

ST. THOMAS' & ST. MARY MAGDALENE'S – SUNDAY 4th OCTOBER 2026 – HARVEST FESTIVAL 2026

8.00am	Holy Communion at St. Thomas'
9.30am	Harvest Come to the Table Communion at St. Mary Magdalene's
10.45am	Harvest Come to the Table Communion at St. Thomas'
12.30pm	Baptism of Ozzie and Lulu at St. Thomas'
4.00pm	Young Pilgrims Course at St. Thomas'
6.00pm	Evening Prayer at St. Mary Magdalene's

Dear Friends,

It seems unbelievable that in a rich country like ours Trussell Foodbanks provided 2.6 million emergency food parcels in the last 12 months. Warrington Foodbank, part of Trussell, provided 7027 food parcels in 2025, helping 2718 families (1 in 3 recipients being under 17.) I hope you will all give generously to our Harvest Appeal this year – below is a list of the products the Foodbank needs.

**tinned meat and fish, tinned fruit, cooking sauces, coffee, UHT milk, cereals,
long life fruit juice, rice pudding, custard, jam and preserves, biscuits.**

There will also be collection tins at both Churches so you can make a monetary donation and you can give any time via the website: <https://warrington.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

I am always amazed about how much food is given by our Churches and our School. It shouldn't come as a surprise because our giving comes because we believe in a generous God who wants us to respond to His love in creation and His love in Jesus. "We love because He first loved us," says 1 John 4:19: God has given us a rich, beautiful world which is fatally flawed through greed – when we feel Jesus' self-giving love in our lives we want to show that love in our lives.

1 John 3:16-17 puts it plainly:

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone sees his brother or sister in need but has not pity on him, how can the love of God be in Him?"

Please give from your heart this Harvest Festival.

Yours, as always, Michael.

Bring and Share Harvest Supper – Saturday, 3rd October – 6pm – St. Thomas' Church Hall

Harvest Supper will be a family event with Bring and Share food. If you would like to join us, please sign up on the list provided in church with an idea of what you will kindly contribute to the supper, sweet or savoury. This will facilitate the catering arrangements. It is planned to be a 'finger buffet' style supper with minimal cutlery.

Soft drinks, tea and coffee will be provided.

Suggestions for contributions:

- **Savoury:** sandwiches (please tell us the fillings), crisps, snacks, sausage rolls, meat pies, quiche, pizza, salads etc.
- **Sweet:** cake, biscuits, apple/fruit pie, chocolates, etc.
- *Please tell us if you have a specific dietary requirement.*

Prayer Focus

- A fair and just distribution of the world's resources: that all may be fed. Bless our collection today for Warrington Foodbank – may we give generously.
- Thanksgiving for the Eco Fair last week and our efforts to be an Eco-friendly Church working toward net-zero. Especially our Eco-team, the Walton Lea Project and our Community Gardeners, and the work of Wild about Stockton Heath.
- The Major Works Project at St. Thomas': for all working with Sue behind the scenes on the bid.... bringing Church and Community together.
- As our political parties meet for their conferences, we pray for a more united Britain especially in social care, education, benefit provision and health care. May there be respect, kindness and hope in our country.
- With so many refugees taking their lives in their hands, crossing the channel – we pray for the RNLI and their constant vigilance and we pray that folk will be welcomed and a safe haven found for all.
- Schools getting into their stride in a new term. For parents - rousing reluctant sleeping children in the morning and family life balancing meals and after school club, not to mention homework.
- Bishop Mark and the Diocese of Chester, especially the Deanery Revitalisation process going on at the moment – may we be a parish which share the Diocesan vision "One in Christ: Sharing Hope."
- Conflicts and wars the world over: may powerful nations and leaders seek reconciliation rather than influence and dominance, remembering – Syria, Afghanistan, Myanmar, North and South Sudan, Congo, Gaza, Lebanon, Ukraine, Iran, Yemen and the West Bank.
- Pray for healing for those who are hurting, especially Jasmine, Sylvia, Dorothy, David, Monica, Ollie, Kirsty, Ivy, Zara, Chris, Freda, Val, Gary, Olly, Hazel, Bill, Kenneth, Keiko and Ron.
- Remember in love those who have died recently especially Kathleen Driscoll, John Spencer, Donald Hudson, Pauline Goulden, Bernard Gibbard and those with anniversaries at this time.

Next Sunday – 11th October – THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

8.00am	Holy Communion at St. Thomas'
9.30am	Family Communion at St. Mary Magdalene's
10.45am	Parish Communion and Bible Explorers at St. Thomas'
4.00pm	Young Pilgrim Course at St. Thomas'
6.00pm	United Service at Stockton Heath Methodist Church

Dates for Diary

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
Wednesday	9.00-11am	Little Sunbeams at St. Mary Magdalene's
	7.30pm	Adult Pilgrim Course at St. Thomas'
Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion at St. Thomas'
	7.30pm	World Mental Health Day Service at All Saints Daresbury
Friday	1.30-3.30pm	Vantry at St. Mary Magdalene's
Saturday	8.15am	Bible Study at St. Mary Magdalene's
	10.00am	"Let's Talk about Death" at St. Thomas'

FUTURE DATES:

- **World Mental Health Day – Thursday, 8th October 7.30pm - Service at All Saints' Daresbury**
A reflective space with Taizé music and prayer for all struggling with their mental health.
- **"Let's talk about Death" Coffee Morning on Saturday 10th October, 10.00am at St. Thomas' Church**
An open discussion about bereavement, dying well, getting old, not to mention planning your funeral. It will not be as "deathly" as it sounds – all are welcome.
- **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 St. Thomas'. Please reserve the date in your diary. Tickets on the door are £8, under 16s free.

Giving to Church - Sunday 11th October Thanksgiving Sunday

On Thanksgiving Sunday our worship will concentrate on our giving to the Church: this will include getting involved by the giving of our time, the sharing of our talents and of course the giving of money.

Please think and pray about how you can increase your contribution to the work of our Church. There is a page on our website where you can find all the information you need to set up regular giving:

<https://www.stthomas-stocktonheath.org.uk/finances-and-giving/>

Everyone should take a giving letter together with a Giving Form / Gift Aid Declaration Form – Please return these next Sunday pledging your regular giving for the coming year.

Ripple Charity – 18th October – Eco Sunday

The Ripple Effect Charity works alongside communities in rural Africa helping to empower families not just to overcome hunger but to deal with the climate crisis and therefore improve their lives. Expert teams offer advice and equip small farms with essential resources, so that communities can not only sustain themselves but make a small profit from surplus produce. As a result communities are better nourished. Families then share what they have gained and the effect "Ripples" on.

Hundred Club September's winners in the draw were No. 20 Joanne Ridley, No. 67 Dr Sue Burke, No.66 Julie Bennion

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.

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/UCpsYBGYSbFuulUITYYxICQw

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