



ST THOMAS CHURCH LANCASTER

SHARING GOD'S LOVE FROM THE HEART OF THE CITY

Charity No 113 0550

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

23RD & 30TH DECEMBER AND 6TH JANUARY

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.

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.

SUNDAY 6TH JANUARY 2019

9AM HOLY COMMUNION

The children will return from Junior Church for Communion

Off to a shaky start

Exodus 2. 1-25

11AM ALL AGE SERVICE

7PM EVENING SERVICE The Beginning: God brings Order in Chaos

Genesis 1. 1-27

OUR MISSION PARTNER PRAYERS for December is Crosslinks and Bridget Hathaway. And for January is our Indigenous Mission Partners

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

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

RENEWAL PRAYER MEETING. There will be no Thursday prayer meetings on **Thursday 27th** December and **Thursday 3rd Jan**. Please join us on **Thursday**

ST. THOMAS' BULLETIN

10th Jan at 7pm in the upstairs centre lounge as we recommence the weekly half an hour prayer meeting. We pray for renewal in all aspects of church life

WALKING GROUP Tuesday 1st January. All are welcome to join our New Year's Day walk in the Arnside/Silverdale area, followed by a pub lunch. Leaving the church car park at 10am. Please bring warm clothing, waterproofs and hiking boots. For further details or if a lift is required please contact Stephen & Sally Taylor, by e-mail to taylorallya@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S COFFEE Saturday January 5th Meet in Storey Café at 11am. All women welcome

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP Monday 7th 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 8th 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 13th January A chance to hear from all of our Mission Partners.

EVENTS ELSEWHERE

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 20th January** at 6:30pm at the Priory, there will be an Ecumenical Service to mark the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity,' which is 19th - 26th 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 11th** – 2pm **Wednesday 13th February** 2019. To book your place, please contact Whalley Abbey on 01254 828400 or 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 11th** and **13th** at 7.30pm and **April 13th** 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 20th**. Contact Emma on erucastle@googlemail.com for further information and/or to express interest in taking part in this exciting project.

NOTICES

ASSISTANT CHILDREN'S MINISTER Congratulations to Nic Barry who has been appointed to provide maternity cover for Hannah Parry, who is providing maternity cover for Sarah Evans (!). Nic will be starting on 27th January when Hannah finishes, and will assist Emma Dixon with children and families' ministry until Sarah returns from maternity leave.

FAMILY LIFE CENTRE If you would like to read the recent Family Life Centre report for the PCC, it is now available to download via a link on the front page of the church website

OLIVE BRANCH Lidl gives the Olive Branch food that needs to be collected on Monday mornings. They need one or two people to do this on a regular basis. All you need is a car and an hour to spare on Monday mornings; no heavy lifting. Please contact Mick Pidd (m.pidd@myphone.coop, 01524 824541) or the Olive Branch (info@the-olivebranch.org.uk, 01524 555715) for more information



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

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-mller>

HEART OF THE CITY PROJECT: Many thanks to everyone who came to the Open Forum on Tuesday 11th 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



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