

St Thomas' Church Henbury and Broken Cross
Sunday 16 March 2025 – Second Sunday before Lent
***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 16 March 9.30 a.m. – Celebration Baptism - Rev. Canon
Simon Bessant and Linda Craig **at St John's****
**Sunday 16 March 11.00 a.m. – Celebration Baptism - Rev. Canon
Simon Bessant and Linda Craig**
**Sunday 23 March 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion – Third Sunday of
Lent – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig**
**Sunday 30 March 11.00 a.m. – Mothering Sunday – Rev. Canon
Simon Bessant and Andrea Fitton**
**Sunday 6 April 9.30 a.m. – Breakfast Church in St Thomas' Parish
Hall – a relaxed family-oriented service – Rev. Canon Simon
Bessant, Andrea Fitton and Linda Craig**

Sunday 6 April 11.00 a.m. – Holy Communion — The Fifth Sunday of Lent - Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig

Sunday 13 April 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**

Sunday 13 April 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion — Palm Sunday - Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig

Sunday 20 April 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion – Easter Sunday – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig

Sunday 27 April 11.00 a.m. – Holy Communion – Easter 2 – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig

Sunday 4 May 9.30 a.m. – Breakfast Church in St Thomas' Parish Hall – a relaxed family-oriented service – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant, Andrea Fitton and Linda Craig

Sunday 4 May 9.30 a.m. – Holy Communion Easter 3 – Rev. Chris Scargill **at St John's**

Sunday 4 May 11.00 a.m. – Holy Communion – Easter 3 – Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig

Sunday 11 May 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**

Sunday 11 May 11.00 a.m. - Holy Communion – Easter 4 – 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 (apart from the Second Sunday in each month, which is Breakfast Church at St John's at 9.30 a.m.). 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 recent services

Sunday 23 February – Second Sunday before Lent
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8k8g-S4oTF8>

Sunday 2 March – Sunday Next before Lent
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3phYOU3TCUA>

Wednesday 5 March – Ash Wednesday

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COO1nRmt3Gw>

Sunday 9 March – Breakfast Church at St John's

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

Other Events

Wednesday 19 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

Thursday 20 March - Little Angels Mums and Tots Group at St Thomas' Parish Hall 9.30-11.00 a.m.

Friday 21 March - C.A.M.E.O. (Come And Meet Each Other) at St Thomas' Church Hall 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Wednesday 26 March – Sunbeams Mums and Tots Group at St John's 10 a.m.–11.30. One hour play, 15 mins snack time, 15 mins circle time £2

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

Thursday 27 March – Little Angels Mums and Tots Group at St Thomas' Parish Hall 9.30-11.00 a.m.

Tuesday 1 April - Mothers' Union – St Thomas Church Hall – 10 a.m. – 12 noon

Wednesday 2 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

Thursday 3 April – Little Angels Mums and Tots Group at St Thomas' Church Hall 9.30-11.00 a.m. £1 per child

Wednesday 23 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

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, Carolyn Andrew and David Harrison.

RIP: Dorothy Matthews

Interment of Ashes: Eric Lysons

Reading for our Celebration Christening

Luke 8:1-15 New International Version

8 After this, Jesus travelled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, ² and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases:

Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; ³ Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means. ⁴ While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: ⁵ "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. ⁶ Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown."

When he said this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear." ⁹ His disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰ He said, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, "though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand."^[a]

¹¹ "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. ¹² Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³ Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. ¹⁴ The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. ¹⁵ But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

The Collect for the Second Sunday of Lent

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Weddings and Christenings



Are you celebrating a wedding or a christening in 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

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	Old Testament	New Testament	Theme	Intercessor	Sidesperson
Sunday 16 March Celebration Christening	Luke 8.1-15 Read by Andrea	none	Baptism and Growth	Linda	Colin Marlow
Sunday 23 March Third Sunday of Lent	Isaiah 55.1-9 Laura Watson	1 Corinthians 10.1-13 Bob Toms	The Challenge of Disciple-ship	Andrea	Christine Glynn
Sunday 30 March Mothering Sunday	Exodus 2.1-10 Judith	Colossians 3.12-17 Jackie Booth	Tbd	Tony	Lawrie Brown

Hymn of the Week – My Lighthouse

Here is one of our favourites from Breakfast Church:

In my wrestling and in my doubts
In my failures You won't walk out
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea, oh oh
You are the peace in my troubled sea

In the silence, You won't let go
In the questions, Your truth will hold
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea, oh oh
You are the peace in my troubled sea

My Lighthouse, my lighthouse
Shining in the darkness, I will follow You
My Lighthouse, my lighthouse (oh oh)
I will trust the promise,
You will carry me safe to shore (Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)

Safe to shore (Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore

I won't fear what tomorrow brings
With each morning I'll rise and sing
My God's love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea, oh oh
You are the peace in my troubled sea, oh oh

