

## **Bulletin for St Thomas' & St Mary Magdalene's – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September – St Michael and All Angels**

Dear Friends,

I'm called Michael because my Dad was Vicar of St Michael's Middlewich when I was born – so I've always had a liking for angels not least because the Bible tells us that children have a guardian angel looking after them (see Matthew 18:10). This Sunday as we celebrate St Michael and All Angels Day the reading reveals a different side to angels "Michael and his angels fought the great dragon" (Rev 12:7-12). Here the devil, a fallen angel, is thrown out of heaven; unfortunately he is thrown down to earth instead.

Of course the Christmas story is full of different sorts of angels – Gabriel brings good news to Mary, a whole army surprise the shepherds, one whispers to Joseph to accept Mary and another tells the Wise Men not to go back to Herod. Whatever your view of angels – and here I categorically state that I do believe in them – their presence is ultimately about guidance, protection and fighting against evil.

There is a spiritual part of our lives which we cannot see but is no less real. The good we do comes from the Holy Spirit but we know that evil can well up within and lead us astray. Ephesians 6:11 talks about "spiritual hosts of wickedness." We need the Holy Angels to protect us. Perhaps Robbie Williams is right when he sings "I'm loving angels instead." Yours as always, Michael.

## **Macmillan Coffee morning on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 10am -12 noon in St Thomas Church**

Please come along and support us. Statistics show that 1 in 2 people will develop cancer during their lifetime, last year we raised £475.34 – can we try to exceed £500 this year for this vital work. If you can contribute a cake contact Sue.

### **Sunday 29th September : St. Michael and All Angels**

8.00am	Holy Communion at St Thomas'
9.30am	Service of the Word at St. Mary Magdalene's
10.45am	Family Communion with Sunday School at St. Thomas'
6.00pm	Evening Prayer at St Mary Magdalene's <i>NB from October Evening Prayer will be held at 5pm.</i>

### **Notices**

Monday-Friday	9.15am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
Monday	1-2.30pm	Praise and Play at St. Thomas'
Wednesday	9-11am	Little Sunbeams at St. Mary Magdalene's
Thursday	10am	Midweek Communion at St. Thomas'
Saturday	8.15am	Breakfast with the Bible at St Mary Magdalene's

### **Saturday 6.30pm Harvest Supper with Ceilidh Band at St Thomas' Church Hall (tickets in Churches)**

### **Confirmation for Adults and Young People**

We are holding classes for anyone who would like to be confirmed by Bishop Julie on Sunday 24 November. There are lists in Church to sign up: Y6 will have classes at St. Thomas' school, adults and young people in Y7 and above will have classes on a midweek evening when mutually convenient. Contact Michael or Ruth for more details.

### **Prayer Focus**

- That angels in heaven will protect our little ones from all evil.
- Our Harvest preparations – that we may give sacrificially to Warrington Food Bank.
- The terrible evils perpetrated in the name of war – may every side, across our broken world, see that no good comes through violence and that peace can only come through forgiveness and reconciliation.
- As autumn comes for all vulnerable in our society : that means will be found to keep warm and to feed the least, the last and the lost.
- NHS at this busy time and especially A&E departments. For all who have long waits for appointments and test results. For Warrington Hospital and Rev Suzanne and the Chaplaincy Team there.
- For Vision for our Churches as we look to grow stronger and braver. For our Diocese of Chester and Bishop Mark and for our Deanery of Great Budworth, especially the Parishes of St Wilfrid's, St John's, St Michael's, St Peter's and St Luke's facing vacancy at the moment.
- The work of Macmillan Cancer Support in their vital ministry in the community.
- Spiritual maturity to know that Jesus' Kingdom can only break through into our lives if we stand firm and, like St Michael, "beat down satan under our feet."
- Giving and Volunteering in our Church communities – that if we all give a little time much will be achieved.
- Comfort for all who are sick and in need of healing – our prayers surround them with love:- Suyra, Paul, Ken, Jenny, Syd, Kirsty, Katy, Debbie, Mark, Rachel, John, Hazel, Pat, Joan, Kara, and Ivy.
- May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace and rise in glory, remembering Richard, Heather and Sheila. Give comfort to those remembering anniversaries at this time.

