

Monthly News for February 2024



Welcome to St Thomas'

- Sunday 4th February:** *Chairs Adam & Sue / Coffee Allison & Spencer*
Theme – Unsung Heros, Acts 16:11-40
8.30am Early Holy Communion
10.30am All-In (suitable for all ages)
6.30pm for coffee, starting at 6.45pm for prayer & praise
- Sunday 11th February:** *Chairs – Sue & Jane / Coffee – Nigel & Jo*
Theme – King Herod Antipas
10.30am Holy Communion
3.00pm Wonderfully Messy Church
6.30pm for coffee, starting at 6.45pm for prayer & praise
- Sunday 18th February:** *Chairs – Geoff & Ed / Coffee – Sheila & Maureen*
Theme - Nicodemus
10.30 Morning Gathering
6.30pm for coffee, starting at 6.45pm for prayer & praise
- Sunday 25th February:** *Chairs – Phil & Sue / Coffee – Jane & Ed*
Theme - Mary Magdalen
10.30am Morning Gathering
6.30pm for coffee, starting at 6.45pm for prayer & praise

Please share new items for the Notice Sheet before 20th of each month

PLEASE KEEP ME!

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A Message From Our Vicar, David

February- a month which, according to Asda, Hallmark, and Amazon, is fully take up with all things pink and flowery. On the 14th of this month there'll be overpriced flowers and cards for sale at every shop, cheesy poems, and chocolatey goodies, all in the name of love and romance.

History suggests that St Valentine was priest who, despite being told by the authorities that married men made useless soldiers and therefore weddings were illegal, secretly offered wedding services to young couples looking to wed. Bishop Valentine maintained that marriage was part of God's plan and purpose for the world, and he went against Emperor Claudius who decreed that these young weddings were forbidden. His success led to unwelcome notoriety. He was jailed and ultimately beheaded, but not before he fell in love with the jailer's daughter. It is thought that on the evening of his execution the bishop passed her a note which read "from your Valentine".

Of course, the message of the Christian faith is that love wins. We look to Jesus, the one who is fully God and fully man, the one who is love, holiness and goodness- and we see a love that sent him to the cross. We read this in *1 John 4:9-10* - *In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

Whether or not your 14th February is full of romance, or just another normal day, there is one who love you beyond measure and longs for your heart. There is one who loved you to the cross, and who loves you today- Jesus Christ. The Bible is his love letter to you, and his gift is life in all its fullness.

Every blessing in Jesus' name,

David Sims
Vicar

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News, Dates & Special Events

Café on the Close, every Thursday, 10am-12pm - A time to relax with others and enjoy good coffee and a delicious snack! Opening hours - 10.00am - 12.00pm. See page 4.

Prayer & Percolation, every Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 9.15am, All welcome to pray in the Lounge. See Page 4.

Navigators, every Friday evening during term time - See details on page 5.

Healing on the Streets, Saturday 3rd February, 11am-1pm in Aldridge Centre, near Costa. See Page 5.

Brownies & Guides, every Monday evening in Term Time - see page 5.

Toms Toddlers - every Wednesday in Term Time - 10am - 12pm - For children from birth to age 2½. See page 5.

Footprints - every Wednesday in Term Time - 1pm - 2.30pm - For children from age 2½ to pre-school. See page 5.

Space to Pray - every Wednesday - at 6.30pm - join us to pray together in church, all welcome. See page 5.

Fizz, Saturday 10th February, 12pm - 2pm - Church for adults with learning difficulties and their carers, at Tynings Lane Church. See page 5.

Wonderfully Messy Church, Sunday 11th February, 3pm - Church for children with additional needs. See page 6.

Sheep Trail, During February Half Term - Look out for the sheep hiding in Aldridge. List the sheep's names and send them to hannahevans@stthomasaldridge.org.uk. Prizes for the most names!

Pancake Party, Tuesday 13th February, 2pm-4pm - Join us for pancake fun as we celebrate entering Lent.

Pizza Evening for 14's-18's, Thursday 15th February, 6.30pm - Come and make a pizza!

Wide Awake Club, Saturday 17th February - 10am. For dads, male carers and children. Details on page 5.