You are my light
My Lighthouse, my lighthouse (Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Shining in the darkness, I will follow You (Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
My Lighthouse, my lighthouse (Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
I will trust the promise,
You will carry me safe to shore (Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore

Fire before us, You're the brightest
You will lead us through the storms

Fire before us, You're the brightest
You will lead us through the storms

Fire before us, You're the brightest
You will lead us through the storms

Fire before us, You're the brightest
You will lead us through the storms

My Lighthouse, my lighthouse (Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Shining in the darkness, I will follow You (Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
My Lighthouse, my lighthouse (Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
I will trust the promise,
You will carry me safe to shore (Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=reAIJKv7ptU>



Breakfast Church

We had a record attendance at our last Breakfast Church at St Thomas' on 2 March. It was lovely to see so many families worshipping together. Here is a photo of James being interviewed by Vicar Simon in our *This Time Tomorrow* slot. Our next Breakfast Church at St Thomas' Parish Hall is on Sunday 6 April at 9.30 a.m. All are welcome.

Mike Moore – 90 years young - Congratulations

Many congratulations from everyone at St Thomas' Church to Mike Moore who celebrated his 90th birthday at the beginning of March.



Mothers' Union

Macclesfield Mothers' Union will be holding a Lenten Lunch at Henbury Parish Hall on Tuesday, 8th April at 12.30 p.m. Tickets are £5 each and are available from Di Waller, and Lynne Hibbert. This event is open to anyone, not just MU members. Please come along and support us. Money raised will go to MU fundraising.

Recharge

We had a lovely Recharge meeting at St Thomas' Parish Hall on 12 March. Why not come along and join us next time, April 9? Don't know what to expect? It's a combination of a Lent Group and a mid-week relaxed service of Holy Communion, rounded off with some time for socialising as we eat our packed lunches together. We meet in the Parish Hall (Church Lane Henbury SK11 9NN) at noon and the meeting ends around 1.45 p.m.



Opening Meeting re the Proposed Reorganisation of Anglican Churches in Macclesfield

Over the last year or so, there has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes considering various ways in which we might strengthen the Anglican Church in Macclesfield.

There are 9 churches in the town and the following proposal, which aims to utilise available resources more effectively, has been put forward.

The town's churches would be reorganised into 4 parishes, each with a specific focus:

1. St Michael's - Rev Martin Stephens – Civic Church
2. Holy Trinity Hurdsfield – Rev. James Gibson – Family Worship
3. St John's, the Church of the Resurrection (Upton Priory) and St Barnabas – vicar to be appointed – focus on estates' ministry
4. St Thomas', All Saints and St Peter's – vicar to be appointed – focus on traditional worship and pastoral care

There will be an Open Meeting at St Thomas' Parish Hall (Church Lane Henbury SK11 9NN) on Thursday April 10th at 7 p.m. to discuss these proposals and ask questions. The PCC members at St Thomas' will then vote on this proposal.

All are welcome to attend the meeting, although only members of the PCC will be eligible to vote.

It Happened in March Quiz

1. In March 1991 the Los Angeles Police badly beat a taxi driver following a high speed chase, however their subsequent acquittal, despite the video evidence, led to riots which killed 53 people. What was the drivers name?
2. Which Commonwealth nation was granted full independence from Britain in March 1986?
3. In March 1966 which famous trophy was stolen?
4. Henri Cornet died in March 1941. A previous winner of the Tour de France what record does he still hold (as of March 2016)?
5. This iconic plane made its maiden flight in March 1936?
6. Completed and turned over to the Federal Gov't in March 1936 the Hoover Dam is built on the border of which two States in America?
7. In March 1986 a fire ripped through which London Palace?
8. In March 1956 Tunisia gained independence from which country?

9. Serge Gainsbourg who died in March 1991 had a controversial hit with the song Je t'aime, who else featured on the recording?

10. The Airship Hindenburg made its maiden flight in March 1936. In which US state was it mooring when it caught fire and was destroyed?

Answers to our last quiz:

1. Columbia 2. Alexander Selkirk 3. Napoleonic 4. Patty Hearst 5. Papa-Doc 6. 1969
7. 27 8. Bernadette Soubrios 9. Spain 10. Enterprise

A great big thank you to everyone who has sent in contributions to the newsletter over the last five 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

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 4024



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

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.

Henbury Council Tax

Residents of Henbury will have received their Council Tax notice for 2025/26 recently. Cheshire East Council are facing severe financial challenges that have been widely reported in the media. The Government have recently stepped in offering financial assistance of £25.3 million for the coming year to ensure a balanced budget. A further £17.3m has been provided for the current

year to the council to avoid a section 114 notice when a council is unable to meet its obligations.