### **Next Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October : Harvest Festival**

- 8.00am Holy Communion at St Thomas'
- 9.30am Family Communion at St. Mary Magdalene's – please bring gifts for the Food Bank (with Ben Pennell from Warrington Food Bank to speak)
- 10.45am Harvest "Come to the Table" at St. Thomas' – NB No Sunday School please bring gifts for the Food Bank (with Ben Pennell from Warrington Food Bank to speak)
- 5.00pm Evening Prayer at St Mary Magdalene's (*note earlier time*)

### **Harvest Weekend 5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> October**

**Harvest Supper and Ceilidh will take place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October in St Thomas' Church Hall.** Please buy your tickets and sign the sheets to advise numbers for catering. Hot pot supper and apple crumble with custard will be served. Tickets £8 for adults, Children 12 years and under are free and 13-18 years £4.

### **Harvest Sunday**

Please bring gifts for the Food Bank to the services. Especially requested items are: Tins of meat such as chilli, stewing steak, corned beef; tinned veg and pulses (kidney beans, chickpeas, carrots, sweetcorn, potatoes but NOT peas, soup or baked beans at present thank you – they're swamped with these items!); instant mash; pasta sauce; curry sauce; tinned fruit; biscuits; jam; sugar (500g bags); small jars of instant coffee.

### **Giving to the church**

"The people of God should pay for the work of God." If you are a regular at our churches you should be part of our Giving Scheme - preferably giving via the bank or through weekly envelopes – see details at the back of church.

**Parish Youth work** - The Youth Action Group (YAG) are planning to establish a weekly after school club / safe space from St Mary Magdalene's commencing in January 2025, probably Tuesdays, 3pm to 5.30pm. This will be aimed at Secondary School young people. However, it is totally dependent upon sufficient volunteers. The aim is to have 4/5 teams of 3 people to be present on a rota basis each person having a monthly commitment. Currently we have 7 volunteers from YAG and require 12-15. Can you help? If so, please contact Sue. Please pray about this important initiative.

### **Prayer list on Bulletin**

As a Parish our prayer list for the sick is very important. However, since the bulletin now goes on the website we have rightly not included surnames, but this has led to a bit of confusion. Can all requests for prayer be made using the "Prayer request cards" in future – names will be left on for up to a month unless told otherwise.

### **Men's Society**

A group to focus on support for men by men in the modern world. That every man in the church is empowered to follow Jesus' example to be the best man, partner, father, grandparent, uncle, employer or co-worker that they can be. Membership - anyone who considers themselves a man.

Format, social with tea and coffee and biscuits. Contemporary discussion. Open time for feedback and support.

Our first meeting will take place on **Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30 to 9.00pm** at Jeremy's home – see flyers in Churches.

### **Eco tips**

After over 4 years it has become difficult to find a new eco tip for each week for the newsletter. I do know however that many of you value the little quirks and suggestions. The plan therefore is to organise the previous ones into seasonal and /or focus and publish them as a booklet. This will still count as a part of our Eco church status. Meanwhile if you have any tips to share please contact me. With thanks. Sheila, Churchwarden

### **CONTACTS**

**Website** [www.stthomas-stocktonheath.org.uk](http://www.stthomas-stocktonheath.org.uk)

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

**Parish Instagram** [https://www.instagram.com/stthomas\\_\\_stmarymagdalene?igsh=MTBtN2NwbjBqdXNseQ==](https://www.instagram.com/stthomas__stmarymagdalene?igsh=MTBtN2NwbjBqdXNseQ==)

**Church channel on YouTube** [www.youtube.com/channel/UCpsYBGYSbFuulUITYYxICQw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpsYBGYSbFuulUITYYxICQw)

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