

Bulletin for St Thomas' & St Mary Magdalene's – Sunday, 4th August - Trinity 10 - The Transfiguration

Lovely Friends,

As the first week of the summer holiday began little did we know that such a tragic attack would happen on a group of young girls enjoying a dance class. The news of the attack in Southport on Monday has sent shockwaves far beyond that seaside town. Three innocent lives lost and several more left to carry the physical and emotional scars. We have seen the grief, pain and anger reflected through our television screens and I for one have sat with tears in my eyes at the thought of what unfolded. It is difficult to comprehend the reason why and certainly not for us to speculate, unlike some social media accounts over the past few days. What we can do is turn to the one who suffered great pain on the cross for us and spend time in His presence as we share the pain and sadness that we feel.

This week's gospel reading focuses on the Transfiguration of Jesus when His divine glory is revealed to Peter, James, and John on a high mountain. Jesus' appearance changes, His face shines like the sun, and His clothes become dazzling white then God affirms that Jesus is His Beloved Son. We are God's Beloved children too, he is with us in every situation; feeling the pain and sorrow of this past week in Southport, and with us in our daily lives.

On that mountain top Jesus is transformed, and we are called to be transformed too by God's grace. The Transfiguration encourages us to seek out the presence of Jesus daily, to take time to stop, be still and pray. Through His divine presence comes love and hope and it is both love and hope that are needed at such a tragic time as this. As followers of Jesus, as we walk with him and spend time in His presence may we all through God's transforming grace be beacons of love and hope to our communities and beyond, and especially to the families and community in Southport at this time. With love Ruth

Holiday Time

Don't take a holiday from prayer and worship if you go away!

- Go to church wherever you are staying if at all possible.
- If you're at home but having a day out, come to an earlier or later service than usual, or to midweek Communion.
- Pray for folk back home: we'll be praying for you on your holidays.
- Send a postcard and tell us what God has shown you on holiday: send it to Rev Ruth, St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Dingleway, Appleton, Warrington, WA4 3AW.

Summer Blessing

May you walk with God this summer in whatever you do and wherever you go.

May you talk to God this summer every day in every situation.

May God speak to you this summer in the beauty of nature, in your family and in your prayers.

Sunday 4th August : Trinity 10

8.00am	Holy Communion at St Thomas'
9.30am	Family Communion at St. Mary Magdalene's
10.45am	Family Communion at St. Thomas'
6.00pm	Evening Prayer at St Mary Magdalene's

Prayer Focus

- For the time to sit and rest in the transforming presence of Jesus, daily.
- For Alice, Elsie and Bebe who died from their injuries following the attack in Southport and for their families.
- For the children and adults who have been left injured by the Southport attack.
- Give thanks for first responders, the ambulance service, fire fighters and police officers who head into situations of grave danger in order to help others.
- For the safety of our young people as they attend holiday clubs, groups and events over the summer holidays. And for the protection of those using social platforms and social media that they are safe from harmful influences.
- Our Fun Lunches and Encounter holiday club: give thanks for all our volunteers.
- Our Diocese of Chester, Bishop Mark, our link dioceses of Melanesia and Congo: may we all grow together.
- The terrible loss of life in the conflicts and wars raging in our world: may peaceful solutions be found in all situations. Bless all places where people go hungry, refugees flee, innocents are caught up in unimaginable horrors.
- Comfort for all who are sick and in need of healing – our prayers surround them with love:- Katy, Debbie, Mark, Rachel, John, Hazel, Pat, Sheila, Joan, Kara, Ivy and Mary.
- Welcome into the light those who have died recently: Anne, Charles, Christine, John, Audrey, Cheryl and Tony. Give comfort to those remembering anniversaries at this time.

Notices

Mon-Fri	9.15am Morning Prayer on Zoom
Tues	12noon - 2pm Free Fun Lunch at St. Thomas' Church
Weds	12noon Holy Communion Service and Lunch at St Mary Magdalene's
Thurs	10.00am Holy Communion at St Thomas'

Next Sunday 11th August : The Blessed Virgin Mary

8.00am	Holy Communion at St Thomas'
9.30am	Family Communion at St. Mary Magdalene's
10.45am	Family Communion at St. Thomas'
6.00pm	Evening Prayer at St Mary Magdalene's

Free Family Fun Lunches during school summer holidays

At St. Thomas' Church on Tuesdays from 12 -2pm. Dates are 6, 13, 20 and 27 August.
With food, crafts and games based around a Bible theme. Contact Sue to book.

'Encounter' Family Holiday Club - Free Fun for all the family during summer holidays at St Mary Magdalene's Church

Wednesdays – 10am-12pm. Dates are 14, 21, 28 August. Crafts, games and activities for Primary aged children based around the theme of Noah's Ark, with a baby and toddler zone and snack.

Anne Myles Funeral

Anne's funeral will take place at St Thomas' on Monday 12th August at 11.30am followed by a committal at Walton Lea Crematorium at 12.40pm.

Contemplative Prayer - Takes place on the third Tuesday of the month, normally at 6.00pm-6.45pm. This is taking a summer break and will start back in September. If you would like to know more please contact Christine.

St Thomas' Church : volunteer cleaners wanted

If you have a spare hour every 2 or 3 weeks please consider offering to help clean our beautiful church. Materials provided. Please contact me or speak to me after church. Thanks Sheila.

Creamfields 2024

'We are Church at Creamfields' are asking for donations of Jammie Dodgers (the official ones with a heart shaped jam hole!) again this year. Please drop off donations in Church. If you would like to volunteer for the Church Tent at Creamfields this August Bank Holiday weekend, follow this link to sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/bdeuxspk>

Eco Tip

If you have pulled out a lightweight canvas bag ready for packing for your holiday and overnight stays and found it to be musty and basically smelly, deodorise it by sprinkling salt inside; zip up the bag and let it sit overnight. Brush out the salt the next day and let the bag air out. This tip works for canvas shoes as well. Sheila.

Sponsorship Thank You

Last weekend Jeanette's daughter-in-law, Alison, took part in the Montane Lakeland 100 which is 105 miles long! Alison ran to raise funds for Prostate Cancer UK. Alison and her Dad, Bill, thank everyone for their support. They will update on amount raised asap.

CONTACTS

Website www.stthomas-stocktonheath.org.uk

Parish Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/stthomasandmarymagdalenes>

Church channel on YouTube www.youtube.com/channel/UCpsYBGYSbFuulUITYYxICQw

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