



ST THOMAS CHURCH LANCASTER

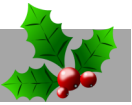
SHARING GOD'S LOVE FROM THE HEART OF THE CITY

Charity No 113 0550

DECEMBER 9TH SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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.

THIS WEEK



9AM MORNING SERVICE
11AM HOLY COMMUNION

Interrupted by God—Mary

Luke 1: 26 - 38

7PM ALTERNATIVE CAROL SERVICE **The Gift worth waiting for** *Isaiah 9. 6-7*

OUR MISSION PARTNER PRAYERS for December is Crosslinks and Bridget Hathaway. Her latest update is the Welcome desk for those would like a copy.



CRAFT AID will have a stall after the morning services today. Come to buy advent candles and calendars, Christmas cards and gifts.

HEART OF THE CITY UPDATE: Many thanks to everyone who has pledged their support for the building project. Since the end of October, an additional £414,174 (inc Gift Aid) has been pledged towards the project, taking our total pledged to an amazing £1,785,920 (inc Gift Aid). After we have finished paying approx. £250,000 for Phase 1, this gives us potentially £1.5 million to put towards the £2.8 million new centre. Encouraging though this is, we are still some way short of the total needed to proceed with confidence, so we are calling the church to a time of prayer, to ask God for his guidance and provision. **There will also be an Open Meeting at 7.30pm on Tues 11th Dec in church.** Please do join us if you can.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2018 Sunday 16th December

9am Christmas Service with children's nativity.

11am All-Age Nativity

2pm Traditional Carol Service for older people and their families, with refreshments.

7pm Quiet Christmas Communion



ST. THOMAS' BULLETIN

Sunday 23rd December

10.30am Holy Communion

Christmas Eve

3-3.45 pm Crib Service and refreshments. *For 2-8 year olds and their families. Costumes will be provided or children can come dressed as a shepherd, king or angel (not Mary or Joseph, please)*

5.30 pm Candlelit Carol Service

Christmas Day 10.30 am All-Age Christmas Communion only.

Sunday 30th December 10.30am All-Age Holy Communion only.

OFFICE OPENING OVER CHRISTMAS The church office will be closed from December 24th until January 3rd.

CAKES are needed for the refreshments after the 2pm Carol Service on 16th. Please bring any donations to church in the morning or drop off at the Church office during the week.

STY:LE'S GOT TALENT, 13th December, in the church from 7pm-9pm for all youth. This event is the last youth event of the year. It is an event where the YP get to showcase their skills and talents in groups or as individual. It will be like the TV show "Britain's Got Talent" With guest judges and a host. We will have Christmas games, snacks and a Christmas gift exchange with a twist.



HOTC UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Quiz Sheet If you don't know what to do during those quiet periods at Christmas, have a go at the Christmas Quiz Sheet to raise money for HOTC. Quiz sheets are £1 each and you can get one (or several for your friends) from Susan Baines. Closing date for entries is on Monday 7th January.

St Thomas Community Cinema Join us for our Christmas Film Season. We have 2 fantastic films showing here at St Thomas Church. Tickets are £3 on the door. Snacks and drinks are available. All proceeds go to HOTC.

"It's a Wonderful Life" – **Friday 14th December** at 7.30pm

"Arthur Christmas" – **Saturday 15th December** at 1.30pm



NOTICES

THE ARK We're unable to store sleeping bags, pillows and any items of warm clothing in Room 2. Space is of a premium. If you would like to donate warm items of clothing or bedding then please contact Christ Church Night Shelter or Edward Street. Thank you.

ASSISTANT CHILDREN'S MINISTER: Following the exciting news that Hannah Parry is pregnant and will be finishing on staff on 27th January, St Thomas' Church is looking for an Assistant Children's Minister to cover the remaining time before Sarah Evans returns from maternity leave. This will be a temporary role for 16 hours a week, beginning 27th January. For details of the post, please contact Emma Dixon on emma@st.tees.org.uk. Application deadline, 1pm Sunday 9th December.

