

**St Thomas' Church Henbury and Broken Cross
Sunday 12 January 2025 – The Blessing of the Plough and the
Lamb**

***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 at St Thomas'

**Sunday 12 January 11.00 a.m. – The Blessing of the Plough and the
Lamb – Linda Craig and Roy Waller**

**Sunday 19 January 11.00 a.m. – Holy Communion – Epiphany 2 -
Bishop Mark – Theme: Mission**

**Sunday 26 January 11.00 a.m. – Holy Communion – Epiphany 3 –
Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig**

**Sunday 2 February 9.30 a.m. – Breakfast Church in St Thomas'
Parish Hall – a relaxed family-oriented service – Rev. Canon Simon
Bessant and Andrea Fitton**

**Sunday 2 February 11.00 a.m – Holy Communion – Candlemas –
Rev. Canon Simon Bessant**

**Sunday 9 February 11.00 a.m. – All-Age Worship – Rev. Canon
Simon Bessant and Linda Craig**

**Wednesday 12 February – Recharge – our relaxed, midweek service
at St Thomas' Parish Hall 12.00 – 1.30 p.m.**

**Sunday 16 February 11.00 a.m. – Holy Communion – Rev. Canon
Simon Bessant and Linda Craig**

Sunday 23 February 11.00 a.m. – Holy Communion – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig

Sunday 2 March 11.00 a.m. – Holy Communion – Sunday Next before Lent – 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'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 22 December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Sunday 22 December – St John's Carol Service – *Breaking News from Bethlehem*

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

Sunday 29 December – First Sunday of Christmas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ulSg2L7hqY>

Sunday 5 January – Epiphany

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rvm5RUAwth8>

Other Events

Sunday 12 January 9.30 a.m. - Breakfast Church at St John's Church – a relaxed family-oriented service – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant, Andrea Fitton and Linda Craig

Tuesday 14 January - Mothers' Union – St Thomas Parish 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' Parish Hall 9.30-11.00 a.m. £1 per child

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

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**

Wednesday 22 January – Recharge – our relaxed, midweek service at St John's Church 12.00 – 1.30 p.m.

Thursday 23 January – Little Angels Mums and Tots Group at St Thomas' Church Hall 9.30-11.00 a.m. £1 per child

**Wednesday 29 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 30 January - Little Angels Mums and Tots Group at St Thomas' Parish Hall 9.30-11.00 a.m.

Saturday 1 February 8.30 a.m. – Prayer Breakfast at St John's – join us for prayers, discussion and a continental breakfast.

**Wednesday 5 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**

Thursday 6 February – Little Angels Mums and Tots Group at St Thomas' Parish Hall 9.30-11.00 a.m.

**Friday 7 February – C.A.M.E.O. (Come And Meet Each Other) at St John's
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.**

Sunday 9 February 9.30 a.m. - Breakfast Church at St John's Church Hall – a relaxed family-oriented service – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant, Andrea Fitton and Linda Craig

**Tuesday 11 February - Mothers' Union – St Thomas Church Hall –
10 a.m. – 12 noon**

**Wednesday 12 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 12 February - Recharge – our relaxed, midweek service at St St Thomas' Parish Centre 12.00 – 1.30 p.m.

Thursday 13 February– Little Angels Mums and Tots Group at St Thomas' Church Hall 9.30-11.00 a.m. £1 per child

**Wednesday 26 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 26 February – Recharge – our relaxed, midweek service at St John's Church 12.00 – 1.30 p.m.

Thursday 27 February– Little Angels Mums and Tots Group at St Thomas' Parish Hall 9.30-11.00 a.m. £1 per child

Breakfast Church



We launched our brand-new Breakfast Church at St Thomas' last Sunday. Thank you to everyone who came along to worship – and for the breakfast, which was delicious. Here's a photo of Ruth busy in the kitchen. Our next – Breakfast Church will be on Sunday 2 February at 9.30 a.m. in St Thomas' Parish Centre. Everyone is welcome to this family-friendly service. For more details please contact us on sthomashenbury@aol.com or speak to Simon (07957211319), Ruth, Andrea (07366561955) or Linda (01625 424505).

Thank You to Lesley Brown

Lesley Brown has now stepped down as Treasurer at St Thomas' and we would like to thank her immensely on behalf of everyone at Church for all the hard work that she has done over the past 7 years managing the church's finances and organising the Parish Centre's bookings. And we wish Lesley well in her new role at St Thomas' as Leader of the Flower Ladies. Thank you so much, Lesley.

Thank You to Lynne Hibbert

Lynne has stepped down as the leader of the Flower Ladies at St Thomas'.

She has done this job so well for many, many years ensuring that the Church has been beautifully decorated. Thank you so much, Lynne.



Bishop Mark's Visit - The 5 Marks of Mission



The 5 Marks of Mission has become a useful tool to understand how Christian mission fits together across different patterns of church life and ministry. In 2025 we are having an occasional preaching series on this theme, beginning with the visit of Bishop Mark, the Bishop of Chester on Sunday 19 January. Jane, our new Archdeacon will be preaching for us on Sunday 16 February. Others will be coming later in the year. I hope that all of this helps us to understand better our calling as two

churches serving our communities in Macclesfield.

THE FIVE MARKS OF MISSION



Readings for the Blessing of the Plough and the Lamb

Genesis 1:9-13 New International Version

⁹ And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. ¹² The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

Mark 4:2-8 New International Version

² Jesus taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: ³ "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times."