Monthly Munch, Tuesday 20th February - Join us for a delicious homecooked lunch. Booking essential. See page 5.

Brick Church, Wednesday 21st February, 4pm-5.30pm - Creative fun with bricks, a bible story and a chip shop tea! Booking essential. See page 6.

Lent Course, beginning 22nd February for 5 weeks - Join us as we follow Pete Greig's Lectio Prayer Course. (22nd Feb, 29th Feb, 7th March, 14th March, 21st March). Time to be confirmed.

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Knit Stitch & Natter, Friday 23rd February, at 10.30am in the Annex. An opportunity to work on your creative projects in the company of other creative people. See page 5.

Newcomer's Cream Tea, Sunday 25th February, 3pm - A lovely welcome to our newcomers (by invitation only).

COMING SOON ...

Filling Station, New Day & Venue! - Now taking place on the 1st Wednesday of each month, beginning 6th March, at Aldridge Parish Centre. 7.45pm for refreshments, 8pm start. See page 5.

Bistro Night - Look out for dates for 2024 which will be shared soon! See page 5.

New Wine United, in Shepton Mallet, 28th – 30th July. Find out more at <https://www.new-wine.org/events/newwine24>

Church Away Day, Saturday 28th September – Full details to be shared soon.

We also have three fabulous external events which are open to everyone - Dance Lessons, Line Dancing, Black Dog Children's Fitness. (See 5 & 6 for booking details)

Mission Focus

David Sims, will soon be sharing news about Homes For Good. This will then also be shared on our website under the heading Mission Focus <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/78262/view/>

Let's pray!

We meet for **Prayer & Percolation** in church lounge on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays at 9.15 am - 9.45 am. Do join us even if you don't like coffee (tea is available).

Space to Pray - Wednesday evenings in church from 6.30 pm - 7.15 pm. Time to sit in the Lord's presence & pray as the Spirit leads. Do join us.

Church Prayer List - for prayer support.

Prayer Circle - for confidential prayer support from a small group of prayer warriors.

Remember that nothing is too small or too big for the Lord's help.

Prayer requests to Prayer Co-ordinator: Lizspiers55@blueyonder.co.uk or 01922 453944

Prayer Focus for February - This month let us focus our prayers on the situation in the Middle East and Ukraine. We pray for an end to conflict in these regions and that leaders will come together to find peaceful solutions to end the suffering of so many and that other countries would not get drawn into conflict but would seek peace.

'I lift up my eyes to the mountains - where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth'. (Ps.121.1-2)

Adults - Regular Activities Held at St Thomas Church

Prayer & Percolation - All welcome every Monday, Wednesday, & Friday at 9.15 in the church lounge. Come & join us for coffee while we pray for our church, the world & each other.

Café on the Close - Offering a place to relax & enjoy social time with others over coffee. Opening hours - Every Thursday, 10am - 12pm.

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Filling Station - Aldridge churches meet for informal worship, teaching & fellowship with tea, coffee & cake! At Aldridge Parish Centre, on the 1st Wednesday of month. 7.45pm for refreshments & 8pm start. (Except for August & January).

Knit Stitch & Natter (IN THE ANNEX) - Last Friday of month (excluding August & December), at St T's, 10.30-12.00pm. All welcome, bring your crafts. Contact lizspiers55@blueyonder.co.uk

Healing on the Streets - 1st Sat of the month, 11am-1pm, at Aldridge Shopping Centre, near Costa.

Space to Pray - Wednesday evenings 6.30pm-7.15pm in church. Sit in the presence of the Lord; to lay before him the burdens of our hearts or just to sit at his feet & be refreshed. All welcome. For more details contact Liz Spiers - lizspiers55@blueyonder.co.uk

Monthly Munch - an opportunity to meet once a month (generally on the 3rd Tuesday of each month) for a home-cooked lunch at 12.30pm, at St Thomas Church. Booking is essential, contact office@stthomasaldridge.org.uk. Suggested donations of £2.

Burning Questions - An evening of interesting discussion and learning, with a different topic faced each time. Held at Aldridge Parish Church, at 7.45pm.

