

# For Your Prayers This Month:



*"I have set the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken."*

**Psalm 16:8**

Living, loving Lord Jesus, please comfort those grieving the loss of a loved one today. Would you walk with them in their sadness, speaking words of life, pointing their hopes to you.

We lift to you those known to us: Margaret, Ven's family, Sue S, Andrew P, Ann's family, and Tabitha and family.

Those needing your healing touch: Penny, Sheila Penney, Alan (Margaret's son), Joanna Travers, Sylvia Muller, Terry Singlehurst.

Those waiting for appointments and treatment: Glen, Rhiannon, Andrew, Alex Waring, Beth.

We give you thanks for those who have had good news with health issues: Peter D and Peter P; and with work: Derek and Ollie.

We lift to you our local school of Salford Priors. Please bless the work of the new acting headteacher and staff as the new term begins. We thank you for Helen as she begins a new post.

We pray for those Confirmation candidates who, on 18th May, will be marking a deepening of faith and commitment to Christ Jesus, as the Bishop prays for them to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Would you guide those involved in bringing a new member of clergy to this benefice.

**Father God,**

**We thank you for your faithfulness to us in this Heart of England Benefice.**

**We pray that as we travel together into our shared future,  
you will bring a person of your calling to lead us.**

**We pray for that person to be someone close to your heart who will help all of us  
to grow closer to you and enable us to become together a brighter reflection  
of your love in these communities where we live and worship.**

**We ask in the name of your Son, Jesus. Amen**

**For inclusion in the Prayer List, please direct your requests to Denise Andreo:  
Call: 07791 347651 or email: deniseandreo@gmail.com**

## Weekly Prayer Meeting:

Please join us for our short, informal weekly prayer meeting at St Matthew's Church. 9:30am every Tuesday in the Church Room.

### Contact Information:

| Rector                       | Vacancy                 | -            | -                              |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Assoc. Minister</b>       | Revd Sheila Bridge      | 07754 784251 | Sheila.heartparishes@gmail.com |
| <b>Asst. Clergy</b>          | Revd Michael Godfrey    | 07725 878530 | Rev.michael.godfrey@gmail.com  |
| <b>Asst. Clergy</b>          | Revd Canon Adrian Leahy | 07454 739755 | revaleahy@gmail.com            |
| <b>Asst. Clergy</b>          | Revd John Ganjavi       | 07753 619789 | johnganjavi@btinternet.com     |
| <b>Asst. Clergy</b>          | Revd Dr Steve Bate      | 07773 583356 | sbate@aol.com                  |
| <b>Reader</b>                | Mr Allan Steven         | 07816 783382 | voll0802@gmail.com             |
| <b>Administrator</b>         | Mrs Amy James           | 07747 213501 | amy.heartparishes@gmail.com    |
| <b>SP Family Link Worker</b> | Mrs Sarah Folkes        | 07930 913643 | sarah.heartparishes@gmail.com  |
| <b>Prayer Requests</b>       | Mrs Denise Andreo       | 07791 347651 | deniseandreo@gmail.com         |

Group website: [www.heartparishes.org.uk](http://www.heartparishes.org.uk)

St Matthew's Church Website: [www.stmatthewssalfordpriors.org.uk](http://www.stmatthewssalfordpriors.org.uk)



[www.facebook.com/stmatthewschurchsalfordpriors](https://www.facebook.com/stmatthewschurchsalfordpriors)

# WELCOME

to the Heart of England Benefice

Bidford on Avon • Binton • Exhall • Salford Priors • Temple Grafton • Wixford



## What's on in May

**Tuesdays, 7.30-9pm**

'The God Story' Midweek Meet-up at St Matthew's Church Room (not including 27<sup>th</sup> May).

**First Wednesday of each month, 1-2.30pm**

We need volunteers to help with the Rainbow Garden at St Matthew's Church. No experience necessary. If interested, please email: [admin@heartparishes.org.uk](mailto:admin@heartparishes.org.uk)

**Wednesday 7th May, 7.30pm**

Joint PCC meeting at St Matthew's Church with Archdeacon Barry to discuss the recruitment process for a new incumbent.

**Saturday 10th May, 9-10.30am**

St Matthew's Men's Breakfast Group

Meeting at Osco's, Blenheim Nursery, Stratford Road, Bidford

To book, please email [johnahead@icloud.com](mailto:johnahead@icloud.com) by 8th May, stating any dietary requirements.



**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 10am**

Muddy Church Litter Pick. Meeting back at Church for hot dogs at 10am.

Please scan QR code to book in and see further information.



**Saturday 17th May, 9-10.30am**

Women's breakfast at Osco's. Tasty food, discipleship, and discussions.

