

St Thomas' Church Henbury and Broken Cross
Sunday 1 December 2024 – First 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*
<https://www.stthomashenbury.org.uk/>



Coming Up

Worship

- Sunday 1 December – Holy Communion 11.00 a.m. - Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig
- Sunday 1 December – Christingle 4 p.m.- at St John's – Linda Craig and Andrea Fitton
- Sunday 8 December – Christingle All Age Service 11.00 a.m. – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Andrea Fitton
- Sunday 15 December – Holy Communion 11.00 a.m. - Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig
- Sunday 22 December – Holy Communion 11.00 a.m. - Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig. Guest preacher Dr Charles Insley
- Sunday 22 December – Nine Lessons and Carols 6.30 p.m. – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant
- Sunday 22 December 6.30 p.m. – Carol Service **at St John's**
- Tuesday 24 December 4 p.m. – Crib Building Service at **St John's**

Tuesday 24 December 4.30 p.m. – Crib Building Service at St Thomas' – Rev.

Canon Simon Bessant and Roy Waller

Tuesday 24 December 11 p.m. – Midnight Communion – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig

Wednesday 25 December 10.00 a.m. – Christmas Communion at St John's – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant

Sunday 29 December 11 a.m. – Holy Communion – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant

Sunday 5 January 9.30 a.m. – Breakfast Church – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant, Andrea Fitton and Linda Craig

Sunday 5 January 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig

Sunday 12 January 11.00 a.m. – The Blessing of the Plough and the Lamb - ??

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're unable to attend Church, you can catch up with our online services recorded at St John's. Here are the links to the last three weeks' services:

Sunday 17 November – Second before Advent

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FH5I5URc_9c

Sunday 24 November – the Feast of Christ the King

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

Other Events

Wednesday 27 November – 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 27 November – Recharge – our new, relaxed, midweek service at St John's Church 12.00 – 1.30 p.m.

Thursday 28 November – Little Angels Mums and Tots Group at St Thomas' Church Hall 9.30-11.00 a.m. £1 per child

Wednesday 4 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

Thursday 5 December – Little Angels Mums and Tots Group at St Thomas' Church Hall 9.30-11.00 a.m.

Tuesday 10 December - Mothers' Union – St Thomas Church Hall – 10 a.m. – 12 noon

Wednesday 11 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

Wednesday 11 December – Joint Recharge Worship – our new, relaxed, midweek service at St John's Church 12.00 – 1.30 p.m. Please not change of venue.

Thursday 12 December– Little Angels Mums and Tots Group at St Thomas’ Church Hall 9.30-11.00 a.m. £1 per child

Friday 13 December – Joint C.A.M.E.O. (Come And Meet Each Other) Christmas Party at St John’s 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday 14 December – Rum & Coffee morning at St Thomas’ Church Hall- 10.00 a.m.

Wednesday 18 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

Thursday 19 December– Little Angels Mums and Tots Group at St Thomas’ Church Hall 9.30-11.00 a.m. £1 per child

Friday 3 January - C.A.M.E.O. (Come And Meet Each Other) at St Thomas’ Church Hall 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Wednesday 8 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 8 January – Recharge – our new, relaxed, midweek service at St Thomas’ Church Hall 12.00 – 1.30 p.m.

Thursday 9 January – Little Angels Mums and Tots Group at St Thomas’ Church Hall 9.30-11.00 a.m. £1 per child

Tuesday 14 January Mothers’ Union – St Thomas Church Hall – 10 a.m. – 12 noon

Wednesday 15 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

Thursday 16 January – Little Angels Mums and Tots Group at St Thomas’ Church Hall 9.30-11.00 a.m. £1 per child

Wednesday 22 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

Readings for the First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16 New International Version UK

¹⁴ “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will fulfil the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.

¹⁵ “In those days and at that time

I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line;
he will do what is just and right in the land.

¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved
and Jerusalem will live in safety.

This is the name by which it^[a] will be called:
The Lord Our Righteous Saviour.”

1 Thessalonians 3. 9-13 New International Version UK

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. ¹² May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³ May he strengthen your hearts

so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

Luke 21:25-36 New International Version

²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶ People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷ At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰ When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

³² “Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁴ “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

If you would like to join the team of people who deliver the readings and/or lead the intercessions during services, please contact: Tony Dewdney on **01625 439753** or tjdewdney@talktalk.net

For our Prayers

The Sick: John Louca, Anthony Westnedge, Dylan Belt, Melissa, Jane Burghall, Christina Klatsia, Michael Louca, Keith Littler, Mike Moore, Malcolm Clark, Jean Osborne, Ida Walsh, and David Harrison.

