diary (formerly prayer news).

We hope that it will be a useful addition to the prayer life of our church. You will notice that there are two 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.

However you choose to use the diary it can become a channel of communication between our church and God.

*Patti Lane, Rosemary Roberts and Jeremy Sargent.*

"Prayer is the engine room of the Church" – so said Peter Tyson in the introduction to a St Matthew's Prayer Guide many years ago and it's just as true today. Without prayer we will not move forward! I am very grateful to Patti, Rosemary and Jeremy for taking on this Prayer Diary. Please take it and use it in your own prayers and let's go forward together on our journey to the heart of God.

Yours in Christ,

Colin.

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October: Messy Church.**

Dear Father, we pray for all the children and their parents who come to Messy Church today. May they feel the warm welcome and excitement of coming to meet and learn about you. We pray too for Liz Burley, giving thanks for her preparation for this day, and that she and all in the team are energised by the knowledge of your love. Amen.

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October: A thankful Harvest.**

Dear Father, we come today to give thanks for another year of your bountiful harvest. We give praise and thanks for the gift of sun and rains that enables the crops to grow and for all those who are involved in the collection and distribution of food goods. We pray too for Matilda, Lilly-Mae, Giovanni and Valencia who we welcome into our church family through baptism today. May they and their families feel the power of your love. Amen.

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October: The Homeless and those with additions.**

Dear Father, we pray for those who are often pushed to the edges of our community because they are homeless and end up sleeping rough or 'sofa surfing'. We ask for understanding of what drives people to become drug or alcohol dependent which is often the cause of the homelessness. We give thanks for organisations like The Glebe Centre and Hi's and Lows who seek to support them. Amen.

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October: Warden's Meeting.**

Dear Father, this evening the wardens meet to discuss the work and organisation of St. Matthew's. We pray that your guiding presence is there with them so they are able to think collectively and act individually in the development of your vision for the Church. Amen.

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October: Home/Cell Group Leaders.**

Dear Father, we are so thankful that you inspire people within our church community to take on this role of leading group study and prayer during the week and providing hospitality in the homes. We pray that this evening's meeting will have a sense of clarity and purpose. Amen.

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October: Alpha Course No 2 – *Who is Jesus?***

Dear Father, we pray that all those who came along to the first meeting of the Alpha course will have been able to reflect on the talk and follow up discussions. Lord, begin to speak into their hearts and open the minds to explore this evening's question "Who is Jesus?" We pray too for the speaker this evening and those who have offered to lead groups. Give them the clarity of understanding. Amen.

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October: The Elderly and Housebound.**

Dear Father, we remember those of our community who live in care homes because of frailty or ill health. We pray that your comforting arms be round them and they find peace in the knowledge of your love. Be with the staff that they have the skills and patience to look after these often confused elderly people. Thank you Lord that you send out St Matthew's pastoral visitors to share your loving care. Amen.

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October: Christian Literature at The Hub.**

Dear Father, we pray for the success of The Hub bookshop and continuing financial support they receive from the churches and individuals in Walsall. We recognise the importance of having good quality Christian literature to help us understand and explore the message of the Bible. Amen.

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October: Worship theme, The Rule of Life – Time.**

Dear Father, we begin today a new worship theme which will cover the next four weeks. We pray that you give us open ears, mind and heart to receive the message. Today we hear the parable that Jesus told about the workers that were paid equally. May we understand the equality of your love whenever we meet you in our lives. Amen.

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October: Paul & Lesley Evans, as they move back to Zimbabwe**

We thank you for the years of tireless work that Paul and Lesley have done in Southern Africa. We pray especially for them at this time as they move back to Zimbabwe. May the organisation of the move go well, may their new home be a place of peace where your love can

be found, and may their work for you continue to be a blessing in that troubled country. Amen.

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October: The other churches in our cluster**

Please bless the ministries at St Luke's, St Paul's, St Martin's and St John's. May your presence be clear to see in all of those fellowships as they bring your message and your love to those parts of Walsall. We ask too that you bless and guide their clergy and all who lead those congregations, so that, through all that's happening in this busy world, they may see your path and the direction you want them to go. Amen.

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October: Selwyn lectures – *Science and God***

We pray dear Lord that you guide those speaking at the Selwyn Lecture, so that they can present your words clearly and powerfully. Please show each of us when to speak out for you. Help us to express our faith with clarity and conviction, and give us boldness so that we are never too afraid to open our mouths. Amen.

