

**St Thomas' Church Henbury and Broken Cross
Sunday 10 March – Mothering Sunday**

*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 10 March – All-age Worship Mothering Sunday – The Heart of Love – 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**
- Thursday 28 March – Joint Maundy Thursday Service at St John's 7.30 p.m. - Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig**
- Friday 29 March – Joint Good Friday Service at St Thomas' 11.00 a.m. - Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig**
- Saturday 30 March – Joint Easter Saturday Service at St John's 8.00 p.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**
- Sunday 7 April - Holy Communion 11.00 a.m. – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant**
- Sunday 14 April – Baptism of Ebony 11.00 a.m. – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig (this takes the place of our usual All-age Service but it is open to everyone. We hope you will be able to come along to this child-friendly service during which we will welcome Ebony into the Church)**
- Sunday 21 April - Holy Communion 11.00 a.m. – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig**
- Sunday 28 April - 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**

Other Events

Tuesday 12 March – Lent Group *Writing and Speaking* 10.30 a.m. – 12 noon at St John's – all are welcome – each session is a stand-alone unit, so drop in when you can.

**Wednesday 13 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**

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

Tuesday 19 March – Lent Group *Unifying and Peacemaking* 10.30 a.m. – 12 noon at St Thomas' – all are welcome – each session is a stand-alone unit, so drop in when you can.

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

**Wednesday 27 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**

**Wednesday 17 April – 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 April 8 p.m. M.A.S.T (Men At St Thomas') – Blacksmith's Arms
Henbury**

Friday 19 April – C.A.M.E.O. at St Thomas' 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday 20 April 3.30 – 5p.m. – Messy Church at St John's

**Wednesday 24 April – 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 25 February – Holy Communion – The Second Sunday of Lent

- We're sorry we have no recording of this service due to circumstances beyond our control.

-

Sunday 3 March – Holy Communion – The Third Sunday of Lent

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5yXSg3gZ5Q8&t=189s>

Rota for Readers, Intercessors and Sidepersons

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

Date	First Reading	Second Reading	Intercessor	Sidesperson
10 March Mothering Sunday	Exodus 2.1-10 Janet Tute	Colossians 3.12-17 Hellen Watson	Hellen Watson	Lawrie Brown
17 March Fifth Sunday of Lent	Jeremiah 31.31-34 Anne Brown	Hebrews 5.5-10 Roy Waller	Di Waller	Tony Dewdney
24 March Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50.4-9a Jacky Toms	Philippians 2.5-11 Bob Toms	Tony Dewdney	Christine Glynn
29 March Good Friday	Isaiah 52.13-end of 53 tbd	Hebrews 10.16-25 or Hebrews 4.14-16; 5.7-9 tbd	tbd	Colin Marlow
31 March Easter Sunday	Acts 10.34-43 or Isaiah 25.6-9 Judith Dewdney	1 Corinthians 15.1-11 or Acts 10.34-43 Tony Dewdney	Linda Craig	Janet Tute

Readings for 10 March – Mothering Sunday

Genesis 17:1-7; 15-16 New International Version

17 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty^[a]; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. **2** Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.”

3 Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, **4** “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. **5** No longer will you be called Abram^[b]; your name will be Abraham,^[c] for I have made you a father of many nations. **6** I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. **7** I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

15 God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. **16** I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.”

Romans 4:13-25**New International Version**

¹³ It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. ¹⁴ For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵ because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶ Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷ As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations."^[a] He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

¹⁸ Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."^[b] ¹⁹ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. ²⁰ Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. ²² This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." ²³ The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, ²⁴ but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵ He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Mark 8:31-38**New International Version**

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life^[a] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? ³⁷ Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Henbury Mothers' Union Lenten Lunch

We are holding our Lenten Lunch this year on Sunday, 17 March at approximately 12.15 p.m. in the Church Hall. This will consist of a choice of soups with French bread followed by cake and tea/coffee. Tickets are £6. each and available from Di Waller (07725 760491) or Lynne Hibbert (07578 355321).

Any proceeds raised will go towards supporting the Cheshire Without Abuse Refuge in Macclesfield. If anyone purchasing a ticket has any dietary needs can you please let Di or Lynne know, please.

Lent Course 2024

Our Lent course is proving very popular, with visitors from other local churches attending. The theme is Unity and over five sessions, we are exploring how Christians can live with love and unity, in a world full of anger. We are doing the same course as some of the other churches in Macclesfield, so if you cannot make our sessions, others are available. As before, the sessions are not based on preaching but on presentations, group chats and reflections. Each session will be a stand-alone unit, so you can drop in whenever it's convenient to you. All are welcome.

4. Writing & Speaking - Tuesday 12th March St John's

5. Unifying and Peace-making - Tuesday 19th March St Thomas'

If we can't make any of these sessions, the same material is being used in the following churches at different times, and you are welcome to join them.

Thursday evenings starting 22nd February

7.30-9.15pm St Michael's Church (Market Place, SK10 1DY)

Contact Church Office (01625 421 984) for further details

Monday afternoons starting 26th February

2.30-4pm St Paul's

Contact Church Office (01625 501 773) to confirm venue details

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

Let There be Love Shared Among Us

Let there be love shared among us
Let there be love in our eyes
May now Your love sweep this nation.
Cause us oh Lord to arise
Give us a fresh understanding
Of brotherly love that is real,
Let there be love shared among us,
Let there be love

Let there be hope shared among us
Let there be hope in our eyes
May now Your hope sweep this nation.
Cause us oh Lord to arise
Give us a fresh understanding
Of brotherly love that is real,
Let there be hope shared among us,
Let there be hope.