RIP: Lynne Bostock, June Metcalf and Glenys Crabtree.

Can you Help? - Breakfast Church

Thank you to everyone who has already offered to help with the catering at our



exciting new Sunday service - Breakfast Church - which will launch at St Thomas' on January 5th at 9.30 a.m. Ruth Bessant has very kindly offered to lead a catering team, but she will need a few more helpers. If you think you might be able to help, please contact us on sthomashenbury@aol.com or speak to Simon (07957211319, Ruth, Andrea (07366561955) or Linda

(01625 424505). Thank you!

Rota for Readers, Intercessors and Sidepersons

Date	First Reading	Second Reading	Intercessor	Sidesperson
Sunday 1 December 1st Sunday of Advent	Jeremiah 33.14-16 Anne Brown	1 Thessalonians 3.9-end Tony Dewdney	Linda Craig	Lawrie Brown
Sunday 8 December 2 nd Sunday of Advent Christingle	None	None	None	Christine Glynn
Sunday 15 December 3 rd Sunday of Advent	Zephaniah 3.14-end Judith Dewdney	Philippians 4.4-7 Roy Waller	Di Waller	Tony Dewdney
Sunday 22 December 4 th Sunday of Advent 11.00 a.m.	Micah 5.2-5a Jackie Booth	Hebrews 10.5-10 Janet Tute	Tony Dewdney	Colin Marlow
Sunday 22 December Nine Lessons & Carols 6.30 p.m.	Various	Various	None	Janet Tute
Christmas Eve Crib Building Service 4.30 p.m.	None	None	None	Tony Curzon Jacky Toms Di Waller
Christmas Eve Midnight Communion 11.00 p.m.	Isaiah 52.7- 10	Hebrews 1.1- 4	Linda Craig	Volunteer needed
Christmas Morning	No service at St Thomas'. Joint Christmas Communion at St John's 10.00 a.m.			
Sunday 29 December 1 st Sunday of Christmas	1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26 Jacky Toms	Colossians 3.12-17 Bob Toms	Andrea Fitton	Lawrie Brown

The Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him 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

To mark the start of Advent on Sunday, we have the carol - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel as our hymn of the week this week.

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Adonai, Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

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

Would you like to play a part in the running of your Church?

Lesley Brown has done a wonderful job as our Treasurer (and much more) for the last seven years. However, as some of you may already know, Lesley is stepping down from this role in the New Year. Lesley has managed the finances of the Church, as well as organising the lettings of the Church Hall. We realise that not everyone is able to undertake such a commitment, so we have broken down her various jobs in the hope that someone might take on one or more of these roles. They are:

1. book keeping
2. paying bills and reconciling the bank account
3. managing the church's investments
4. counting and banking the money received each week
5. Managing the bookings for the Church Hall

If you think you might have the skills to take on one or more of these areas, or would like more details, please contact Simon (07957211319, Linda (01625 424505) or Lesley 07789 744473

or email stthomashenbury@aol.com or lesley-brown@hotmail.co.uk

Weddings and Christenings



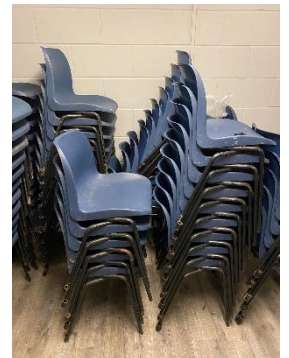
Are you celebrating a wedding or a christening in 2024 or 2025? If so, you might like to look round our beautiful Victorian church. We would be delighted to show you round. To see some photos of past events, have a look on our website:

<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

Anyone in Need of some Chairs?

Anyone need approximately 100 plastic chairs with metal legs. Free, but will need to be collected from the Macclesfield area. Ring 01625 424505 or email stthomashenbury@aol.com



All About December Quiz

1. Who said December 7th would be a "date which will live in infamy"?
2. December has two zodiac signs, name both?
3. On 25 December 2008, who released a charity track called "December Song" on his website for free?
4. Which country's monarch gives a New Year's message from the Amalienborg Palace at 6pm, every December 31st?
5. In the Roman calendar, which number month of the year was December?
6. What's the most common nickname for the last Friday before Christmas which is popular for works Christmas parties?
7. December in the Northern Hemisphere is the seasonal equivalent to which month in the Southern Hemisphere?