Mark 4:26-29 New International Version

²⁶ Jesus also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸ All by itself the soil

produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹ As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

Mark 4 30-32 New International Version

³⁰ Again Jesus said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. ³² Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”

Rota for Readers, Intercessors and Sidepersons

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

Date	First Reading	Second Reading	Intercessor	Sidesperson
Sunday 12 January The Blessing of the Plough and the Lamb	Genesis 1. 9-13 Judith Dewdney	Mark 4.2-8; 26-29; 30-32 Read by Linda	Tony Dewdney	Colin Marlow
Sunday 19 January	Isaiah 62.1-5 Jacky Toms	1 Corinthians 12.1-11 Bob Toms	Andrea Fitton	Janet Tute
Sunday 26 January	Nehemiah 8.1-3; 5-6; 8-10	1 Corinthians 12.12-31a	Tony Dewdney	Lawrie Brown

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: Elizabeth Beecroft, Walter Slater.

The Collect

Almighty God, who works through our hands and our minds as we strive to renew the face of the earth and bring your kingdom; give us reverence for the power you give us, and love for the small part of your creation which you have entrusted to each of us. Amen.

Hymn of the Week

Praise and Thanksgiving (Tune - Morning has broken)

Praise and thanksgiving, Father we offer,
for all things living thou madest good;
Harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.

Bless thou the labour we bring to serve thee,
that with our neighbour we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with thee;
Harvesting, milling, for daily bread.

Father, providing food for thy children,
thy wisdom guiding teaches us share
one with another, so that rejoicing
with us, our brother may know thy care.

Then will thy blessing reach every people;
all men confessing thy gracious hand.
Where thy will reigneth no man will hunger;
thy love sustaineth; fruitful the land.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zjRf3_QZQWE

Weddings and Christenings

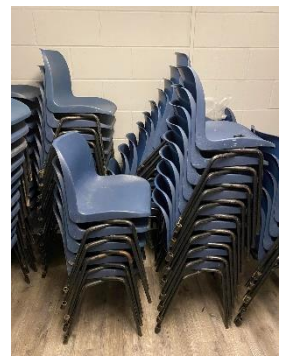


Are you celebrating a wedding or a christening in 2024 or 2025? If so, you might like to look round our beautiful Victorian church. We would be delighted to show you round. To see some photos of past events, have a look on our website: <https://www.stthomashenbury.org.uk/life-events/>

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



General Knowledge Quiz

1. In which year did the Fire of London take place?
2. What's the name of Andy Capp's wife?

3. In which TV programme did the expression *She who must be obeyed* appear?
4. Which actress starred in the original film of Mary Poppins?
5. Which fashion designer introduced the mini skirt in 1966?
6. Who said *Work is the curse of the drinking classes*?
7. Through which city did Lady Godiva ride naked?
8. Who starred in the TV series *Crocodile Shoes*?
9. Who is the only clean-shaven member of Snow White's Seven Dwarfs?
10. Who co-starred with Meryl Streep in *The French Lieutenant's Woman*?

Answers to our last quiz:

1. Jingle Bells 2. Putting up Christmas decorations 3. Dung on a stick 4. Norway 5. Tinsel
6. Michael Caine 7. Five 8. Turkey 9. Home Alone 2 10. Seven swans a swimming

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

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.

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



Other News

Broken Cross Dementia Club

Broken Cross Methodist Church hosts 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 40244

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.

The Hope Centre

The Hope Centre has been serving the people of Macclesfield for 13 years now. We are a community café and have a good selection of gifts and cards for every 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

May God bless you in winter and summer, at your ploughing, your sowing and your reaping; may God give you sunshine and rain in due season; may God, who gladdens the face of the earth, give you joyfulness of heart; may God who has called you to work on the land, set his affections upon himself. And may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with us all ever more. Amen.

God bless,

Rev. Canon Simon Bessant (07957211319), Bob (07753583555), Carole (611477), Andrea (07366561955) and Linda (424505)

For Church bookings please contact: **Bob 07753583555.**

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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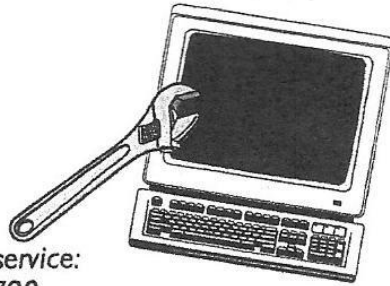
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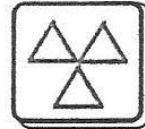
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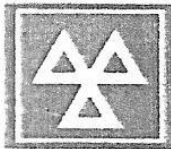
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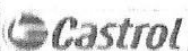
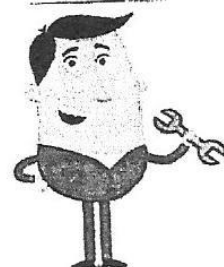
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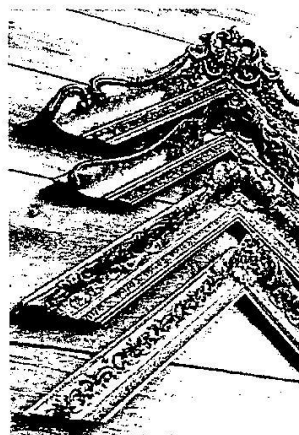
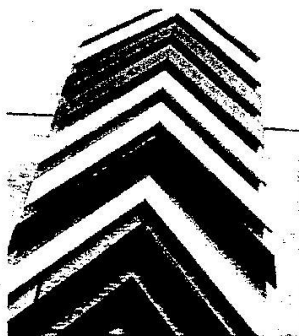
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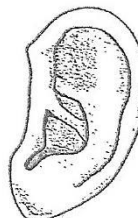
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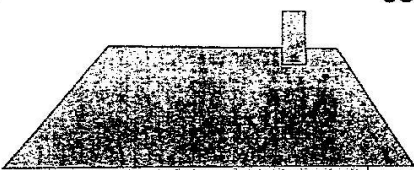
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