

***Wishing all our readers a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year***

**St Thomas' Church Henbury and Broken Cross**

**Sunday 17 December 2023**

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

**Sunday 17 December – Carol Service 4.30 p.m. **at St John's followed by festive refreshments****

**Sunday 17 December - Nine Lessons and Carols 6.30 p.m. followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the 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 31<sup>st</sup> December Holy Communion 11.00 a.m. – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig**

**Sunday 7 January – Holy Communion 11.00 a.m. – The Bishop of Stockport (Bishop Sam)**

**Sunday 14 January 11.00 a.m. – The Blessing of the Plough and the Lamb – Hellen Watson, Linda Craig and Roy Waller**

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](mailto:lawrobinson@btinternet.com) or [stthomashenbury@aol.com](mailto:stthomashenbury@aol.com)**

If you would like to join the team of people who deliver the readings and/or

<b>Date</b>	<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Intercessor</b>	<b>Sidesperson</b>
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 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas Naming and Circumcision of Jesus	Jacky Toms Numbers 6.22-end	Bob Toms Galatians 4.4-7	Tony Dewdney	Colin Marlow

intercessions at these services, please contact: Tony Dewdney on **01625 439753** or [tjdewdney@talktalk.net](mailto:tjdewdney@talktalk.net)

#### **Other Events**

- Wednesday 20 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**
- Friday 5 January 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. – CAMEO at St John's (all welcome)**
- Saturday 6 January 8.30 a.m. – Prayer Breakfast at St John's**
- Wednesday 10 January – 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**
- Wednesday 17 January – 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**
- Friday 19 January 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. - CAMEO at St Thomas' Hall (all welcome)**
- Wednesday 24 January – 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 3 December – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent - Holy Communion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q3F0Lgzjk8k>

Sunday 10 December – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent - Family Service

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=goG9CS7Q22k>

#### **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**

## Readings

### Isaiah 61:1-4 New International Version

**61** The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,

<sup>3</sup> and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour.

<sup>4</sup> They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

<sup>8</sup> "For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup> Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples.

All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the LORD has blessed."

<sup>10</sup> I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup> For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

### 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 New International Version

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

<sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not treat prophecies with contempt <sup>21</sup> but test them all; hold on to what is good, <sup>22</sup> reject every kind of evil.

<sup>23</sup> May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

### John 1.6-8, 19-28

### New International Version

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

<sup>19</sup> Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders<sup>[a]</sup> in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. <sup>20</sup> He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

<sup>21</sup> They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

<sup>22</sup> Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

<sup>23</sup> John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Now the Pharisees who had been sent <sup>25</sup> questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

<sup>26</sup> "I baptize with<sup>[c]</sup> water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. <sup>27</sup> He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

<sup>28</sup> This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

### **The Collect**

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### **Hymn of the Week**

#### **On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry**

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh:  
awake and listen for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings.
- 2 Let every heart be cleansed from sin,  
make straight the way for God within,  
and so prepare to be the home  
where such a mighty guest may come.
  
- 3 For you are our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward  
without your grace we waste away  
like flowers that wither and decay.
  
- 4 To heal the sick, stretch out your hand,  
and make the fallen sinner stand;  
shine out, and let your light restore  
earth's own true loveliness once more.
  
- 5 To you, O Christ, all praises be,  
whose advent sets your people free;  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Spirit evermore!

Jordanis oras praevia Charles Coffin (1676 - 1749) translated by John Chandler (1806 - 1876) adapted by Michael Perry (Word and Music) (1942 - 1996)  
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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plr21lLgFpg>