

Bulletin for St Thomas' & St Mary Magdalene's – Sunday 27th October – Thanksgiving Sunday and Bible Sunday

**** Remember the clocks go back this Saturday night / Sunday morning – enjoy the extra hour before the service! ****

Dear Friends,

It seems appropriate that our Thanksgiving Sunday should fall on Bible Sunday, not least because as followers of the 'Good Book' we know it has much to tell us about how we should live our lives in generosity and selflessness. As we think and pray about how we can give to the work and mission of our churches, here are a few verses to help us discern how and what we should give:

Proverbs 3 : 9 *"Honour the Lord with your possessions and with the first fruits of all your increase."*

In giving to God we should give the 'first fruits' ie the best you can give – not just what's left over.

Ecclesiastes 11 : 1 *"Cast your bread upon the waters for you will find it after many days."*

Luke 6 : 38 *"Jesus said, 'Give, and it will be given to you.... For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.' "*

These two verses teach us that if you give anything you will receive as much back.

II Corinthians 9 : 7 *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give: not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."*

What you give to the church or to any other charity is between you and God; as soon as it becomes a duty or you have to force yourself to give, the giving becomes a burden. Giving of Time and Talents and Treasurer must come from the heart and from love for God and our neighbours. Please fill in the Time and Talents sheet offering your particular gifts to God's service.

Luke 21 : 1 – 4 *"Jesus, on seeing a poor widow put just two copper coins in the temple collection said, 'Truly I say to you, that this poor widow has put in more than all... she, out of her poverty, has put in all the livelihood that she had.' "*

It's never about what amount you give but what proportion of your wealth you give. Jesus also said, 'To whom much has been given, much will be required.'

With these Bible verses in mind I hope that you will respond to this year's Thanksgiving Sunday messages. More details about giving to our churches can be found on our website at www.stthomas-stocktonheath.org.uk/finances-and-giving/ Yours as always, Michael.

Sunday 27th October : Thanksgiving Sunday and Bible Sunday

8.00am	Holy Communion at St Thomas'
9.30am	Service of the Word at St. Mary Magdalene's with sermon and presentation on giving
10.45am	Family Communion with Sunday School at St. Thomas' with sermon and presentation on giving
5.00pm	Evening Prayer at St Mary Magdalene's

Notices

Monday-Friday	9.15am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
Monday	1-2.30pm	Praise and Play at St. Thomas' Church
Wednesday	9-11am	Little Sunbeams at St. Mary Magdalene's
	7.30pm	Stockton Heath Music Society Concert at St. Thomas'
Thursday	10am	Midweek Communion at St. Thomas'
	7.30pm	Men's Society at Jeremy's home
	7.30pm	Think and Pray at Jan's home
Saturday	8.15am	Breakfast with the Bible at St Mary Magdalene's

Prayer Focus

- That in giving to our churches we may give of ourselves willingly and cheerfully. We especially pray for more volunteers to do the many jobs in our churches.
- Schools and colleges back from half-term: for education staff in the run-up to Christmas.
- Parliament debating life-changing issues: the budget looming with savings to be made and funding to be found for house building, education and health care. That those making decisions will use wisdom, discernment and compassion and will not be politically motivated or prejudiced. Pray especially for the Assisted Dying Bill coming to parliament in November, that politicians will listen to the Church.
- The work of our churches: that we may not just be maintaining what we have always done, but will be outward looking, sacrificial and transformational.
- That the images on our television screens of war, famine and destruction will not lull us into believing that we can do nothing: let us pray and give for the Holy Land, Congo, Syria, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Myanmar through Christian Aid next week.
- Chester Diocese and our Deanery of Great Budworth. For our bishops Mark, Julie and Sam.

- For All Saints-tide this coming week, giving thanks for the saints of the past who shone with the light of Christ. In amongst the (absurd) commercialisation and corruption of this holy season may we never forget that it is Christ alone who overcomes the powers of darkness.
- Comfort for all who are sick and in need of healing – our prayers surround them with love:- Carol, Suyra, Paul, Ken, Syd, Kirsty, Katy, Debbie, Mark, Rachel, John, Hazel, Pat, Joan, Kara, Ivy, Ferenc, Mark & Alisha. For those remembering loved ones on anniversaries, especially the family of Derek Hill-Willis.
- May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace and rise in glory. Give comfort to those remembering anniversaries at this time.

Next Sunday 3rd November : All Saints' Day

8.00am	Holy Communion at St Thomas'
9.30am	Family Communion at St. Mary Magdalene's with a word about safeguarding
10.45am	Family Communion with Sunday School at St. Thomas' with a word about safeguarding
6.00pm	Commemoration Service at St Thomas'

Thank you from Monica

A big 'thank you' to you all for making my official retirement day so special. It was lovely to see so many of you – it will certainly be one of my days to remember. There is something very special about our church family: always ready to support and encourage one another. I have certainly found the support, encouragement and the love I have received truly wonderful. Love and God bless. Monica.

Commemoration Service Sunday 3rd November 6pm at St. Thomas' Church

A time to remember with love those who have died. A quiet, meditative service where candles are lit and the names of the departed are offered up. There is a list at the back of church for those you'd like mentioned in the prayers.

Disasters Emergency Committee

Next week we will be distributing envelopes for the 'Middle East Humanitarian Appeal'. All of us feel helpless as the violence increases; please give generously to Christian Aid who are part of the DEC and will make sure aid is delivered to the 2.1 million displaced people. The UK government will match pound for pound up to £10 million donated by us to the appeal so please donate and make a difference!

Men's Society

After the first successful get together, our next meeting will be on **Thursday 21st November, 7.30 to 9.00pm** at Jeremy's home – see flyers in Churches.

The Assisted Dying Bill will be debated in parliament in the next few weeks. A letter is being prepared by our parish to resist the passing of this bill. If you would like to sign it please do so before we send it to our local MP Sarah Hall. Copies will be at the back of both churches.

Talland Quartet : Chamber Music Concert Wednesday 30th October at 7:30pm at St. Thomas' Church

The Talland Quartet program will include pieces by Haydn, Dvorak and Mendelssohn. Tickets are £15 / £8 students / £5 under 18s can be booked by email to info@stocktonheathmusicsociety.co.uk to be paid for on the door.

A Musical Soirée Saturday 30th November, 7.30pm at St. Thomas' Church

Our own Ian, Gillian and Keiko are taking part in a concert in our church at the end of November – please support them by coming along! The concert features Keiko Tanaka (soprano and piano), Gillian Banks (soprano), Corinna Tyson (piano) plus the inaugural performance of the Warrington String Quartet (Ian Banks - violin, Andrew Winter - violin, Ian Ward - viola, Steph Eustis - 'cello). The musicians will perform a selection of popular classics, including Eine Kleine Nachtmusik by Mozart, Liebestraum No 3 by Liszt, O Mio Babbino Caro by Puccini and extracts from the Dvorak 'American' and Schubert 'Rosamunde' String Quartets. Admission at the door is £7, under 16s free and refreshments including wine and nibbles will be available for purchase in the interval. All proceeds will support the work of church.

Christmas Fair Saturday 23rd November We will be joining with our Church School. Please put this date in your diary, we will need volunteers to man the stalls for an hour or so and lists will be available in both churches at the end of October. Please can you help support this event by donating cakes, new items, new/nearly new toys, tombola prizes, wine / spirits, bottles of soft drinks? These can be brought into church from 4th November.

CONTACTS

Website www.stthomas-stocktonheath.org.uk

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

Parish Instagram https://www.instagram.com/stthomas__stmarymagdalene

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

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