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/

A very Happy Easter to all our readers!



Worship

Coming Up

Sunday 7 April - Holy Communion 11.00 a.m. – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig

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) (there will be an All Age Service at 9.30 a.m. at St John's)

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

Sunday 6 May 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

Friday 5 April - C.A.M.E.O. (Come And Meet Each Other) at St John's 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

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. (Come And Meet Each Other) 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

Wednesday 1 May - 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 3 May - C.A.M.E.O. (Come And Meet Each Other) at St John's 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Wednesday 15 May 8 p.m. M.A.S.T (Men At St Thomas') – Blacksmith's Arms Henbury

Friday 17 May - C.A.M.E.O. (Come And Meet Each Other) at St Thomas' 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

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 24 March – Holy Communion – Palm Sunday https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3fkXq02leA

Thursday 28 March – Foot Washing and Holy Communion – Maundy Thursday https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuUm7OqrVfU&t=1s

Sunday 31 March - Holy Communion - Easter Sunday https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yAMZv0Jslfl

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
7 April	Acts 4.32-35	1 John 1.1-2.2	Di Waller	Colin Marlow
Second Sunday of	Jackie Booth	Roy Waller		
Easter				
14 April	Tba	Tba	Linda Craig	Tba
Third Sunday of				
Easter				
Baptism of Ebony				
21 April	Acts 4 .5-12	1.John 3.16-	Tony	Christine
Fourth Sunday of	Jacky Toms	end	Dewdney	Glynn
Easter		Bob Toms		
28 April	Acts 8.26-	1 John 4.7-	Linda Craig	Lawrie Brown
Fifth Sunday of	end	end		
Easter	Anne Brown	Janet Tute		

Thank you

A huge thank you to Lynne Hibbert and her team for the beautiful floral decorations that they created in Church for our service on Easter Sunday.

If anyone would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one towards this year's Easter Lilies, please contact Lynne Hibbert (610701), or Linda (424505).

Readings for 7 April – The Second Sunday of Easter Acts 4:32-35 New International Version

³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴ that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

1 John 1:1-2:2 New International Version

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete.

- ⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.
- ⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.
- **2** My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

John 20:19-31 New International Version

- ¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.
- ²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."
- ²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

- ²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." ²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"
- ²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."
- ³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe^[b] that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Lenten Lunch

Henbury Mothers' Union would like to thank everyone who supported our Lenten Lunch on the17th March which raised £200. This amount will be put towards our fund for purchasing Christmas presents and other items to support Cheshire Without Abuse and the children in the Refuge. Thanks also go to Jackie Hulme for taking care of the raffle for us. Thanks again. Thanks also to Di and Lynne and their helpers for all their hard work in making this such a great event.

Henbury Mothers' Union Trip to Speke Hall

Henbury MU are organising an outing on Thursday, 13th June to Speke Hall, Liverpool and everyone is invited in the hope that we can fill a coach to make the outing more affordable top everyone. If you are already a National Trust member then the outing will only involve the cost of the coach journey. If you are not a National Trust member then the entrance fee for hall and gardens is £15 for a group entrance. Everyone is welcome. We are asking for a deposit of £20 if you wish to go and if you are interested please let Di Waller (01624)

827763) before 11th April so that we can decide if we have

enough numbers interested or not.

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

Memorial Garden

Over the next few weeks, remedial work will be carried out on the memorial garden at St Thomas'. During the course of this work, it will be necessary for the contractor to move vases, tributes etc from the memorial plaques. You may wish to remove items on your loved one's memorial plaque until the work is finished.

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

Electoral Roll

St Thomas' electoral roll is being revised from 21 April – 3 May 2024. A copy will be available in church for you to check that your name Is included, together with forms for you to apply to be included on the roll. The revised roll will be completed and back in Church on Sunday 5 May. Any queries, please contact our electoral roll officer, Tony Dewdney (01625 439753).

Happy Birthday Joyce

The Belong retirement village in Macclesfield has recently gained five ducklings as residents. Joyce Bostock, who from the age of 3 until a few years ago was a regular attender at St Thomas' enjoyed holding one of these ducklings on her 97th birthday, last week. Joyce, who grew up on a local farm, commented "How lovely it is to be able to hold a duckling. It has really made my day." (photos on next page)



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, David Osborne.

Quiz Questions

This week all the answers begin with the letter B. Thank you to Jackie Hulme for compiling this quiz for us.

