

ST. THOMAS' & ST. MARY MAGDALENE'S – SUNDAY 18th OCTOBER 2026 – ECO SUNDAY - TRINITY 20

8.00am	Holy Communion at St. Thomas'
9.30am	Family Communion at St. Mary Magdalene's
10.45am	Parish Communion at St. Thomas' – Preacher, Sandra Rout of the Ripple Effect Charity
10.45am	Children's Praise at St. Thomas' Church Hall
12noon	Baptism of Ronnie at St. Thomas'
4.00pm	Young Pilgrim Course at St. Thomas'
6.00pm	Evening Prayer at St. Mary Magdalene's

Dear Friends,

“What does the Lord require of you? To do justice and love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.” *Micah 6:8*

To please God we need to follow His ways. Micah the prophet knew this, eight hundred years before Jesus. Our God is a God of justice and loving kindness and only through being like Him can we walk humbly with Him. So how can we do this?

1. On Sunday morning you will hear about the Ripple Effect Charity which promotes the passing on of knowledge and good practice across Africa in agriculture and sustainable living. Through partnership with smallholder farms folk are taught about sustainably changing their environment. We too in the rich western world need to learn how to change our lifestyles to make them more ecologically sustainable: this is kind and just. Why not look at our website “Get Involved” then “Eco-Church”: there are lots of Eco-Tips about living better.
2. Last week on Thanksgiving Sunday you heard about how we need to be good stewards of our Time, Treasure and Talents. At our churches we are channels of “justice and loving kindness” in our communities. However, we can only achieve Kingdom building with willing volunteers and givers. Have you returned your Time and Talent and Giving Forms? Please do so as soon as possible so we can grow and plan for the future. Our Church is run by volunteers – get involved now!
3. Next Sunday Bishop Sam will lead our Confirmation at St. Thomas'. Candidates young and old will commit themselves to following Jesus and become full communicant members of the Church, taking the bread and wine at Communion and dedicating their lives to Christ. It would be good to see more folk take the step of faith! Why not come and have a chat to me after a Service? New Nurture courses will be taking place after Autumn and during Advent. We will be having weekly day and evening meetings where we will discover together the difference Jesus makes by being born at Christmas. “Hope has a name” will begin Tuesday 17th November at 12 noon at St. Thomas' and Wednesday 18th at 7.00pm at St. Mary Magdalene's.

So make your mind up. What does God want you to change in your life?

Yours, as always, Michael.

Hundred Club Coffee Morning

This Saturday 17 October 10am – 11am at St. Mary Magdalene's. Come along for our book stall, tombola, delicious refreshments, a good natter and the prize draw!

Giving to Church – Thanksgiving - Please return your completed forms as soon as possible.

Prayer Focus

- Help us, Lord, to live lives more in touch with nature. Give thanks for “Ripple Effect” and all groups promoting better ways of living and sustaining our planet.
- Change our cynical leaders from promoting themselves to seeking the common good. Forgive the powerful for putting economic factors above humanitarian justice.
- Pray that Northern Ireland will stay peaceful despite arguments about marches. May all sides seek justice and peace.
- Pray for those to be confirmed and renewing their Baptismal vows on Sunday 25th October: Harry, Hewan, Olivia, Annie, Olly, Annabel, Gemma, Liam, Roy and Margaret. May the Lord bless them on their pilgrimage with Jesus.
- Bless our Church Communities – may our Thanksgiving Sunday appeal produce lots of volunteers and more than enough resources for the coming year. May our response be generous, sacrificial and regular.
- Keep in safety those trying to cross the channel in rubber boats and those from the RNLI rescuing them. We pray that somehow all refugees will find a safe haven and all communities be kind enough to welcome them.
- Kate Pwaisiho as she leaves Grappenhall to become Vicar of John the Baptist, Meols.
- Pray for peace in the Middle East, and countries in conflict where people live in fear of their lives, remembering Syria, Afghanistan, Myanmar, North and South Sudan, Congo, Gaza, Lebanon, Ukraine, Iran, Yemen and the West Bank.
- We pray for those suffering ill health, and ask for healing and comfort for: Sandra, Marjorie, Jasmine, Dorothy, David, Monica, Ollie, Kirsty, Ivy, Zara, Chris, Freda, Val, Gary, Olly, Hazel, Kenneth, Keiko and Ron.
- Remember in love those who have died recently especially Bill Oxley, Sylvia Griffiths, Bernard Gibbard and those with anniversaries at this time.

Warrington Foodbank Harvest donations Thank you to everyone who generously gave food and money to Foodbank: we sent over 250kg of food and £305 in cash and card donations.

Next Sunday – 25th October – Bible Sunday – Parish Confirmation *Remember the clocks go back!*

8.00am	Holy Communion at St. Thomas'
<i>Remember there is NO 9.30am service at St. Mary Magdalene's</i>	
10.45am	Parish Confirmation with Bishop Sam at St. Thomas'
10.45am	Bible Explorers at the Church Hall
6.00pm	Evening Prayer at St. Mary Magdalene's

Diary Dates

Mon-Fri	9.15am	Zoom Morning Prayer
Monday	1.00-2.30pm	Praise & Play at St. Thomas'
Tuesday	12noon	Bible Study at St. Thomas' – Acts of the Apostles
	1.15pm	Nurture meeting at St. Thomas'
Wednesday	9.00-11am	Little Sunbeams at St. Mary Magdalene's
	10am	St. Thomas' School Harvest at St. Thomas' Church
	7.30pm	Adult Pilgrim Course at the Vicarage
Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion at St. Thomas'
	7.00pm	Baptism Preparation at St. Thomas'
Friday	1.30-3.30pm	Vantry at St. Mary Magdalene's
Saturday	8.15am	Bible Study at St. Mary Magdalene's

FUTURE DATES:

- **PARISH CONFIRMATION - Sunday 25th October**
10.45am Confirmation Service at St. Thomas' with Bishop Sam. (No 9.30am Service at St. Mary Magdalene's)
Remember the clocks go back on Sunday 25th October!
- **Funerals**
Bernard Gibbard Monday 26th October, 2.15pm at St. Mary Magdalene's
Sylvia Griffiths Thursday 29th October, 12.15pm at St. Thomas'
Bill Oxley Monday 2nd November, 2.30pm at St. Thomas'
- **Musical Soirée 2026 - Friday 13th November - 7.30 pm at St. Thomas' Church**
An evening of popular classical music, featuring Warrington String Quartet, Keiko Tanaka, Gillian and Ian Banks.
All proceeds go to church. Please reserve the date in your diary. Tickets on the door are £8, under 16s free.

ADVANCE NOTICES

- ❖ Sunday 1st November - **All Saints' Day** - 6.00pm Commemoration Service to remember all who have died.
"Remembered with Love" at St. Thomas'
- ❖ Sunday 8th November - **Remembrance Sunday** - with Acts of Remembrance at 9.30am at St. Mary Magdalene's and starting at 10.45am at the War Memorial followed by service in St. Thomas' Church.
- ❖ Thursday 11th November - **Armistice Day -11am** Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial.

The Vantry is a 'pantry on wheels' which visits St. Mary Magdalene's every Friday, 1.30-3.30pm. Come along! It's a pop-up shop offering fresh fruit and veg, store-cupboard items and frozen food, all at heavily discounted prices, and mostly 50p or £1 with free bread. Anyone can shop. Alongside the shop the friendly Talking Point team are there who can offer support and advice on a variety of issues.

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. Church application forms should be taken to school for the Secretary to pass on to us at church : please don't give your form directly to Michael.

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/UCpsYBGYSbFuuIUITYYxICQw

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