

Wishing all our readers a peaceful New Year

St Thomas' Church Henbury and Broken Cross

Sunday 31 December 2023 - The First Sunday of Christmas

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

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



Worship

Coming Up

Sunday 31 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

Sunday 21 January – Holy Communion 11.00 a.m. – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig

Sunday 28 January – Holy Communion 11.00 a.m. – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig

Sunday 4 February – Holy Communion 11.00 a.m. – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig

Sunday 11 February – All-age Worship – Hellen Watson and Linda Craig

Sunday 18 February – Holy Communion 11.00 a.m. – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig

Sunday 25 February – 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 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:

Sunday 17 December – 3rd Sunday of Advent - Holy Communion – we apologise there is no recording available for this service

Sunday 24 December – 4th Sunday of Advent - Family Service

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Klh5AXtxaq>

Monday 25 December – Christmas Day Family Communion

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6w_Q6XqzbA

There was a great selection of joyful worship in both churches over the Christmas period. Here is a photo of the children singing at St Thomas' Crib Building service on Christmas Eve.



Weddings and Christenings

Are you celebrating a wedding or a christening in 2024? If so, you might like to look round our beautiful Victorian church. We would be delighted to show you round. To see some photos of past events, have a look on our website:

<https://www.stthomashenbury.org.uk/life-events/>

For more information please contact our vicar: **Rev. Canon Simon Bessant** on **07957211319** or email **stthomashenbury@aol.com**.

Rota for Readers, Intercessors and Sides People

Date	First Reading	Second Reading	Intercessor	Sidesperson
31 December 1 st Sunday of Christmas	Jacky Toms Isaiah 61.10-62.3	Bob Toms Galatians 4.4- 7	Tony Dewdney	Colin Marlow

On-line Archive of Newsletters

View back copies of our newsletters online by clicking here:

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

Readings

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

New International Version

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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.

62 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet,
till her vindication shines out like the dawn,
her salvation like a blazing torch.

² The nations will see your vindication,
and all kings your glory;
you will be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will bestow.

³ You will be a crown of splendour in the LORD's hand,
a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Galatians 4:4-7 New International Version

⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.^[a] ⁶ Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba,^[b] Father." ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

Luke 2:15-21

New International Version

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. ²¹ On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

The Collect

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image, and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn of the Week

See Him Lying on a Bed of Straw

See him lying on a bed of straw:
a drafty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore -
the prince of glory is his name.

Star of silver, sweep across the skies,
show where Jesus in the manger lies;
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise
to see the savior of the world!

Angels, sing again the song you sang,
sing the glory of God's gracious plan;
sing that Bethle'em's little baby can
be salvation to the soul

Mine are riches, from your poverty,
from your innocence, eternity;
mine forgiveness by your death for me,
child of sorrow for my joy.

Words © 1965 The Jubilate Group (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V_kwvn8G1wE

Thank You

A huge thank you to everyone who has volunteered to serve refreshments after our Sunday services throughout the year. This has been greatly appreciated. New volunteers are welcomed, so if you are interested in becoming a member of the team, please contact **Carole on 01625 611477**.

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

For our Prayers

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, Keith Littler

It Happened in December Quiz

1. Who, in December 1955, was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white man in Montgomery, Alabama?
2. In 1941, The Imperial Japanese Navy made a surprise attack on a harbour in which U.S state?
3. In 1988 who became the first woman to head the government of an Islam-dominated state when she became Prime Minister of Pakistan?
4. Which American outlaw committed his first known bank robbery in Gallatin, Missouri in 1869?
5. In 1995, The European Court of Justice ruled that footballers in the European Union are free to transfer from one UEFA Federation to another at the end of their contracts. What is the ruling known as?
6. Who became Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England in 1653?
7. Whose controversial play, A Doll's House, premiered at the Royal Theatre in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1879?
8. In 1612 who became the first person to observe the planet Neptune?
9. Which Archbishop of Canterbury was slain in his own cathedral in 1170
10. Militant abolitionist leader John Brown is hanged for his raid on the arsenal at which town in West Virginia?

Answers to last fortnight's quiz:

1. Germany 2. Egg nog 3. four 4. angel 5. Bethlehem 6. Tom Hanks 7. white 8. Hansel and Gretel 9. Johann Wichern 10. Saint Nicholas

A great big 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



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

Other News

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

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.

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.

A Prayer for the Middle East

God of mercy and compassion, of grace and reconciliation,
pour your power upon all your children in the Middle East:
Jews, Muslims and Christians, Palestinians and Israelis.
Let hatred be turned into love, fear to trust, despair to hope,
oppression to freedom, occupation to liberation,
that violent encounters may be replaced by loving embraces,
and peace and justice could be experienced by all. **Amen.**

Rev. Said

Closing Prayer

Lord, give joy to the world: joy in our hearts, joy in our homes.
Let the joy of God be known among us.

For your love revealed in your manger birth, we join with the shepherds to glorify and praise you; through him who came to live among us, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.

David Adams

God bless,

Rev. Canon Simon Bessant (07957211319), 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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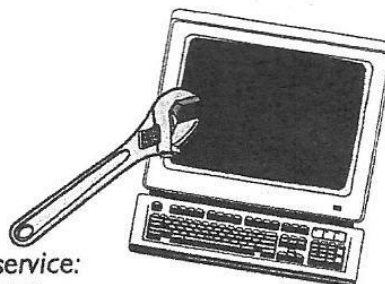


<https://www.facebook.com/maccandhenburychurches>

If you are not on Facebook, why not ask your friends and family to have a look!

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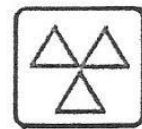
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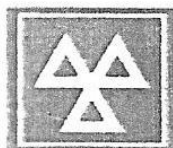
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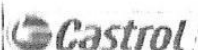
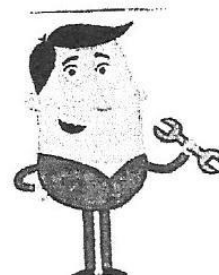
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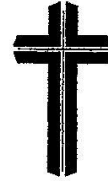


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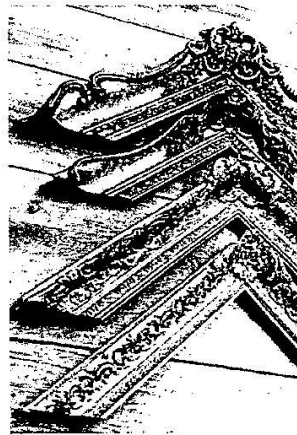
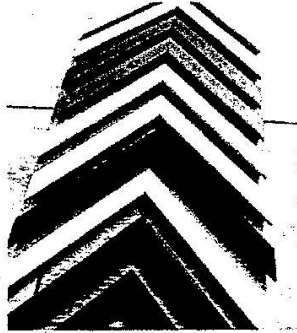
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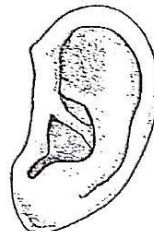
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