

## St. Thomas' & St. Mary Magdalene's – 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – Easter III

- 8.00am Holy Communion at St. Thomas'
- 9.30am Family Communion at St. Mary Magdalene's
- 10.45am Parish Communion at St. Thomas'
- 10.45am Children's Praise at St. Thomas' Church Hall
- 6.00pm Evening Prayer at St. Mary Magdalene's

Dear Friends,

The story of the Emmaus Road in Luke 24:13-35 tells us of the conversion journey. The two disciples whom Jesus meets on the road are in one sense running away from the events of Good Friday: when Jesus approaches them as a stranger they are grieving, with their hopes and dreams destroyed. However, over the seven mile walk the stranger Jesus explains to them how the Bible points to Him as a Messiah who must suffer. They are obviously intrigued by this wise man, so much so that they invite Him to stay with them. At the table Jesus takes the bread, blesses it and breaks it: at this point their eyes are opened and they recognise Him. In our journey to faith we, like those first disciples, question whether Jesus can be the answer to all life's questions. If, like them, we listen to the Scriptures, allow Jesus to walk alongside us and welcome Him into our hearts then the breaking of the bread at Communion will have increased significance and we can be in fellowship with Him and His church. Their journey didn't ultimately end in Emmaus: in many ways it had only just begun. The disciples run back to Jerusalem, tell their story and we assume become part of the Early Church. Our journey too is ongoing: in communion with other Christians we seek to live and spread the Good News of Jesus and build up the Church. The following prayer may help us in our pilgrimage:

Walk with us, Lord, along the Road of Resurrection!

Explain for us, so slow to believe, the things that Scripture says of You.

Break the Bread of the Eucharist with us whenever we share our lives with our brothers and sisters.

Stay with us each time night approaches and the daylight fades in our hearts. Amen.

Yours as always, Michael.

### Pilgrim Course for Beginners

If you are starting out on your Christian journey, the Pilgrim Course is for you, meeting on Wednesday nights at 7.30pm at the Vicarage on 22nd and 29th April and 6th May – all welcome: contact Michael on 261396.

### Prayer Pointers

- thanksgiving that Jesus walks alongside us in our Christian journey: may we hear His Word in the Bible and be fed by Him in Communion.
- peace negotiations between the US and Iran: may there be humility and a willingness to compromise.
- our Diocese of Chester and Bishop Mark. May we be, 'One in Christ, sharing hope.'
- as holidays come to an end, many young people approach GCSE and A-levels exams. Pray for our local schools and colleges and all involved in education.
- forgiveness for the times we are deaf to the cry of the poor and those in need.
- our efforts to be a Church which looks after the environment and celebrates God's goodness in creation.
- the safeguarding of vulnerable adults and children: may we be a safe church for everyone.
- all helping to put together our Major Works Project: may it be part of the mission to make our building a place of creating new Christians, building up our leadership and extending our worshipping communities.
- for the beauty of spring: the blossom, the sunshine and rain showers, everything budding and growing.
- pray for healing for those who are hurting, especially Freda, Val, Joan, Carol, Chris, Lynne, Sylvia, Kathleen, Monica, Ollie, Kirsty, Kara, Ivy, Zara, Liz, David, Gary and Olly.
- remember in love those who have died recently especially Ryan Edgington, Margaret Naylor, Barbara Royds and those with anniversaries.

## **Christian Aid Week 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May**

**Four things you can do for Christian Aid to raise much needed funds for their work around the world:**

- Help with the door-to-door collections either by delivering only, or collecting too
- Buy a ticket to come to the Big Breakfast 10am – 12noon on Saturday 9 May at St. Thomas' Church  
Tickets are £5 each or if preferred you can make a donation of any amount
- Fill the envelope you receive in church with money over the next few weeks, and return it to Church on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May
- Support the Christian Aid Coffee morning on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 10am – 12noon at St. Thomas' Church

### **Diary Dates**

❖ Mon – Fri	9.15am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
❖ Monday	2pm	Praise and Play
❖ Tuesday	12pm	Bible Study at St. Thomas' Church
	2pm	Brampton Service
❖ Wednesday	9am	Little Sunbeams at St. Mary Magdalene's
	11am	Pastoral Meeting at St. Thomas'
	7.30pm	Pilgrim Course at the Vicarage
❖ Thursday	10am	Holy Communion St Thomas'
❖ Saturday	8.30am	Bible Study at St. Mary Magdalene's
	7pm	Fun Quiz at St. Thomas' Church Hall

### **Sunday 26 April – Easter IV**

8.00am Holy Communion at St. Thomas'  
NO SERVICE at St. Mary Magdalene's : instead come to...  
10.00am Said Communion at St. Thomas' followed by  
10.45am APCM at St. Thomas'  
6.00pm Evening Prayer at St. Mary Magdalene's

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 10.45am at St. Thomas' Church**

This is an important meeting for our Churches when we review the past year and look to where God is leading us in the future. P.C.C members and Deanery Synod Representatives are needed– please talk to Simon and Katharine Churchwardens or PCC Secretaries Kris and Kirsty. On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April there will be a said Holy Communion Service at 10am preceding the meeting: there will be no service at St. Mary Magdalene's (but there will be 8am Holy Communion at St. Thomas' and 6pm Evening Prayer at St. Mary Magdalene's).

**Parish 100 Club Coffee Morning** Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 10am at St. Mary Magdalene's. Come along for the prize draw, refreshments, bookstall and tombola / raffle.

### **Men's Group**

Our group social is at Warrington Town football match on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> at 3.00pm – Contact Jeremy for details.

### **Children's Praise**

Our next service will be on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April. This stand-alone service is held exclusively in the Church Hall and is for parents, carers and children: all are welcome: there will be refreshments.

### **Parish Quiz Night - Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm in St. Thomas' Church Hall.**

Quiz, jacket potato with fillings. Pay Bar. Ticket price is £10 – tickets available in both churches now. All proceeds from this event go towards St. Thomas' Major Works Project – please do support us!

### **CONTACTS:**

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

**Parish Office phone** 214709

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

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

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

**Emails** [office@stthomas-stocktonheath.org.uk](mailto:office@stthomas-stocktonheath.org.uk) [st-warden@outlook.com](mailto:st-warden@outlook.com) [smm-warden@outlook.com](mailto:smm-warden@outlook.com)