

8.00am Holy Communion at St. Thomas'

10.45am **Parish Confirmation with Bishop Sam at St. Thomas'**

with Bible Explorers at St. Thomas' Church Hall - remember there is NO 9.30am Service at St. Magdalene's

6.00pm Evening Prayer at St. Mary Magdalene's

Dear Friends,

On Sunday at the Confirmation service Harry, Olly, Hewan, Olivia, Annie, Annabel, Liam, Margaret, Roy and Gemma will make promises before Bishop Sam: to renounce evil, repent of their sins, turn to Christ our Saviour and Lord and follow Jesus, the Way the Truth and the Life. As he lays his hand on the head of those to be confirmed he will say, "Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit." ... they will reply and say, "Amen", which means, "truly" or, "I agree."

Perhaps the most important word in the whole ceremony is, "Amen" because without saying, "yes" to God in their lives He cannot force Himself in – it comes down to choice.

So, what about you as you read this letter? Have you made a decision to let Jesus be, "the Way, the Truth and the Life" in your lives? When I was confirmed in 1973 I was so overawed by the occasion that I forgot to say, "Amen" after the Bishop had confirmed me. For weeks afterwards I was convinced that my omission would nullify the Holy Spirit coming into me. Mercifully my wise old Dad reminded me that while I had been too scared to say, "Amen", in my heart I **was** saying, "yes" to Jesus in my life. From that moment on I have never stopped letting Jesus into my life. Jesus really is the Way the Truth and the Life: what do you think?

Yours, as always, Michael

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

Prayer Focus

- Bless Harry, Olly, Hewan, Olivia, Annie, Annabel, Liam, Gemma, Margaret, Roy and Elizabeth as they promise to follow Jesus, the Way the Truth and the Life, and little Vincenzo as he begins his journey.
- Be with us in our pilgrimage: to let Jesus in and to let the Holy Spirit guide and lead our lives.
- Our giving of time and money to the Church: may more people get involved in the work of our Churches.
- The crisis in the Middle East: starvation in Gaza due to supplies being cut-off; violence in the West Bank and continued bombing in Lebanon. May peace and justice come soon.
- The cost-of-living crisis in our own country as food and fuel prices keep on rising. May John Healey our Chancellor make wise decisions in the forthcoming budget on 28th October. Pray that the riots in Europe do not escalate there or become a reality in this country.
- The Major Works Project at St. Thomas': May it be a means through which Jesus is made known in our community.
- Our Eco Team helping to make our Churches places of sustainability : thanksgiving for Walton Lea Project, Wild about Stockton Heath and other partners in our journey towards Net-Zero.
- As the hour goes back and autumn comes be with those who find the long nights depressing and lonely. As we celebrate All Saints' tide in a few weeks' time, may we rejoice in the light of Christ and His resurrection.
- Pray for the 'forever wars' in the Middle East, Syria, Afghanistan, Myanmar, North and South Sudan, Congo, Gaza, Lebanon, Ukraine, Iran, Yemen and the West Bank.
- The amazing sight of the formations of geese migrating: thanksgiving for an incredible world.
- We pray for those suffering ill health, and ask for healing and comfort for: 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.

Next Sunday – 1st November - All Saints' Sunday

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'

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.

Fun Lunch

Tuesday 27th November 12noon-2pm at St. Thomas' Church. It's free and for all the family, including a hot lunch with Bible stories, songs and crafts. Please let us know you are coming by messaging Sue on 07736 375 951.

Hundred Club Winners

In October's Draw the winners were: 1st prize No.81 Ian Burke; 2nd prize No.72 Anita Bradley 3rd prize No.27 Dorothy Carter.

Diary Dates

Mon-Fri	9.15am	Zoom Morning Prayer
Monday	1.00-2.30pm	<u>NO</u> Praise & Play at St. Thomas' – next is on 9 th November
	2.15 pm	Funeral of Bernard Gibbard at St. Mary Magdalene's
Tuesday	12- 2pm	Fun Lunch at St. Thomas'
	12 noon	Bible Study at St. Thomas' – Acts of the Apostles
	2.00 pm	Brampton Lodge Songs of Praise
Wednesday	9.00-11am	<u>NO</u> Little Sunbeams at St. Mary Magdalene's – next is on 11 th November
	12.00 pm	Home Communion Lunch at St. Mary Magdalene's
	7.30 pm	Concert at St. Thomas'
Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion at St. Thomas'
	12.15 pm	Funeral of Sylvia Griffiths 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:

- Funeral of 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'. List for loved ones to be remembered at back of Churches.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ **"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.

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/UCpsYBGYSbFuulIUTYYxICQw

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