

St Thomas' Church Henbury and Broken Cross

Sunday 3 December 2023

The First Sunday of Advent

Our Mission Statement: To provide a focal point within Henbury and Broken Cross for the community to engage in and develop Christian worship and fellowship



Coming Up

Worship (all services are at St Thomas' unless indicated otherwise)

Sunday 3 December – Holy Communion 11.00 a.m. – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig

Sunday 3 December – Christingle Service 4.00 p.m. **at St John's**

Sunday 10 December – Family Service – Christingle 11.00 a.m. – Hellen Watson and Linda Craig

Sunday 17 December - Holy Communion 11.00 a.m. – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig

Sunday 17 December – Carol Service 6 p.m. **at St John's**

Sunday 17 December - Nine Lessons and Carols 6.30 p.m. followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Church Hall

Sunday 24 December - Holy Communion 11.00 a.m. – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig

Sunday 24 December – Crib Building Service 4 p.m. – Roy Waller and Linda Craig

Sunday 24 December 11 p.m. – Christmas Eve Holy Communion joint with St John's at St Thomas'– Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig

Monday 25 December 10.00 a.m. – Christmas Holy Communion joint service– **at St John's** – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant

Sunday 31st December Holy Communion 11.00 a.m. – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig

Most of the 11.00 a.m. services listed above also take place at St John's at 9.30 a.m. each Sunday. These services are accessible via Zoom for anyone who is not ready, or able, to attend services in person.

Members of St Thomas' Church are very welcome to share in this online worship. If you would like the **Zoom** link, please **ring 427453** or **email**

lawrobinson@btinternet.com or **stthomashenbury@aol.com**

If you would like to join the team of people who deliver the readings and/or intercessions at these services, please contact: Tony Dewdney **on 01625 439753** or **tjdewdney@talktalk.net**

Other Events

Friday 1 December 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. – CAMEO Christmas Party (Joint) at St John's

Saturday 2 December- 8.30 a.m. – Prayer Breakfast at St John's

Saturday 2 December 3.30 p.m. – 5 p.m. – Messy Church at St John's

**Wednesday 6 December – Sunbeams Mums and Tots Group at St John's
10 a.m. – 11.30 One hour play, 15 mins snack time, 15 minutes circle time £2**

Saturday 9 December 10.00 a.m. – Rum and Coffee Morning – St Thomas' Church Hall

**Wednesday 13 December – Sunbeams Mums and Tots Group at St John's
10 a.m. – 11.30 One hour play, 15 mins snack time, 15 minutes circle time £2**

Catch Up with our Online Services

If you've been unable to attend Church, you can catch up with our online services recorded at St John's. Here are the links to the last two weeks' services. Just click on the link below

Sunday 19 November - Saints Holy Communion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBLd8yGg0Ow>

Sunday 26 November – Holy Communion – Christ the King

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xGziynjUSoU>

On-line Archive of Newsletters

View back copies of our newsletters online by clicking here:

<https://www.stthomashenbury.org.uk/newsletter/>

Rota for Readers, Intercessors and Sides People

Date	First Reading	Second Reading	Intercessor	Sidesperson
3 December First Sunday of Advent	Janet Tute Isaiah 64.1-9	Bob Toms 1 Corinthians 1.3-9	Linda Craig	Colin Marlow
10 December Christingle	William		Hellen Watson	Lawrie Brown

17 December Third Sunday of Advent	Jacky Toms Isaiah 61.1- 4, 8- end	Roy Waller 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24	Di Waller	Tony Dewdney
24 December Fourth Sunday of Advent	Janet Tute 2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16	Jackie Booth Romans 16.25-end	Linda Craig	Janet Tute
31 December 1 st Sunday of Christmas Naming and Circumcision of Jesus	Jacky Toms Numbers 6.22-end	Bob Toms Galatians 4.4- 7	Tony Dewdney	Colin Marlow

Readings

Isaiah 64:1-9

New International Version - UK

64 ^[a]Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!

² As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you!

³ For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.

⁴ Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.

⁵ You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways.

But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved?

⁶ All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

⁷ No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to ^[b] our sins.

⁸ Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

⁹ Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD; do not remember our sins for ever.

Oh, look upon us we pray, for we are all your people.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

New International Version - UK

³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ

Jesus. ⁵ For in him you have been enriched in every way – with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge –

⁶ God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. ⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord

Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will

be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, who has called

you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mark 13:24-37

New International Version - UK

²⁴ 'But in those days, following that distress,

“the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light;

²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky,
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.”^[a]

²⁶ 'At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

²⁸ 'Now learn this lesson from the fig-tree: as soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it^[b] is near, right at the door. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

The day and hour unknown

³² 'But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert^[c]! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴ It's like a man going away: he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

³⁵ 'Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back – whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: “Watch!”

The Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Robin West

It is with great sadness that we report the recent death of Robin West. Robin has been an active and enthusiastic supporter of St Thomas' Church for many decades, as well as being involved in many other initiatives in the local area. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Jane, his sons Thomas and Lawrence, and all his family and friends.

Robin's funeral will take place on Tuesday 12 December at 11.30 a.m. in St Thomas' Church.

Hymn of the Week

This week, we have selected the following as our hymn of the week:

Lo he comes with Clouds Descending

1. Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.
2. Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.
3. Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars!
4. Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou shalt reign and thou alone.

after J Cennick (1718-1755),
C Wesley (1707-1788) and M Madan (1726-1790)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BlszhvHjBxQ>

Family Bingo Night

On 4 December 2023, at 6:30pm, there will be a Family Bingo Night in Henbury Church Hall. (Church Lane, SK11 9NN) Entrance: £2.50 (includes first game of bingo and a drink). There will be a raffle and other stalls. All proceeds will go to Girlguiding International Experiences Please note: this is a cash only event.

Rum and Coffee Morning

There will be a Rum and Coffee morning in Henbury Church Hall on Saturday 9th December at 10.00 a.m. Tickets are available from Di Waller 01625 827763 or Lynne Hibbert 01625 610701.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who has made donations of food at harvest and during the recent Reverse Advent Calendar campaign. We have received a letter from the SilkLife FoodBank thanking us for our contributions.

Home Communion

Are you, or anyone you know, unable to come to church. If so, and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact us and we will arrange to visit you. Contact: **Linda** on **01625 424505** or **Carole** **01625 611477** or email [**stthomashenbury@aol.com**](mailto:stthomashenbury@aol.com)

The Homeless Jesus Sculpture



Inspired by Matthew 25.31-46, the Canadian artist and sculptor, Timothy Schmalz, created this bronze sculpture hoping it would challenge people into action to help others, and remind us of our calling to care for those

living on the margins of our society. The feet of the man huddled on the bench bear the wounds of Christ.

The sculpture is called 'Homeless Jesus', and there are now more than a hundred of them all over the world, including one outside St Anne's Church in Manchester.



For our Prayers

Baptisms:

We warmly welcome Jessica Irene Blundell into God's family. Jessica was baptised at St Thomas' Church by Bishop William on Saturday 4 November.

We also warmly welcome Sam and Neelie Walker into God's family. Sam and Neelie were baptised at St Thomas' Church by the Rev. Canon Simon Bessant on Sunday 26 November.

Weddings: Emma Gisby and Keiran Warburton were married at St Thomas' on Thursday 23 November 2023. We wish them every blessing in their future life together.

The Sick: Pat Wain, John Louca, Anthony Westnedge, Margaret Williams, Dylan Belt, Melissa, Jane Burghall, Glenys Crabtree, Christina Klatsia, Avril Arrowsmith, John Smyth. Michael Louca, David Harrison, Ida Walsh, Judith Dewdney.

R.I.P: Robin West

December Quiz

Can you solve these questions about December?

1. Who said December 7th would be a "date which will live in infamy"?
2. December has two zodiac signs, name both?
3. On 25 December 2008, who released a charity track called "December Song" on his website for free?
4. Which country's monarch gives a New Year's message from the Amalienborg Palace at 6pm, every December 31st?
5. In the Roman calendar, which number month of the year was December?
6. What's the most common nickname for the last Friday before Christmas which is popular for works Christmas parties?
7. December in the Northern Hemisphere is the seasonal equivalent to which month in the Southern Hemisphere?
8. Zamenhof Day, celebrated on 15 December, is often known by what other name?
9. Which British sitcom, that ran from 1989 to 1994, was set around a romance between solicitor Alec Callender and a much younger woman?
10. Which group sang "Oh, What a Night" about a "late December in 1963"?

Answers to last fortnight's quiz:

1. Snapdragon
2. 3. clematis
4. daisy
5. buttercup
6. Peony
7. rose
8. dahlia
9. sunflower
10. marigold.

A huge thank you to everyone who has sent in contributions to the newsletter over the last three years. Please continue to do so – all contributions are most welcome – memories of St Thomas' or Macclesfield, musical memories, poems, quizzes etc. Anything that you think might be of interest to our readers. Please email stthomashenbury@aol.com

Other News

A message from the Millennium Green Trustees

A couple of weeks ago we asked if anyone could help us to remove the rotten logs around the picnic bench and replace them with a natural hedge.

