

ST. THOMAS' & ST. MARY MAGDALENE'S – 19TH JULY 2026 – ST. MARY MAGDALENE

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 Church Hall
6.30pm	Deanery Evensong at Arley Chapel (picnic from 5pm)

Dear Friends,

On Sunday we celebrate Mary Magdalene: the "Apostle to the Apostles" because she first told them about the resurrection: a follower, with other women, who provided for Jesus' needs: one of the few who bravely went to the tomb on Easter Day to anoint Jesus' body: the first person to meet the risen Jesus after Good Friday. Her journey with Jesus began when she was healed by Him. It says in Luke 8:2 that the twelve were with Jesus, "with some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities. Mary called Magdalene from whom seven demons had gone out". Whatever the modern equivalent of demon possession is, we can be certain that Mary was a very troubled woman. Meeting with Jesus changed everything. He healed her and she turned her life around. Mary's story is the story of everybody who has ever given their life to being a disciple of Jesus. You don't have to be demon-possessed to realise that life with Christ is transforming and life giving: all it takes is one step of faith.

Yours as always, Michael.

❖ **"Food, Faith & Community" event Wednesday, 22nd July, 7pm at St. Thomas' Church**

Ruth's Last Sunday Celebration Service: Sunday, 26th July, 10am at St. Thomas' – followed by "Bring & Share Lunch" in St. Thomas' Church Hall. Please sign up NOW – lists at back of churches.

VENEZUELA APPEAL: there are plates at the back of our Churches or you can donate direct to the DEC appeal at <https://donation.dec.org.uk/venezuela-earthquake-appeal>

Pilgrim Course for new Christians to grow in faith. Begins Wednesday 2nd September at 7.30pm at the Vicarage – ring Michael 01925 261396 about taking that first step of faith.

Prayer Focus

- A life of faith like Mary Magdalene: willing to admit our need for salvation: generous in our giving for God: brave enough to enter dark places and situation to find Jesus
- St. Mary Magdalene's Church and congregation that we may grow in faith and love
- Thanksgiving for last week's Walking Day – a real community event showing love to our village
- Generosity to the DEC Earthquake Appeal for Venezuela – that aid and help will come soon
- School Terms coming to an end especially Year 6 children moving to High School and nursery starting "Big School"
- Thanksgiving for Ruth's ministry in our parish. Blessings on her last Sunday on the 26th and her moving to Northwich and Induction & Institution on the 1st September
- The Diocese of Chester and Bishop Mark. For our vision "One in Christ: Sharing Hope" that we may be missional, build up new leaders, encourage new worshipping communities together.
- Bless our new Prime Minister, Andy Burnham – may he bring stability, fairness and unity to our divided country. After the violent death of Anne Widdecombe we pray for the safety of all MP's and all in public office.
- Peace in our world. For all in fear: Venezuela, Ukraine, Congo, Syria, Gaza, Lebanon, Sudan, Israel, Iran, Northern Nigeria.
- Pray for healing for those who are hurting, especially Barbara, Kenneth, Phil, Frances, Bill, Freda, Val, Chris, Monica, Ollie, Kirsty, Ivy, Zara, Gary, Olly, Hazel, Lawrence and Lisa.
- Remember in love those who have died recently, especially Mark Winstanley, Patricia Ledgerwood, Peter Kemp, Maureen Jones and those with anniversaries.

Sunday 26th July – Ruth's last Sunday

8.00am	Holy Communion at St. Thomas'
10.00am	Joint Service at St. Thomas' (No service at St. Mary Magdalene's) followed by Bring and Share lunch at Church Hall with gift-giving to Ruth
1.30pm	Baptism of Theo and Laurent
6.00pm	<i>No Services at 6.00pm</i>

Dates for Diary

Mon-Fri	9.15am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
Monday	1-2.30pm	Praise and Play at St. Thomas' – Teddy Bears' Picnic and Ruth's last session
Tuesday	2.00pm	Brampton Lodge Songs of Praise
	7.00pm	St. Thomas' School Summer Choir and Music Concert at St. Thomas' - All Welcome
	7.30pm	SMAG at St. Mary Magdalene's
Wednesday	9-11am	Little Sunbeams at St. Mary Magdalene's – Teddy Bears' Picnic and Ruth's last session
	7.00pm	"Food, Faith & Community" at St. Thomas'
Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion at St. Thomas'
Friday	1.30 – 3.30pm	The Pantry at St. Mary Magdalene's
	2.00pm	End of Term School Service at St. Thomas' Church
Saturday	8.30am	Bible Study at St. Mary Magdalene's

Stockton Heath Walking Day a big "Thank you" to all who helped towards the success of our Walking Day.

HLF grant application - it has been suggested that undertaking a pilot project prior to the Development Phase Application in November may be an advantage in the application process. Participating in this and contributing to the success of it is a way for all to help secure the grant. On Wednesdays 15th and 22nd July, 7pm at St. Thomas' we will be launching the project 'Food, Faith and the Community'. Together we will explore the history of food - from a hunter gatherer survival necessity to cultural, social and leisure activity; faith related food traditions - fasting and celebration, food in the Bible; share personal stories of the effects of war on food - rationing and food related changes in the community of Stockton Heath; and contemporary issues of health related aspects of food, climate change, sustainable food production and consumption. Please do come along and join us!

Advance Notices

- **Fun Lunches** Free Fun Lunches are planned for Tuesdays during the school summer holidays on 27th July, 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th August from 12noon to 2pm. Food, crafts and fun guaranteed. To book please text Sue : 07736 375 951
- **PCC** – Tuesday 28th July at 7.00pm at St. Thomas'
- **Belong Service** – Wednesday 29th July at 11am
- **Quiet Day Planning** - Wednesday 29th July at 12.30pm

Summer Time : All our services are as normal

- come to a different service – 8am on Sundays or 10am on Thursdays
- use "Everyday Faith" day by day
- Bring back a Church Magazine for the Church you visit when you are on holiday

Eco Church

Our parish features in the latest Diocesan Eco Church Network Newsletter with our hedgehog house workshop. <https://tinyurl.com/3t4z9rjp> There are lots of other interesting articles to read, so check it out and get involved!

Attendance

For parents seeking their child's admission to St. Thomas' School in September 2027 there is now an Attendance Register which is held by the Churchwarden. Please go to Katharine at the end of Services, or the leader of a Children's Praise.

St. Thomas' Open Church

We open weekdays 10:00-12noon and a dedicated team provide fellowship, tea and coffee. We need more volunteers – please contact Sarah Walton through the Parish website contact form or church answerphone 01925 214709.

Creamfields (25-31 August 2026) – Volunteers Required & JAMMIE DODGER DONATIONS PLEASE

[Creamfields 2026 poster PDF](#) (NB if you cannot click the link, the address is <https://tinyurl.com/42482wc9>)

If you can help in any way please contact Melanie Girdharry via email : m.girdharry@priestley.ac.uk

CONTACTS:

Website www.stthomas-stocktonheath.org.uk

Parish Office phone 01925 214709

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

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

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

Emails office@stthomas-stocktonheath.org.uk st-warden@outlook.com mmm-warden@outlook.com