

**St Thomas' Church Henbury and Broken Cross
Sunday 28 January 2024 – Candlemas**

***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/>***



A photo from the Blessing of the Plough and Lamb Service (14 January)

Worship

Coming Up

- 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**
- Sunday 3 March – Holy Communion 11.00 a.m. – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig**
- Sunday 10 March – All-age Worship Mothering Sunday – Hellen Watson and Linda Craig**
- Sunday 17 March - Holy Communion 11.00 a.m. – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig**
- Sunday 24 March - Holy Communion Palm Sunday 11.00 a.m. – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig**

**Sunday 31 March – Holy Communion Easter Sunday 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**

Other Events

**Wednesday 31 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 2 February – C.A.M.E.O. at St John's 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

**Wednesday 7 February – 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 14 February – 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 16 February – C.A.M.E.O. at St Thomas' 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday 17 February 3.30 – 5p.m. – Messy Church at St John's

**Wednesday 21 February 8 p.m. M.A.S.T (Men At St Thomas') – Blacksmith's
Arms Henbury**

**Wednesday 28 February – 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 1 March – C.A.M.E.O. at St John's 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

**Wednesday 6 March – 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

Friday 15 March 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. - CAMEO at St Thomas' Hall (all welcome)

Sunday 17 March 12.15 p.m. – Lenten Lunch in St Thomas' Hall

**Wednesday 20 March 8 p.m. M.A.S.T (Men At St Thomas') – Blacksmith's Arms
Henbury**

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 14 January – Bridging the Gap – All Age Service

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4FfcM0fKk1A>

Sunday 21 December – Epiphany III – Holy Communion – The Baptism of Christ

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWVcS0DJHdM>

Rota for Readers, Intercessors and Sidepersons.

Date	First Reading	Second Reading	Intercessor	Sidesperson
28 January Candlemas	Malachi 3.1-5 Janet Tute	Hebrews 2.14-end Bob Toms	Tony Dewdney	Janet Tute
4 February The Second Sunday before Lent	Proverbs 8.1, 22-31 Anne Brown	Colossians 1.15-20 Janet Tute	Linda Craig	Lawrie Brown
11 February Sunday Next Before Lent	tbd	tbd	Hellen/Linda	Tony Dewdney
18 February First Sunday of Lent	Genesis 9.8- 17 Judith Dewdney	1 Peter 3.18- end Roy Waller	Di Waller	Christine Glynn
25 February Second Sunday of Lent	Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16 Jacky Toms	Romans 4.13- end Bob Toms	Tony Dewdney	Colin Marlow

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**](mailto:tjdewdney@talktalk.net)

Readings for 28 January - Candlemas

Malachi 3:1-5 New International Version

3 “I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty.

² But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴ and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

⁵ “So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,” says the Lord Almighty.

Hebrews 2.4-end New International Version

14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— **15** and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of

death. **16** For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. **17** For this reason he had to be made like them,^[k] fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. **18** Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Luke 2:22-40 New International Version

Jesus Presented in the Temple

²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"^[a]), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."^[b]

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss^[c] your servant in peace.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel."

³³ The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four.^[d] She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

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

Hymn of the Week Mary and Joseph Came up to the Temple

Mary and Joseph
Came to the temple
Brought the boy Jesus,
Offered him there.
People were waiting
Wanting to greet him,
Long had they sought him,
Solace for care.

Anna had prayed there,
Widowed, long waiting;
Worshipping God by
Day and by night.
Now she is praising,
Filled with elation;
Here is God's promise,
Christ is her light.

Simeon sings now
God proffers blessing,
Brilliantly gilding
Dawn of his day;
Light in the darkness,
Never extinguished,
Light of all nations,
Light up our way.

Tune Bunessan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0wSHa7QyQo&t=4s>

The Service for the blessing of the Plough and the Lamb



Here are another couple of photographs from this service. We'd also like to thank everyone involved with organising this service, especially Mr Biddulph for lending us Baa-bara, the impeccably behaved 8-day old black lamb; Roy Waller for transporting Baa-bara to and from church; Arthur and Mick Newton for lending us the plough and getting it into church.



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**](mailto: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, Keith Littler, Mike Moore.

