

**St Thomas' Church Henbury and Broken Cross
Sunday 30 March 2025 – Fourth Sunday of Lent – 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/>***



Coming Up

Worship

**Sunday 30 March 11.00 a.m. – Mothering Sunday – Holy
Communion – 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**

Thursday 17 April 7.30 p.m. Maundy Thursday – Joint Agape Service at St John's
Sunday 11.00 a.m. - Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig
Friday 18 April – Good Friday Service
Saturday 19 April 8 p.m. – Easter Eve Service – Rev. Chris Scargill, Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Linda Craig at St John's
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
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 Church
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
Sunday 18 May - Holy Communion – Easter 5 – 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 16 March – Celebration Christening – no recording

Sunday 23 March – Third Sunday of Lent

Other Events

£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 9 April Recharge – our relaxed, midweek service at St Thomas’ Church 12.00 – 1.30 p.m.

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

Wednesday 23 April - Recharge – our relaxed, midweek service at St John’s Church 12.00 – 1.30 p.m.

Thursday 24 April - Little Angels Mums and Tots Group at St Thomas’ Parish Hall 9.30-11.00 a.m.

Friday 26 April - C.A.M.E.O. (Come And Meet Each Other) at St Thomas’ Church Hall 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. (note change of week due to Easter)

Wednesday 30 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 7 May – 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

Wednesday 14 May Recharge – our relaxed, midweek service at St Thomas’ Church 12.00 – 1.30 p.m.

For our Prayers

Christenings: We welcome into God’s family Evie and Millie who were christened at St Thomas’ Church on 16 March by Rev. Canon Simon Bessant and Teddy who was also christened by Simon on the same day at St John’s.

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

Readings for Mothering Sunday

Exodus 2:1-10 New International Version

2 Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, ² and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. ³ But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket^[a] for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. ⁴ His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

⁵ Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. ⁶ She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

⁷ Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

⁸ "Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. ⁹ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. ¹⁰ When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses,^[b] saying, "I drew him out of the water."

The Collect for Mothering Sunday

God our Father, your Son Jesus Christ lived in a family in Nazareth: grant that in our families on earth we may so learn to love and to live together that we may rejoice as one family in your heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

Hymn of the Week

Breakfast Church

Date	Old Testament	New Testament	Theme	Intercessor	Sidesperson
Sunday 30 March Mothering Sunday	Exodus 2.1-10 Judith	Colossians 3.12-17 Jackie Booth	Tbd	Tony	Lawrie Brown



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.



Open 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**](mailto: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



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
2020/21	£76.97	n/a
2021/22	£88.98	15.6%
2022/23	£91.53	2.9%
2023/24	£90.25	-1.4%
2024/25	£78.68	-12.8%

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@gmail.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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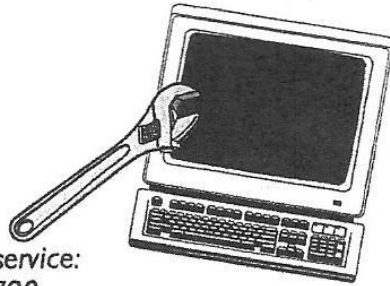
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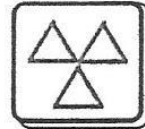
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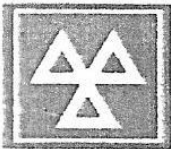
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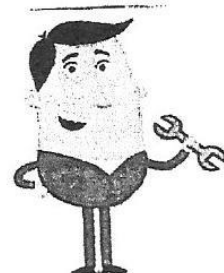
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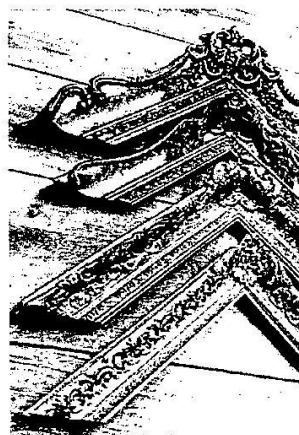
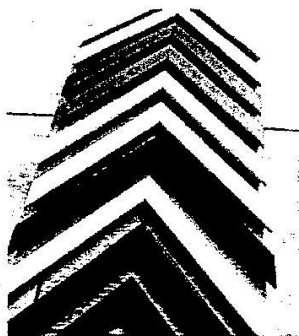
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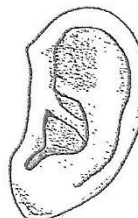
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