Henbury Parish Council have a good working dialogue with Cheshire East officers. It is evident that due to the pressures the council faces, cuts to services that residents would normally expect to be provided by CEC are no longer available. In some circumstances the Parish Council has taken over the funding of services or introduced services for the benefit of the community. Henbury Parish Council set the precept before the Government announced it would step in to help CEC and certain assumptions were made from local sources as to the further cuts we would face to services such as bin collection, weeding of roads and footpaths.

Recent and ongoing examples of Henbury Parish Council support are

- Winter Gritting and ploughing of major roads
- Upgrade and Maintenance of local footpaths
- Removal and pruning of trees impacting the highway
- Cutting back hedgerows on footpaths.
- Increased funding to the Millennium Green Trust
- Village maintenance of public areas
- Autumn leaf removal
- Lower Car park waste bin provision
- Bus shelter maintenance
- Community planting schemes throughout Henbury
- Largest ever community fibre broadband scheme in the uk to date that took councillors over three years and many hundreds of hours work with over £342,000 of works carried out at no cost to the community.
- In addition, the council have successfully managed to have siding works carried out on the footpath between Pepper Street and Rough Heys lane.
- Recent water supply disruptions are finally being addressed by United Utilities after several months of ongoing dialogue
- The Parish Council continue to address the unacceptable flooding issues on Church Lane by the sub station.

The Parish Council are in receipt of section S106 monies due to recent housing developments within the parish. Consequently, the Parish Council have sought to increase the precept for 2025/26 so that working in conjunction with Cheshire East Council we may address the state of certain infrastructure elements such as pavements and footpaths that are long overdue attention. If we do not use the significant funds allocated to the Parish Council within a five year window then all monies have to be returned to the developer. It is for this reason that councillors unanimously agreed to have a larger increase in the precept to assist with the funding.

The parish Council reduced the precept by 12.8% last year to maintain a balanced budget.

It should be noted that the following precept levels have applied in Henbury to a Band F property in recent years.

Year	Amount	Increase/Decrease
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2020/21	£76.97	n/a
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2021/22	£88.98	15.6%
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2022/23	£91.53	2.9%
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2023/24	£90.25	-1.4%
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2024/25	£78.68	-12.8%
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The precept for an F property is now £102.14 a 29% increase however compared to 2022/23 this is an 11% increase.

If you are interested in taking a more active role in the village, then how about becoming a Parish Councillor. To learn more please consider having an informal chat with either David Nuttall (Chair) or Mike Wood (Deputy Chair).

Their contact details are on the Parish Council part of the following website:

<https://www.henbury.org/>

Closing Prayer

God, you have created us out of your love and for your love.

Christ, you have redeemed us by your love and for your love.

Holy Spirit, you inspire us with your love and for your love.

Give us grace to perceive your love and to reflect your love,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 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: **Janet on 07709701732 or janettute@googlemail.com.** Many thanks to Janet for taking on this role.

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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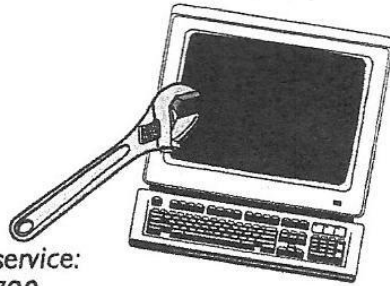
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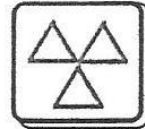
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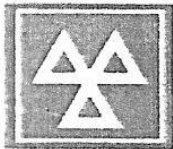
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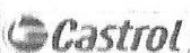
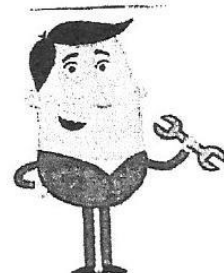
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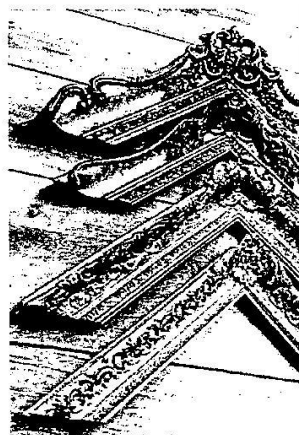
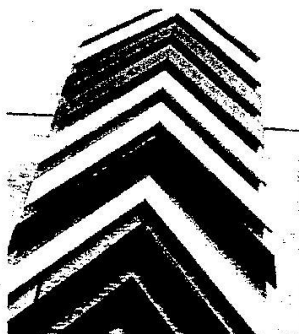
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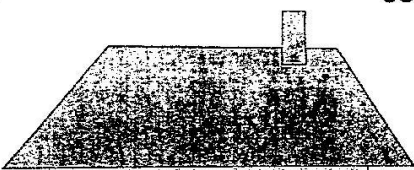
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