ST. THOMAS' & ST. MARY MAGDALENE'S – SUNDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2026 – ALL SAINTS' DAY

8.00am Holy Communion at St. Thomas'
9.30am Come to the Table All Age Communion at St. Mary Magdalene's with Prayer Ministry
10.45am Come to the Table All Age Communion at St. Thomas'
6.00pm "Remembered with Love" Commemoration Service at St. Thomas'

Dear Friends,
The beginning of November is a time of remembrance marked by the church in different ways in different services.

All Saints' Day Morning
We remember all the saints of the church who by their lives have shone the Light of Christ into a darkened world. At all our morning services we concentrate on the Light of Christ and our call to be saints.

All Saints' Day Evening
We remember all the souls of the faithful departed at our 'Remembered with Love' Commemoration Service at St. Thomas'. We read out the names of the departed, remember their love in our lives and light candles in their memory.

Remembrance Sunday 8th November and Armistice Day Wednesday 11th November
We remember the dead of World War 1, World War 2 and all the conflicts that followed. Meeting in the shadow of the War Memorial we will read the names aloud and proclaim, "We will remember them."

In all these services to commemorate those who have died we will be remembering in different ways:
Joyfully giving thanks for the saints of the church who have made Christ known in their generation through their lives and their deaths, often through martyrdom. We believe in life everlasting so we pray with them and look forward to the day when we can join them in worshipping God in heaven.
With love we remember family and friends who have died. 'Grief is the price we pay for love' so this sort of remembering is tinged with sadness. Those with whom we have shared our life leave a massive hole when they die which cannot be filled, however when we can give them into God's hands there does seem to be closure and release: Jesus says, "Do not be afraid….believe in me."
With regret we remember the dead of two World Wars and all the wars since, leading right up to the present day. War and conflict never seem to cease in our broken world, yet on Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day we give thanks for those who sacrificed their lives in the pursuit of peace: we never give up hope because to do so would be to ignore their selfless gift to us.

So, in our own remembering over the next two weeks, in joy, love and regret let us never forget that Jesus knows how we feel and from the Cross brings life again through His resurrection.
Yours, as always, Michael

Prayer Focus

- The Saints in glory who pray for us and join us in our pilgrimage.
- An end to war and conflict in our troubled world: for reconciliation, justice and forgiveness in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, Ukraine, Syria, Afghanistan, Myanmar, North and South Sudan, Congo, Iran and Yemen.
- All affected by extreme weather events: pray for better stewardship of our world in the face of global warming. For our own Eco team helping to make the church more sustainable journeying towards net zero.
- Harry, Olly, Hewan, Olivia, Annie, Annabel, Liam, Gemma, Margaret, Roy and Elizabeth after last Sunday's special service. May they remain faithful to their promises.
- Half term holiday – for rest for students and staff.
- The effect of the budget on ordinary lives: for wise government in helping those in food and fuel poverty, those without homes, the dispossessed, the forgotten and frail.
- Elections in many countries across the world: we pray for freedom of expression and for a just democratic process untainted by accusations and hate speech.
- For the times we have not said or done the right things and need forgiveness.
- All refugees seeking safe havens, especially those making perilous voyages. May kind and just solutions be found.
- We pray for those suffering ill health, and ask for healing and comfort for: Alan, Linda, Marjorie, Jasmine, Dorothy, David, Monica, Kirsty, Ivy, Zara, Chris, Val, Gary, Olly, Hazel, Kenneth, Ron and Don.
- Remember in love those who have died recently especially Sandra Holt, Bill Oxley, Sylvia Griffiths, Bernard Gibbard and Roy Farquharson and those with anniversaries at this time.

Saturday, 28th November, 10.30am–2.30pm - Christmas Fair with St. Thomas' School
This is a major fundraising event for church and school: please can you help?!
We need help on stalls (sign up sheet at the back of church); help to set up on Friday 27th November; donations of new items to sell, soft toys, tombola prizes, chocolate, bottles for the bottle tombola, homemade cakes to sell, raffle prizes. Please bring to church by Friday 27th November. Thank you. Contact me if you have any questions Sue 0773 6375951

Next Sunday – 8th November - Remembrance Sunday

8.00am	Holy Communion at St. Thomas'
9.30am	Family Communion and Remembrance Service at St. Mary Magdalene's
10.45am	Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial followed by service in St. Thomas' church
10.45am	Bible Explorers in the Church Hall
6.00pm	United Service at St. Mary Magdalene's

Diary Dates

Mon-Fri	9.15am	Zoom Morning Prayer
Monday	1.00-2.30pm	Praise & Play at St. Thomas'
	2.30 pm	Funeral of Bill Oxley at St. Thomas'
Tuesday	12 noon	Bible Study at St. Thomas' – Acts of the Apostles
Wednesday	9.00-11am	Little Sunbeams at St. Mary Magdalene's
	11.00am	Belong Communion Service
Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion at St. Thomas'
	7.30pm	Ministry Team meeting at St. Thomas'
Friday	1.30-3.30pm	Vantry at St. Mary Magdalene's
Saturday	8.15am	Bible Study at St. Mary Magdalene's

ADVANCE NOTICES

- 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.
- Wednesday 11th November - **Armistice Day -11am** Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial.
- **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.
- **St. Thomas' Church Clean up Morning** Saturday 14 November 9.30am – 1pm : all help warmly welcomed!
- **"Hope has a name"** our **Advent Services** begin at 12noon at St. Thomas' on 17th November and at 7pm at St. Mary Magdalene's on 18th November. A five week Advent journey exploring the names of Christ and His message for our lives today.

Giving to Church – Thanksgiving - Please return your pledge forms as soon as possible. We've had 65 returned so far!

'Children's Praise' on 15th November is our monthly faith-building family service taking place in St. Thomas' Church Hall, starting at 10.45am. There is a time of interactive worship, singing & prayer that engages our younger ones, with Bible story themed activities & refreshments too. As this service runs in parallel to our Parish Communion Service in Church we don't go into Church for Communion.

Eco Church Lifestyle Audit 2026

To help us ascertain where we are as a Church in our care for God's creation and to audit any changes in our commitment to God's creation since the last survey in Autumn 2025 we invite you to fill out our questionnaire which you can find on our website's Eco Church page or by using the following shortened link: https://tinyurl.com/44fdtnvf
If you don't have web access there are paper copies in St. Thomas' church. Thank you for being involved! The Eco Team.

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:

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