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October: Alpha Course No 3 – *Why did Jesus die?***

We thank you Lord for those who have given their time to run the Alpha Course this year. May you give them strength when this work seems so hard, may you give them wisdom when decisions are needed, may you give them boldness to speak your message and, above all, may you give them love in their hearts. Amen.

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October: That the members of St Matthews will be guided**

*Be our strength in hours of weakness  
In our wanderings be our guide;  
Through endeavour, failure, danger,  
Father please be at our side. Amen.*

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October: Diocesan Renewal Conference – *Free to be***

In our prayers we bring before you today's renewal conference, and ask it will be a time when people's faith will grow. We pray as well that, each day, everyone at St Matthews will also experience the

renewing of your spirit. May we never let our love for you become stagnant, but may it be refreshed every morning. Amen.

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October: Worship Theme: *Rule of Life - Talents***

Dear God, we pray for all who come to today's services. May they all hear your message for them, may they all come closer to you, and may they feel you by their side as they leave the building to face the week ahead. Amen.

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October: The meeting of clergy of the larger churches in the diocese**

We thank you Lord for the many churches that are meeting in your name throughout the diocese. We pray especially for the clergy who work in the larger churches. We ask that you give them the energy and the vision they need to lead their congregation, but most of all we pray that, in their hard work, they will take your hand, walk with you and follow your ways. Amen.

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October: PCC meeting**

We pray dear Lord that you are with tonight's church council. We ask that, throughout, you are the focus of the meeting, and are leading the discussions. May those involved remember that, no matter how big the problems before them, you are even bigger. Please give them your wisdom and discernment, and may their decisions be in accordance with you will, helping St Matthews to grow in faith, unity and love. Amen.

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October: Queen Mary's School**

We give thanks for the dedicated staff at St Mary's School, and pray that it may be a place where children learn to live lives that please you. We pray especially for tomorrow's speech day in church, and ask that throughout there is a feeling of your presence. Amen.

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October: Alpha Course No 4 – *Did Jesus Really Rise from the Dead?***

Dear Lord, may your blessings be on the Alpha course. May the organisation of the evening go well, may those leading the course be

able to give your words in a clear way, and may the hearts of those attending be stirred by your message. Amen.

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October: Home Groups**

Dear Father, 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 more people will come forward to join them. Amen.

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October: Messy Church Training Day**

Dear Father, please bless all the volunteers who help run our Messy Church events and especially Liz Burley who leads them. We thank you for their commitment to this new way of worship for children and their families and pray that this training day will encourage them further. Amen.

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October: Rule of Life - Tell**

Dear Father, we pray that you will give us the strength and courage to spread the good news of the bible. Give us the confidence to tell others about Jesus and how much joy having him in your life can bring. We thank you for those people who have not been afraid to step out in faith and proclaim your name. Amen.

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October: Blue Coat Schools**

Dear Father, as the children of these schools start their holiday today, we pray that the staff will enjoy a week of rest and that the pupils will have a week of fun with their families. May all return refreshed and eager to learn or to teach after the break. We ask for your blessing on them all. Amen.

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October: St Matthew's Centre**

Dear Father, today we ask you to bless our centre and give you thanks and praise for all the activities that take place there. We also thank you for the energy and dedication of Adrian. Help us find ways to build links with all the Groups that meet there so that we can invite their members to become a closer part of our church family. Amen.

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October: 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. Amen.

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October: Alpha Course 5 - *How can I be sure of my***

***faith?*** Dear Father, we ask you to be with the leaders and helpers of this course as they seek to teach others more about you. We pray that those attending will find the answers they are seeking and that their lives will be enriched by coming to know you better. Amen.

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October: Asian Congregation** Dear Father, we are so blessed to have the Asian Church as part of St. Matthew's Church family. We pray that their numbers continue to grow and that Ambur Radio will reach out and help many people in Walsall. Please let them grow in faith and fellowship. Amen.

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October: Urban Spirit Worship Event**

Dear Father, we pray for the success of this evening's worship event at Blue Coat School. May your Spirit inspire all those who lead and attend. We pray that more of the young people of Walsall will come to know and learn about you through music and fellowship at events such as this. Amen.

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October: Rule of Life - Treasure**

Dear Father, we all have so many possessions and items that we cherish. Help us to realise that real treasure in this world comes from knowing and loving you. May everything we do begin with you, continue with your help and be done under your guidance. Amen.

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October: Craft Group**

Dear Father, we pray today for our craft group and thank you for the skills that you have given to each member. They are an important part of the family of St Matthews and we thank you for all the funds they raise by selling the products they make. May they enjoy their time together as they work in your name. Amen.