And on Saturday morning, November 18th, we were delighted to welcome a team of local residents, including girls and boys, who worked so hard to remove the logs to the wooded area where they can provide a home for all manner of creepy crawlies as they rot away to compost in the soil. Next we all collected hazel branches freshly cut from our wood alongside Chelford Road. The thick branches were cut down to make posts that were hammered into the ground around the picnic bench. Then the thinner ones were woven between the posts to make a lovely natural fence that separates the picnic area from the rest of the Green. And by lunchtime the job was all done and dusted. As soon as we can, we'll add some fresh wood chip to make it a nice spot for a picnic when spring and summer return to Henbury.



A very special thanks to you all who took some time to help us maintain the Green for the benefit of all families who enjoy this natural haven in the village.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

Broken Cross Dementia Club

Broken Cross Methodist Church has started a club on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month (1.30 to 3.30 p.m.) for people with dementia and their carers. It includes singing, music, craft work, games, and

armchair exercises, as well as refreshments.

Further info: John Morrell 07915 252535 or Jean Sillifant 01625 402446

A Dickensian Twelve Days of Christmas

With Macclesfield Methodist Community Choir and Wind Band on Saturday 2 December at 7 p.m. at Macclesfield Methodist Church. Tickets £10 adults, £5 children contact: 01625 433187 or 01625 615298 children contact: 01625 433187 or 01625 615298

The Hope Centre – 16-18 Park Green - Sells cards, gifts and Christian resources. Opening times are Tues – Fri 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. There is also a café which sells drinks and snacks.

A Prayer for the Middle East

God, we weep for the lives lost in this conflict.

We pray for all those who mourn their loved ones.

We bring to you our deep sorrows and our fears for the future.

God, we cry out for peace and for justice.

We pray for an end to this war, for an immediate ceasefire.

We pray that those in power would act to stop this violence now.

We ask this in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. Amen

SilkLife FoodBank

Your support for the SilkLife Foodbank is greatly appreciated. It provides a vital service to the people of Macclesfield throughout the year, so please, if you are able, please support them by leaving items in the box at the back of church.

Closing Prayer

Come, Lord, come down, come in, come among us.
Enter into our darkness with your light.
Come fill our emptiness with your presence.
Dispel the clouds and reveal your glory.
Come, refresh, renew, restore us.
Come, Lord, come down, come in, come among us.
Amen.

David Adams

God bless,

Bob (07753583555), Carole (611477) and Linda (424505)

For Church bookings please contact: **Bob 07753583555**. For Church Hall bookings please contact: **Lesley 07789 744473/lesley-brown@hotmail.co.uk**

We would like to thank all of you who have been contributing financially to the mission and ministry of the parish. It is much appreciated. If you'd like to make a donation, you can either post it to Mr Bob Toms at 48 Grasmere, Macclesfield SK11 8PL or, if you prefer online banking, our details are St Thomas' Henbury Parochial Church Council, sort code 20 53 77, account number 40775819. Many thanks for your support.

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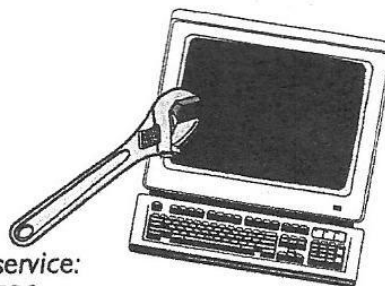


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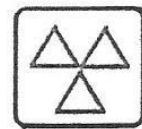
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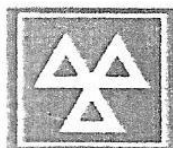
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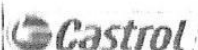
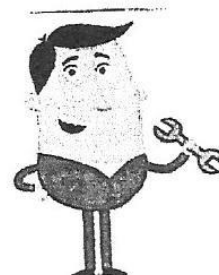
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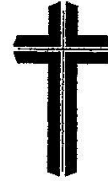


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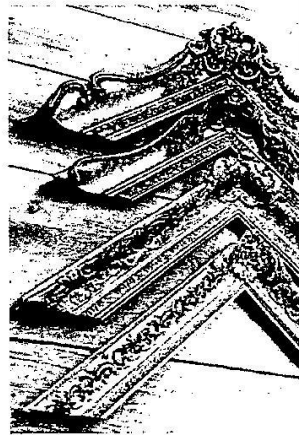
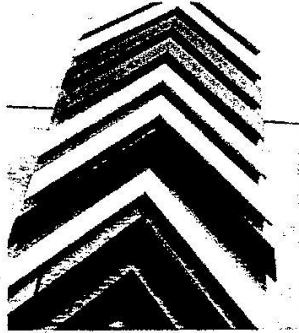
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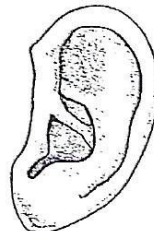
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