



# ST THOMAS CHURCH LANCASTER

SHARING GOD'S LOVE FROM THE HEART OF THE CITY

## 3RD DECEMBER ADVENT 1

**A WARM WELCOME** to any visitors. Please fill in a contact form on the back of this bulletin, so that we can get to know you and leave it in the grey box on the Welcome desk. Do stay for a drink and chat. 

9am Holy Communion Service

Children will return to take Communion with us. **The King foreseen** *Isaiah 9. 1-7*

11am Morning Service

7pm Evening Service **My Grace is sufficient for you**

*2 Corinthians 12. 1-21*

**STICKER SUNDAY: TODAY** at the 11am service. we all get a sticker with our names on to help us get to know each other better. We'll also be sharing mince pies and other tasty treats after the service to aid our Advent cheer.

**MISSION PRAYER PARTNERS FOR  
DECEMBER IS AMBASSADORS FOOTBALL**



**FAIR TRADE CRAFT GOODS FOR SALE**

There will be fair trade goods from Traidcraft and the Nuru project, Tanzania on sale after the 9 and 11am services 

**PARISH WALK** on Monday **4 December** to distribute cards with invitations to all our Christmas events. If you can help please meet in the **downstairs** centre at 9.30am and enjoy coffee and mince pies at the end.

**GODSPACE** this Monday (**4 December**), 8-9 pm in church. An opportunity to gather together for an hour of quiet prayer, reflection and meditation. "Be still and know that I am God." Why not try it at home if you are unable to join us?



**"EXTRA TIME", Tuesday 5th December** downstairs in the Church Centre (behind the Church) please come along for a 10-30 start or 10-15 for coffee and biscuits. This week we welcome Michael Haslam with a talk entitled "Edmund Sharpe: Lancaster Architect and his Design of St Thomas' Church". Why not come and join with us and bring a friend, all are most welcome. 

**BE A ROOFBREAKER!** Roofbreakers aim to enrich church life by enabling disabled people to contribute to church, and helping the church to be blessed by the full involvement of people with disabilities. Anyone who is interested is invited to come and talk to Amanda and Chris on **Tuesday 5 December** at 7pm in the downstairs church centre (which is accessible and has an accessible toilet) Refreshments will be served. For more info email [amandatopps@hotmail.com](mailto:amandatopps@hotmail.com) or via the church office. Roofbreakers is supported by Through the Roof a Christian charity looking at how the church can make a positive difference for people with disabilities.



**OPEN CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS** Some of the 9 am congregation will be opening the church on Saturday **9<sup>th</sup> December**, 10 – 12 am; and Saturday **16<sup>th</sup> December**, 11am – 1pm, to offer a quiet space for those passing by, giving out mince pies and Christmas service information from the steps leading up to the church. If you would like to join us in, please let Sally Pidd or Helen Scamman know, or sign the sheet on the welcome desk.

**MESSY CHURCH CHRISTMAS SPECIAL Dec 9<sup>th</sup>** Christmas craft and games followed by a puppet nativity 3:30-5:30pm. For families with children aged between 2-8.



**CHRISTMAS CRAFT** Women are invited to a Christmas craft afternoon & refreshments on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December** at 1.30pm in the downstairs centre. We will be to making items for the Traditional Carol service on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Contact Alison Purvis by 10<sup>th</sup> Dec if you would like to use the crèche. We also need help clear away and move furniture. More info from Alison Purvis via ChurchSuite or the Church Office.

**SAYING 'THANK YOU' TO MARTIN WALMSLEY:** After 11 ½ years as our Sung Worship Pastor, Martin will be stepping down from this role on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Everyone is invited to an afternoon of tea and cakes with the Walmsley family on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December**, 3pm – 5.30 in the church centre. Children are welcome, as are gifts of cake! If you would like to contribute financially to a gift for Martin, please hand your contributions in to the office, or a member of staff – cheques payable to 'St Thomas' PCC.'

**WHERE ADVENTURE BEGINS** Riding Lights are coming to St Thomas' on **Friday 12 January 2018, 7.30pm-9pm** with their entertaining, touching and hilarious show which will deepen our understanding of "family". Tickets are £10 each. For more information and to book visit: <https://www.new-wine.org/adventurebegins>



**9AM AWAY DAY** Bishop Philip North's talks from the 9am Away Day, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2017 are now online to hear or download.

**AUTUMN FIESTA UPDATE:** The organisers of the Autumn Fiesta would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support. £1340 was raised on the day and distributed amongst four Lancaster based groups that work with asylum seekers and refugees. We expect more donations over the next week. In addition, craft stall holders raised for their own profits a



total of approximately £2000. So in all about £3350 has been raised.

**REFRESH NEEDS MORE LEADERS!** Our Thursday evening group for children in years 4-6 is growing as children are inviting their friends. With 20-25 children each week, we need more adults and young people on the team, to have fun with the children and pray with them. You would be needed on 2 Thursdays a month, from 5:30-8pm. Please contact Sarah on 01524 590418 or [sarah@st.tees.org.uk](mailto:sarah@st.tees.org.uk) to find out more about what's involved.

