



# ST THOMAS CHURCH LANCASTER

SHARING GOD'S LOVE FROM THE HEART OF THE CITY



## DECEMBER 16TH

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Charity No 113 0550

**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 - CHRISTMAS SPECIAL**

**11AM ALL AGE NATIVITY**

**Interrupted by God—Joseph**

*Matthew 1: 18-25*

**2PM TRADITIONAL CAROL SERVICE**

with refreshments

**7PM QUIET CHRISTMAS COMMUNION**

**Gift from God – too early** *Luke 1. 26-38*

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



### CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2018

**Sunday 23rd December**

**10.30am** Holy Communion only

**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.

**"EXTRA TIME", Tuesday 18th December** downstairs in the

Church Centre come along for a 10-30 start or 10-15 for

coffee and biscuits. This week it's our Christmas Miscellany

lead by Jeanette Main followed by a Bring and Share Lunch. There will be

carols, readings, sketches and probably the odd mince pie! So why not come

and join in our Christmas Celebrations and bring a friend. All are most

welcome.

*Extra Time*

ST. THOMAS' BULLETIN

**WEDNESDAY COMMUNION SERVICE** The last of 2018 will be on **19<sup>th</sup> December**, and the first one of 2019 will be on **9<sup>th</sup> January**.

**OFFICE OPENING OVER CHRISTMAS** The church office will be closed from **December 24<sup>th</sup> until January 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

**CHURCH BULLETIN** The next bulletin will be for December 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> and January 6<sup>th</sup>. So if you have anything for the bulletin for any of these days please could you send it to the office by Thursday 8am on **20<sup>th</sup> December**.

## FURTHER AHEAD

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January** at 7.30pm in the church foyer. Drop in between 7.30pm-9pm for a chat over coffee/tea and cake.

**GODSPACE Tuesday January 8<sup>th</sup> 8pm** in Church. A contemplative meditative time of prayer with prayer stations, allowing space and silence. If you can't join us on-site, download prayer points from the website or paper copies are on the Welcome desk, and join us in prayer wherever you are.



**MISSION PARTNER SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> January** A chance to hear from all of our Mission Partners.

## EVENTS ELSEWHERE

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

**LANCASTER SINGS CHRISTMAS 20<sup>th</sup> December** in St Nicholas Arcade, starts at 7pm. 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. This is an opportunity to experience listening to God and to one another.

**UNITED SERVICE FOR THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** On **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January** at 6:30pm at the Priory there will be an Ecumenical Service to mark the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity,' which is 19<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> January. Please publicise this event and let's come together to worship God and pray for our city.

**SETTING GOD'S PEOPLE FREE** How do we live as a Christian from Monday to Saturday? Led by Archdeacon Mark Ireland and Ruth Hassall, Director of Discipleship, it's 3.30pm Monday **11<sup>th</sup>** – 2pm **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February** 2019. To book your place, please contact Whalley Abbey on 01254 828400 or [office@whalleyabbey.org](mailto:office@whalleyabbey.org). Cost is £130 full board.

**NORTH LANCASHIRE PASSION PLAY APRIL 2019** Locally-based Emma Rucastle, is creating a new Passion Play for Lent 2019. Performances will be on **April 11<sup>th</sup>** and **13<sup>th</sup>** at 7.30pm and **April 13<sup>th</sup>** at 2pm, one in each of the following venues: Warton, St Oswald's, Lancaster Priory and Torrisholme, Church of the Ascension. There may also be a further performance in Lancaster city centre on **April 20<sup>th</sup>**. Contact Emma on [erucastle@googlemail.com](mailto:erucastle@googlemail.com) for further information and/or to express interest in taking part in this exciting project.

## NOTICES

**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](mailto:volunteering@ldhas.co.uk)

**HEART OF THE CITY PROJECT:** Many thanks to everyone who came to the Open Forum on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December. If you would like to see the evening's presentation, this is now available on the Building Project page of the church website. We are still pausing to pray for this project, so if you were unable to make it, or if you did attend but still have further thoughts to share, please do send us your views by e-mailing [hotc@st.tees.org.uk](mailto:hotc@st.tees.org.uk)



**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.

**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](mailto:emma@st.tees.org.uk) (Children) or Hannah Wolfenden: [hannah@st.tees.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:c.dietz@st.tees.org.uk)) or Sarah ([s.moller@st.tees.org.uk](mailto: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-mller>

**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.

**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](http://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/](http://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](mailto: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