Email [sarah.heartparishes@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.heartparishes@gmail.com) to book/enquire about future events.

**Saturday 17th May, 2-4pm**

Messy Church at St Laurence's, Bidford.

Free! All families with children welcome. No need to book.



**Sunday May 18th 4pm**

Confirmation service at St Matthew's - please talk to Rev Sheila if you would like to be confirmed (or baptised and confirmed). Please note NO morning Cafe Church service that Sunday.

**Tuesday 20th May, 2.30pm**

Mother's Union: 2pm at Bidford Church Hall

Parenting work in Mothers' speaker, Felicity Hawke.

Note new time! Everyone welcome.



**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May 12-6pm & Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May 10-5pm**

Annual Arts & Crafts Festival at St Laurence's Church

FREE entry. Artists, Authors, Ceramics, Needlecrafts, Artwork, Jewellery, Metalware. Demonstrations.

Raffle & Refreshments. Please come and support local residents.

All donations to Church Funds.



**If you are visiting us today or are here for the first time,  
we hope you have felt welcomed and have enjoyed worshipping here.  
Do please introduce yourself to someone after the service.**



# May Services Across the Benefice

At Family Services or Café Church, worship leaders are free to choose alternative reading(s).  
When it is a Communion service, a gospel reading is usual.  
St Matthew's Church is following a Bible Study programme from January - May.

## 4th May: The Third Sunday of Easter

|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 8.45am Holy Communion  | Salford Priors |
| 10.30am Café Church    | Bidford        |
| 10.30am Family Service | Salford Priors |
| 6.30pm Evensong        | Binton         |

**1st Reading:** Acts 9.1-6 [7-20] | **2nd Reading:** Revelation 5.11-end | **Gospel Reading:** John 21.1-19

### Collect

Risen Christ,  
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:  
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life  
and fill us with your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father.

**Amen**

### Post Communion Prayer

Living God,  
your Son made himself known to his disciples  
in the breaking of bread:  
open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## 11th May: The Fourth Sunday of Easter

|                                  |                                 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 8.00am Holy Communion            | Temple Grafton                  |
| 10.00am Holy Communion           | Bidford                         |
| 10.00am Muddy Church Litter Pick | Salford Priors <b>BOOK HERE</b> |
| 10.30am VE Day Civic Service     | Salford Priors                  |
| 10.30am Village Praise           | Binton                          |
| 5.00pm 'Breathing Space'         | Salford Priors                  |

**1st Reading:** Acts 9.36-end | **2nd Reading:** Revelation 7.9-end | **Gospel Reading:** John 10.22-30

### Collect

Risen Christ,  
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:  
teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command,  
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,  
to the glory of God the Father.

**Amen**

### Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Father,  
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,  
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:  
keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**



## 18th May: The Fifth Sunday of Easter

|                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 8.00am Holy Communion       | Exhall         |
| 10.00am Holy Communion      | Bidford        |
| 4.00pm Confirmation Service | Salford Priors |

**1st Reading:** Acts 11.1-18 | **2nd Reading:** Revelation 21.1-6 | **Gospel Reading:** John 13.31-35

### Collect

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world  
and the wonder of your risen life:  
give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve,  
to the glory of God the Father.

**Amen**

### Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:  
grant us to walk in his way to rejoice in his truth,  
and to share his risen life;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## 25th May: The Sixth Sunday of Easter

|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 8.00am Holy Communion  | Wixford        |
| 10.00am Holy Communion | Bidford        |
| 10.30am Holy Communion | Salford Priors |
| 11.00am Village Praise | Exhall         |
| 6.30pm Compline        | Wixford        |

**1st Reading:** Acts 16.9-15 | **2nd Reading:** Revelation 21.10,22-22.5 | **Gospel Reading:** John 14.23-29

### Collect

Risen Christ,  
by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:  
help your Church to obey your command  
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,  
to the glory of God the Father.

**Amen**

### Post Communion Prayer

God our Father,  
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:  
may we thirst for you,  
the spring of life and source of goodness,  
through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

**Amen**

**Please note there is NO morning service at St Matthew's on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May.  
Do join us instead for our Confirmation Service at 4pm.**

## UPCOMING SERVICES:

### 1st June:

|                        |                |   |
|------------------------|----------------|---|
| 8.45am Holy Communion  | Salford Priors | <b>1st Reading:</b> Acts 16.16-34               |
| 10.30am Café Church    | Bidford        | <b>2nd Reading:</b> Revelation 22.12-14, 16-17, |
| 10.30am Family Service | Salford Priors | 20-end  |
| 6.30pm Evensong        | Temple Grafton | <b>Gospel Reading:</b> John 17.20-end           |