**RECEPTION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** to join our reception team in the church office, supporting the ministry of the church by welcoming visitors, answering enquiries from church members and the public and doing basic admin tasks. For more information contact the church office or Leslie Mann.

**MISSION ON THE MARSH.** We have 2 events planned to share the good news of Christmas on the Marsh. On **Sunday 17 December** between 2 and 4 the Well Connected Recovery church is putting on a Christmas Special with carols, the Christmas story, food and Father Christmas! Offers of cakes would be much appreciated. Please bring them to the office or to church on the morning of the 17th. On Tuesday 19 December we are carol singing round the estate, and giving out goody bags and Christmas Hope magazines. Please join us if you can. For more details contact Sally Pidd, [spidd@doctors.org.uk](mailto:spidd@doctors.org.uk) or tell the office.

**ADVENT COURSE: 'WELCOMING CHRIST, THE STRANGER'** Karl Moller has developed a course for use in Advent, for groups or individuals. The talks, liturgies and all other materials are online at <https://www.cumbriachristianlearning.org.uk/event/welcoming-christ/>

**ACCOMODATION REQUIRED:** We will be saying goodbye to our two Brazilian interns, Felipe and Artur, at the end of December but we have the opportunity to welcome other interns from their Church in Brazil from January-December 2018 [probably female]. If you could accommodate them in your home for the year, please get in touch with Craig.

**OLIVE BRANCH CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL** Please fill a decorated shoe box, marking each box as male or female and adult or child. Shopping lists for things to fill your box are on the welcome desk. Or you can give money through the website, <http://www.the-olivebranch.org.uk/> Or to make a donation to a local family in need, at <https://acts435.org.uk/>.

**BUILDING FOR MISSION (BFM)** To give to the BFM project you can make a payment to the Church's CAF Bank account with an on-line payment or by setting up a standing order. Details of the account are: Bank: CAF Bank; Account name: St Thomas's PCC Lancaster; Sort code: 40-52-40; Account number: 00030499; Reference: BFM. You can also give by cheque to 'St Thomas's PCC Lancaster' in an envelope clearly marked BFM and sent to the Church Office.



**SAFEGUARDING TRAINING** Everyone who works/volunteers with children, young people and adults who may be vulnerable needs to complete the C0 course. A link to the online course is on the Homepage of the Church website.

**PHOTOS IN CHURCH:** In line with our safeguarding policies which are intended to keep children and vulnerable adults safe in church, please do not take photos or videos in church services without asking permission of the clergy first.

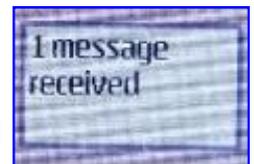


**PASTORAL ISSUES** Please inform the church office or one of the leadership of any pastoral needs that arise such as illness, accidents or bereavements.

**PRAYER MINISTRY CORNER** As a church, we offer prayer ministry after every main service, in the prayer ministry area at the back right corner of the main church building. If you would like prayer for anything at all, please don't hesitate to go over to the prayer ministry corner, and ask a member of the prayer ministry team to pray with you.

**PASTORAL PRAYER CHAIN** Please send your prayer requests to Margaret Stocks 01524 66257

**TEXT-A-PRAYER** If you would like us to pray about anything at all, please text your request to **075 34 998 205** Texts will be read and prayed for each Sunday. We will not send replies. Texts will be treated in confidence (in line with our safeguarding policy).



**VALUABLES** Keep your valuables with you all the time while in church, even when going to take Communion or for prayer.

**MISSION SUPPORT** If you would like to be included in the monthly prayer e-mail update for our 'Mission Partner of the Month' please send your email address to the office, [office@st.tees.org.uk](mailto:office@st.tees.org.uk)

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If you have recently come to St Thomas's, we'd like to welcome you & get to know you. Please fill this information in, & hand it in at the Welcome desk

Name <small>(Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Other)</small>	
Address	
Postcode	
Telephone	
Email	
Children <small>(include DOB)</small>	
If you are interested in joining a Life Group tick here <input type="checkbox"/>	
If you are a student tick here <input type="checkbox"/>	
Is there anything particular you would like to get involved in?	

Which service have you come to?      9am   
11am       7pm

Please could you indicate your age group.  
Under 20   
20-30   
30-50   
Over 50

Please tick if you **DON'T** wish your information to be held on our database

For Office Use	
Date	card
Followed up? <input type="checkbox"/>	
By:	
Date:	
Notes.	

[www.st.tees.org.uk](http://www.st.tees.org.uk)      01524 590410      [office@st.tees.org.uk](mailto:office@st.tees.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/stteeslancs](http://www.facebook.com/stteeslancs)      @StTeesLancaster

**ChurchSuite** [stthomaslancaster.churchsuite.co.uk/](http://stthomaslancaster.churchsuite.co.uk/)