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Services 20 February: 3 before Lent

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| 8.00am | BCP Communion |
| 10.00am | Communion + Children's Church |
| 12 noon | shortened BCP Communion |
| 3.00pm | St Matthew's Asian Congregation in the Centre |
| 6.30pm | Church Hill Praise + communion |

Theme – Servant Song #3: Obedience Isaiah 50:4-11

This Week:-

Mon 21	2.00	Craft Group	Centre
Tue 22	8.45	Morning Prayer	Church
Wed 23	10.00	Midweek communion	Church
Thu 24	8.45	Morning Prayer	Church
Sat 26	10.00	Prayer Hour	Church

Notices

Half term Closures: The schools have broken up this week and as a result there are the following cancellations for this week only:

- **No toddler group** on Wednesday morning
- **No Guides** on Wednesday night
- **No confirmation course** on Thursday night
- **No Blue Coat service** on Friday morning.

St Matthew's Quiz and social night will take place on Saturday 5 March at 7.30pm in the Church Centre. Look out for more information to follow. Put the date in your diary and start organising your team now! More information from John and Enid Pryce-Jones Tel 723719.

Thank you from the Barnabas Fund: The Barnabas Fund have written to say how grateful for they are for the amazing effort of our Children's Church in raising £1,000 for the St Aphem's school in Bethlehem. Please see their letter on the notice board.

Women's World Day of Prayer Service 4 March: This year's service is written by the Christian women of Chile. Walsall Churches are meeting at St Paul's on Friday 4 March at 10.30am. The speaker is the Revd Ruth Wood of Delves Baptist Church. All are welcome at the service, men, women and young people. There are refreshments!

Prayer Chain: If you would like St Matthew's to mobilise prayer support for an urgent personal request, call our prayer chain co-ordinator Colin Townsend on 07866 381845 or e-mail prayerchain@live.co.uk. We are very keen to recruit more people to take part in the prayer chain – call Colin Townsend or Liz Chamberlain.

Let's keep local Police patrols! You may have noticed that following a spate of incidents the police are patrolling St Matthew's on a regular basis and the area is much quieter and safer as a result. However in the normal order of things police activity soon gets re-prioritised. To keep the patrols going we need to give positive feedback on the website www.rateyourlocalpolice.co.uk. Log on and let them know you care!

Blue Coat Comprehensive: The Secretary of State for Education has used unilateral powers to replace the governing body with an Interim Executive Board in preparation for a change to academy status. The Diocese is working hard to preserve Blue Coat's Christian ethos, its links with St Matthew's and its connections with Blue Coat Junior and Infants.

A plea from the Holy Dusters: We are desperate for more help on Tuesday mornings! If you can't take part every week, once a fortnight or once a month would help. We have a lot of fun and coffee and a chat, you'll enjoy it. Contact Helen Robinson on 623183 with offers of help.

Support needed for Scott and Josh St Matthew's supports these gifted young men from Church Hill Praise on a worship leaders' course. Their biggest financial burden is the fees, due termly. If anyone is able to offer further support please contact them on 07977809619.

Just for Men *Men and Motives* is a Conference on Saturday 26 March at St Martin's hosted by the director of evangelism at Christian Vision for Men and by our own George Fisher. Seminars on Gearing church for men; Sexual temptation; Hollywood's challenge to the church, and Winning men. Tickets £10 from the Lichfield Mission Office Tel: 01922 707863 or email: richard.barrett@lichfield.anglican.org The cost includes a hearty men's lunch! Martin Barker is getting together a list of men who want to go – call him on 634413.

Mission Giving The PCC has resolved to support the Mission Aviation Fellowship in place of last year's special mission, the Barnabas Fund. Look out for more information about MAF's exciting work in due course. Our commitment to our other three mission groups, Paul and Lesley Evans, CMS and Christ for All continues unchanged.

Church Diary:-

Wed 2 March	7.30	last session of healing course	Centre
Fri 4 March	10.30	Women's World Day of Prayer	St Paul's
Sat 5 March	10.00	PCC day – Mission Action Plan	Centre
	7.30	Quiz and social night	Centre
Sun 6 March	10.00	all-age service	Church
Tue 8 March	7.00	Reordering Project Steering Group	Centre
Wed 9 March		ASH WEDNESDAY	
	12.00	Lent lunches	St Paul's
	7.30	communion service with ashes	Church
Sat 12 March	11.00	More Tea Vicar (surgery)	Church
Thu 17 March	7.15	(for 7.30) PCC	Centre
Sat 19 March	2.00	wedding – Victoria and Daniel	Church

Services 27 February: 2 before Lent

8.00am	BCP Communion
10.00am	Communion + Children's Church
3.00pm	St Matthew's Asian Congregation in the Centre
3.45pm	BCP Evensong
6.30pm	Church Hill Praise

Theme – Servant Song #4 - the suffering servant: Isaiah 53

For Your Prayers...

Give thanks For the Mission Aviation Fellowship, our new mission partner, and their amazing work in making possible the work of other missionaries to bring Christ to inaccessible areas of the world.

Making Christ Known: Please keep praying for the family and friends of Trudy Shingler, whose funeral was at St Matthew's last week: for husband Lea, mum and dad Mark and Susan Leeson, and grandparents Bert and Kath Leeson.

The World: Please continue to pray for the fraught situation in the Middle East. Please pray for Blue Coat Comp in uncertain times.

For Healing: Meg Caine, Joan Nock, Kenneth Lyon, Olive Tilt, Keith Masters, Elsie Watton, David Boss, Patricia Smyth, Louise Partridge, Wendy Ross, Barry McEwan, Andrew Taylor, Doreen Hammond, Hazel Joyce, Felicity Clarkson.

Rest in Peace: Trudy Shingler, Ethel (Iris) Hunt, Nancy Cooley, Mollie Hand, all named in our Memorial Book, soldiers and civilians killed in Afghanistan.

Contact Us:-

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