- 1. In which city is New Street station?
- 2. What is the capital of Hungary?
- 3. Which instrument did George Formby play?
- 4. A traditional Russian soup?
- 5. An obstacle on a golf course?
- 6. What are horseshoe and pipistrelles examples of?
- 7. Which group had a hit with 'Love Me Do'?
- 8. Anne Sewell wrote about this equine animal?
- 9. Children's comic?
- 10. Azure is a shade of which colour?

Answers to last fortnight's quiz:

 John Alexander-Arnold Trent 2. Don Giovanni 3. Perry Como 4. Constance 5. Foyle's War 6. Elliot Ness 7. Arianne Grande 8. Michael Jordan 9. Victoria Pendleton 10. Joe Cocker

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

Henbury Bonfire Night - a call for volunteers

As well as being the main fundraiser for the Millennium Green, the bonfire and fireworks event has always been a community highlight, enjoyed by Henbury families of all ages, and many others too. We've missed a couple of years recently due to Covid and shortage of experienced people but we are determined to hold a **Henbury Bonfire & Fireworks on the Green on Saturday November 2nd** this year.

It may only be Spring but we need to start preparations early in order to confirm whether the event is able to go ahead this year. **So firstly we need to recruit our team of volunteers.**

To run the event on the night we will need approximately 20 people working across the following areas:

Event Manager – 1

Gate Staff – 7

Marshals – 8

Bonfire – 3

Fireworks – 4

A few volunteers are also required for set- up prior to the event and to tidy- up afterwards.

If you think you can help as a volunteer in any way at all to ensure there will be a **Henbury B & F 2024** please contact Susan at susan.hmgt@outlook.com before **April 7th** (a week after Easter) or have a word with any of these Trustees. We will then set up a meeting with you where we can share how the event has run in the past and what the different roles involve. Whilst previous experience is helpful, it is not necessary as there are experienced people who can show you the ropes. We thank you in advance and look forward to meeting all who would like to keep up the Guy Fawkes tradition here in Henbury,

With best wishes

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

Closure of the Millennium Green

The Millennium Green Trustees are sorry that the Millennium Green will have to be closed for safety reasons for a few days from Monday April 8th. This is because Fairways Landscapes Ltd, who will be renewing the surface in the Play Area, will have some heavy equipment in use in several parts of the Green. Why is this work being done? It's because the woodchip (sometimes called "Playbark"), which is intended to cushion falls from the play equipment, degrades over time, becomes less effective and has to be topped-up annually. And the cost, as well as the effort, of annually topping-up the Playbark has become prohibitive.

So the Trust has decided to have the Playbark removed and replaced with a grassed surface, incorporating specially designed rubber matting that provides the necessary cushioning in all

areas of fall-risk and is compliant with the relevant British Standards. We have seen this type of arrangement, also installed by Fairways Landscapes, in another play area in the Macclesfield area and are confident it is suitable for the Green in Henbury.

This is a considerable investment which reflects the Trust's commitment to maintaining The Green as the focus for informal outdoor recreation in the village of Henbury. The Trust will of course let you know as soon as the work is done and the gates are open once more.

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 Catherine, Princess of Wales

Gracious God, we pray for the continued recovery of the Princess of Wales, for her husband and her family.

Grant to them and all who are affected by sickness, Faith, hope and the knowledge of your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Closing Prayer

God before me. God behind me. God above me, God beneath me. I on your path, O God, You, O' God, on my way. In the twistings of the road In the currents of the river Be with me by day Be with me by night Be with me by day and by night. 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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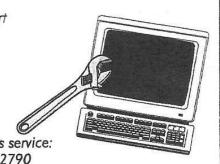
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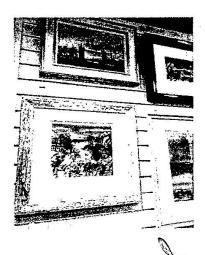
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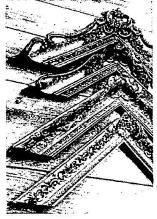
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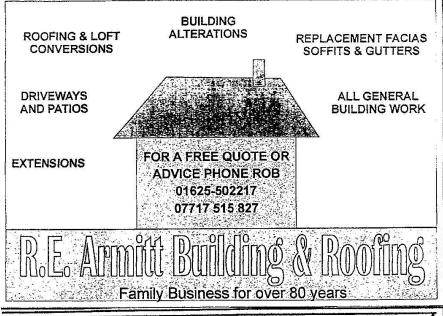
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