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRY – VOLUNTEERS We have a fantastic opportunity here to share the good news of Jesus with the next generation. We have a number of Sunday groups and midweek groups across all ages, that have a real need for more people to join their ministry. If this is something you are interested in please speak to Emma Dixon: emma@st.tees.org.uk (Children) or Hannah Wolfenden: hannah@st.tees.org.uk (Youth)

OFF TO BRAZIL Two of our interns, Chloe Dietz and Sarah Möller are heading to Salvador, Brazil on 1st January 2019 on a 3 week mission trip in partnership with Vilas do Atlântico Baptist Church. They will be assisting the local community with physical as well as spiritual resources. They have got Just Giving pages, and have planned a range of fundraising events. Please contact either Chloe (c.dietz@st.tees.org.uk) or Sarah (s.moller@st.tees.org.uk). Link to Chloe's page: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/connection-campaign-northeast-brazil> Link to Sarah's page: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/sarah-moller>

CHRISTMAS APPEAL—THE OLIVE BRANCH are collecting Christmas food; mince pies, chocolate, treats, luxury biscuits, tins of premium ham. Any donations can be dropped off at the Olive Branch or left in the bins' in the church foyer.

SHOEBOXES The Olive Branch are also asking for shoeboxes, made up and labelled as to whom it is suitable; filled with thoughtful treats like chocolate, toiletries and small gifts. These will be given out to those in need, locally.

LANCASTER HOMELESS ACTION CHRISTMAS NIGHT SHELTER will run from **24th-29th December** in the Church Centre. Details from LDHAS Edward Street or email volunteering@ldhas.co.uk

LANCASTER & DISTRICT HOMELESS ACTION SERVICE Singing organised by Arton and Christine Medd 10 – 11 am & 11.30 – 12.30 pm on Saturday **15th December** in Marketgate collecting for the Homeless Christmas Shelter. Just turn up if you would like to join in.

RLI CHRISTMAS CAROL WARD SINGING Monday 17th December. Gather 6pm on the wards 7pm – 8pm. And on **Thursday 20th December** 6.45 start, we join in with Lancashire Sings Christmas on Medical Unit 2.

LANCASTER SINGS CHRISTMAS 20th December in St Nicholas Arcade, starts at 7 pm. Please check online for the other venues in the area.

EXPLORING FAITH ACCOMPANIMENT (Spiritual Direction) **January to June 2019.** At the Xaverian Mission Spirituality Centre, Preston. Sponsored by the Diocese of Blackburn Leaflet with full details is on the Welcome desk. An opportunity to experience listening to God and to one another.

HEART OF THE CITY PROJECT formerly known as **BUILDING FOR MISSION (BFM)** To give to the Heart of the City 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: HOTC. You can also give by cheque to 'St Thomas's PCC Lancaster' in an envelope clearly marked HOTC and sent to the Church Office.

THE SERMONS ARE ONLINE The majority of the sermons are available to download, or listen to as a podcast. Go to www.st.tees.org.uk/sermons.

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 We offer prayer ministry after every main service, in the prayer ministry area at the back right corner of the main church. 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 on 01524 66257.

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

We use church management software called ChurchSuite. This gives all the adults on our database the option to access their rotas, the church calendar, sign up for church events, and update their contact details. If you don't have access to My Churchsuite, contact the church office. All information is stored securely in line with the Data Protection Act. Unless you choose otherwise, your details can only be accessed by church staff and those writing any rotas you might be on. stthomaslancaster.churchsuite.co.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 in this slip & hand it in at the Welcome desk.

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Other)	
Address	
Postcode	
Telephone	
Email	
Children (include DOB)	
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?	

Please tick the box if we **may add** your information to our mailing list (Churchsuite). You can unsubscribe at any time by contacting admin@st.tees.org.uk

Please could you indicate your age group.
 Under 20
 20-30
 30-50
 Over 50
 Which service have you come to?
 9am 11am 7pm