Quiz

1. January Jones is an actress best known for portraying Betty Draper in which American TV series?
2. Which astrological sign is between January 21st and February 20th?
3. In Roman mythology, January is named after which god of beginnings and transitions?
4. On the 15th of January 1559 who was crowned monarch of England?
5. What is January's birthstone? (Hint: the name comes from the 14th century English word meaning 'dark red')
6. What is the common name for *Galanthus nivalis*, which flowers between January and April?
7. Which date in January is the traditional date for the feast of Epiphany?
8. January replaced which month as the first month of the Roman year?
9. Which American federal holiday is observed on the third Monday of January each year?
10. Margaret Thatcher Day is the 10th of January in which part of the world?

Answers to last fortnight's quiz:

1. The Mediterranean
2. Africa and Australia
3. A dime
4. Dutch
5. Orange
6. graffiti
7. South Pacific
8. Apollo XI
9. Nigel Benn
10. Donna

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**](mailto: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.

Do You Have a Heart for our Community?

If so, the Hope Centre invites you to come along and regularly bring the needs of our community before Almighty God through Praise, Prayer and Testimony. These events will take place on every third Sunday of each month 5.30-6.30 p.m. at 16-18 Park Green, Macclesfield SK11 7NA.

Stories of Hope

Join us, as writer and tinnitus coach, Lisa Bristow tells us how a tuna melt sandwich brought her back to faith. And hear how Jesus inspired Lisa to write a book for people suffering with tinnitus.

7.15-8.15 p.m. Tuesday 6 February at the Hope Centre, 16-18 Park Green Macclesfield SK11 7NA

Everyone welcome – entry is free! There will be drinks, cake and a chance to buy Lisa's book.



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 Resolving Conflict

Lord God, you have willed that we live in peace and harmony.

Grant us patience, understanding, and compassion as we strive to resolve conflicts in our families, communities, and the world.

May we become channels of your peace and love.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Prayer

Lord God, you are the source of everlasting light.
Your son, our beloved Lord Jesus
was presented in the temple forty days after his birth.
He was recognised by Simeon and Anna,
and welcomed as the promised Messiah.
May we like them, behold the glory of the Lord Jesus.
Grant that we may stand before you
with hearts cleansed by your forgiving love.
May we serve you all our days
and make your name known
as we worship you as our Lord.
So may we come by your grace
to eternal life .
Amen.

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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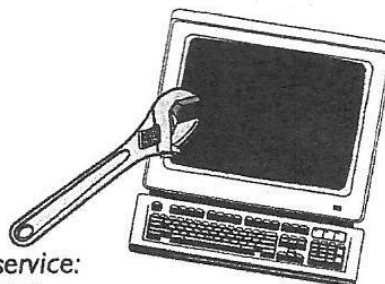


<https://www.facebook.com/maccandhenburychurches>

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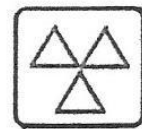
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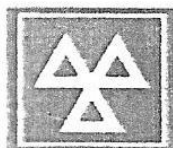
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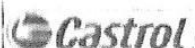
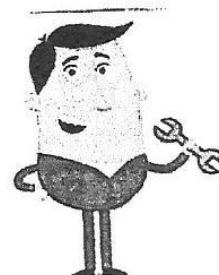
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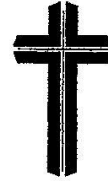


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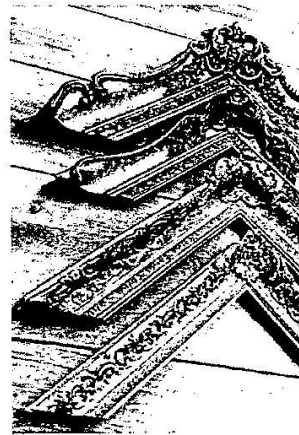
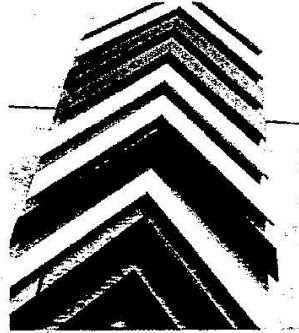
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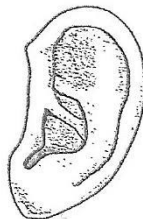
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