Let there be joy shared among us
Let there be joy in our eyes
May now Your joy sweep this nation.
Cause us oh Lord to arise
Give us a fresh understanding
Of brotherly love that is real,
Let there be joy shared among us,
Let there be joy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZYQZPHABY8>

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, Malcolm Clark.

Quiz Questions

This week all the answers have a connection with a river or lake e.g. Singer who duetted with Elton John on the song 'Don't Go Breaking my Heart' – Answer: Kiki Dee.

1. An English professional footballer who plays right back for Premier League club Liverpool and the England national team.
2. An opera written by Mozart
3. American male singer, actor and TV personality born in 1912.
4. First name of Oliver Mellors' lover.
5. British TV detective series set during and after World War Two
6. An American Prohibition agent known for his efforts to bring down Al Capone while enforcing Prohibition in Chicago
7. US female singer who won the Billboard Music Award for Top Female Artist in 2019.
8. Former professional basketball player
9. British female jockey and former track cyclist
10. Sheffield born singer who got by with a little help from his friends

Answers to last fortnight's quiz:

1. Alpha
2. Abba
3. Alexander Armstrong
4. Alderney
5. Amadeus
6. Argon
7. Abraham
8. Atlas
9. Adis Ababa
10. Azalea

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

Other News

Something New Coming on the Millennium Green

Following the good work done on the Green by all in early February, there's more to do as everything starts to grow, and everyone's keen to get out there and enjoy our own green space in the village.

One NEW thing on the way is the planting of a **Living Willow Arbour**, which will be located around the bench in the play area where mums and dads like to sit when the little ones are on the basket swing or climbing the tower.

This will be done using a kit of living Willow Rods supplied by Kings Barn Trees.

So on **Saturday morning March 16th** Jon, who has kindly looked after the willow house near the sundial recently, will guide us in the planting of this arbour.

And he needs **a few helpers** – including some adults, to make sure it's done correctly and securely, and some children who can see how it's growing when they come back to swing and play in the future.

There's also some other work to do, like edging the footpath where grass is overgrowing it.

So, we'll be so grateful if as many **Friends of the Green** as possible can join us from 9.30 on Saturday **March 16th**.

But if Saturday isn't good for you and you could spare a couple of hours on Sunday morning the 17th please let us know in advance and we'll agree with you what work needs doing. Thanks and hope to see you soon.

Your Millennium Green Trustees



The St John's annual bedding plant sale order forms are now available as paper copy or online by request.

Orders will be ready for collection from church on **18th May** and **orders are needed by 7th April.**

Order forms are available in church or by email from:
stjohnsplants@btinternet.com

Please give full names and contact



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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.

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

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son:
Look with compassion on the whole human family;
take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts;
break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love;
and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth;
that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your
heavenly throne;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for our King

Father of mercies,
grant to Charles our King,
comfort and sure confidence in you,
and keep him in perpetual peace and safety,
through Jesus Christ our Lord." Amen.

Closing Prayer

Loving God, we give thanks for all who care for us,
who have encouraged us and helped us grow,
who have forgiven us, and cared for us when we were unwell,
who have supported us when times were hard,
who have challenged us, who have told us about you.
Nurturing God, we give you thanks.
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
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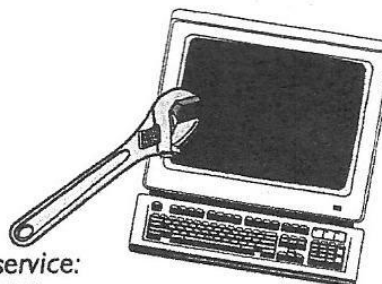


<https://www.facebook.com/maccandhenburychurches>

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

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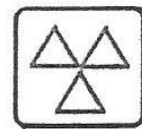
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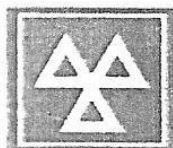
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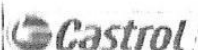
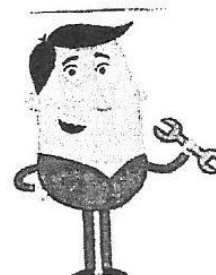
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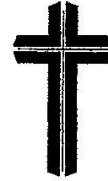


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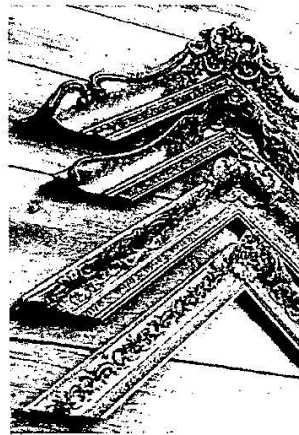
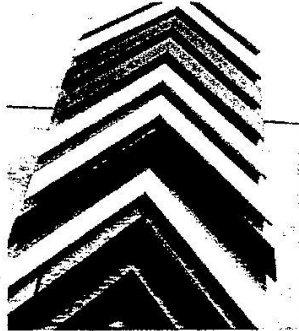
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