8. Zamenhof Day, celebrated on 15 December, is often known by what other name?
 9. Which British sitcom, that ran from 1989 to 1994, was set around a romance between solicitor Alec Callender and a much younger woman?
 10. Which group sang "Oh, What a Night" about a "late December in 1963"?
- Answers to our last quiz:

1. All Hallows' Day 2. Tutankhamun 3. Armistice Day 4. Suez Canal 5. Margaret Thatcher 6. St Andrew (Scotland) 7. Mayflower 8. Henry VI 9. Robert Louis Stevenson 10. Coventry

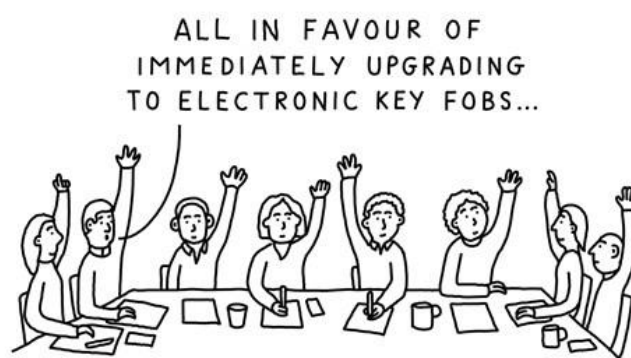
A great big thank you to everyone who has sent in contributions to the newsletter over the last three years. Please continue to do so – all contributions are most welcome – memories of St Thomas' or Macclesfield, musical memories, poems, quizzes etc. Anything that you think might be of interest to our readers. Please email stthomashenbury@aol.com

WHO DIDN'T LOCK UP?

THE MAIN SUSPECTS



THE VICAR



THE P.C.C.



WHOEVER HIRED THE MEETING ROOM



THE PARISH MISSION STRATEGY MEETING

Memorial Garden

We are pleased to say that work has now begun on the refurbishment of the Memorial Garden. How long it will take will depend on the weather and the contractor. Thank you for your patience with this matter.

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**

occasion. There is in addition a 'Pay Forward' scheme, to help feed people who are struggling.

We are launching our café on Monday 11 November. It will have a new name – The Well – a new menu and new opening times. Come along, taste and see.

New opening times: Mon – Fri 8 a.m. – 2.30 p.m. Saturday 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. **Amen.**

God bless,

Rev. Canon Simon Bessant (07957211319), Bob (07753583555), Carole (611477), Andrea (07366561955) 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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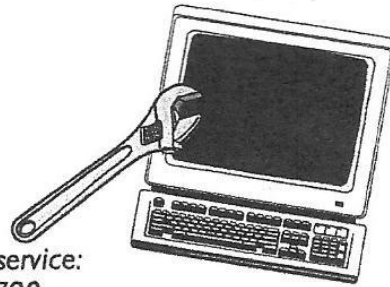
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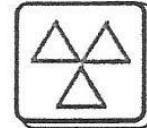
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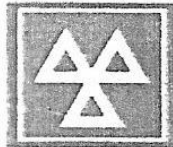
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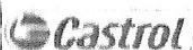
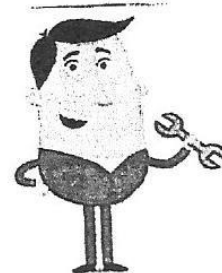
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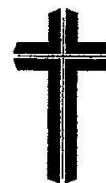


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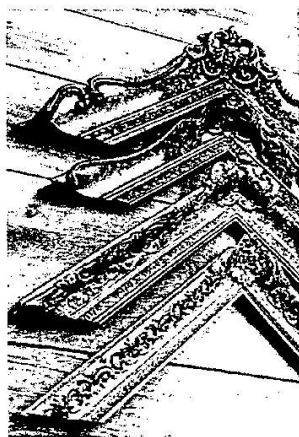
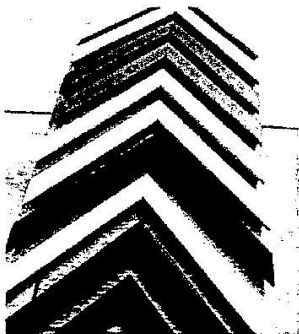
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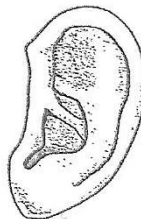
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