FIZZ - Church for adults with learning difficulties or special needs & their carers. Meeting at Tynings Lane Church at 12pm - 2pm, on the 2nd Saturday of each month, (except August).

Dance Lessons (External Booking), Tuesday Mornings - Let's Dance provide one-one tuition for adult couples or individuals. To book lessons, or to find out more information, please contact Mandy 07761 235200.

Line Dancing (External Booking), Every Friday morning, 10am - 12pm. For all ages, everyone welcome, contact Dave Waring to find out costs, or just turn up - 0776 251 4598 / dotluc@hotmail.com

CHILDRENS' - Regular Activities Held at St Thomas Church

Brownies & Guides - Monday Evenings during term time. Contact Steph Chebsie - steph_steps@yahoo.co.uk

Phoenix Navigators - For boys & girls aged 5 to 18. Friday evenings during term time. Contact Allison Hopkins - allisonjhopkins@gmail.com

Toms Toddlers - Wednesday mornings term time, in church 10.00am - 11.30am. For children from birth to pre-school age. Contact Hannah Evans - hannahevans@stthomasaldridge.org.uk

Footprints: For children from 2½ to school age. Every Wednesday term time, 1pm-2.30pm. Contact Hannah Evans - hannahevans@stthomasaldridge.org.uk

Wide Awake Club - For Dads, Grandads & children up to age 10. At St T's on 3rd Saturday of month, except August, 10am-11.30am. Hot drink & bacon, sausage or egg sandwich for adults, toast, squash, toys & crafts for smaller people.

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Wonderfully Messy Church - A Faith based group for littlies with additional needs & their grown-ups. Every 2nd Sunday of the month, 3pm-4.30pm. Booking essential, please contact our Vicar David Sims vicar@stthomasaldridge.org.uk

Brick Church - A monthly get-together on Wednesday afternoons (dates vary), at 4pm-5.30pm (except Summer Holidays). Come and hear a Bible story, have fun with bricks & share a chippie tea. Booking is essential for catering purposes!

Black Dog Children's Fitness - This wonderful children's fitness group is run by Lucy Khayat, please contact her for details - lucykhayat4@gmail.com [Black Dog Children's Fitness](#) | [Facebook](#)

What's On ...		
Thurs 1 st February	Life Group (Sheila G)	10.30am – 12.00pm
	Café on the Close	10.00am – 12.00pm
Friday 2 nd February	Prayer & Percolation	9.15am (Lounge)
	External Line Dancing	10am – 12pm
	Navigators	Evening
Sat 3 rd February	External – Black Dog Fitness	9am – 12.30pm
	Songwriting Circle	2pm-5pm
Sunday 4 th February	Gathering on front sheet	
Mon 5 th February	Prayer & Percolation	9.15am (Lounge)
	Brownies & Guides	Evening
Tues 6 th February	External – Dance Lessons	9.00am – 1.00pm
	Toddler Set-Up	1.00pm – 3.00pm
	Band Practice	8.00pm – 9.00pm
Wed 7 th February	Prayer & Percolation	9.15am (Lounge)
	Toddlers	10.00am – 11.30am
	Footprints	1pm – 2.30pm
	Space to Pray	6.30pm – 7.15pm
	External – Dance Practice	7.30pm
Thur 8 th February	Life Group (Sheila Gilchrist)	10.30am – 12.00pm
	Café on the Close	10.00am – 12.00pm
Friday 9 th February	Prayer & Percolation	9.15am lounge
	External – Line Dancing	10am – 12pm
	Navigators	Evening
Sat 10 th February	Black Dog Children's Fitness	9am – 12.30pm
	FIZZ	12pm – 2pm (at Tynings Lane)
Sund 11 th February	Gatherings on front sheet	
	Wonderfully Messy Church	3pm
Mon 12 th February	Prayer & Percolation	9.15am (Lounge)
	<i>No Brownies/Guides Half Term</i>	<i>Evening</i>
Tues 13 th February	External – Dance Lessons	10am – 1.00pm
	<i>No Toddler Set-Up Half Term</i>	<i>(usually 1.00pm – 3.00pm)</i>
	Pancake Party	2pm-4pm
	Band Practice	7pm – 9pm
Wed 14 th February	Prayer & Percolation	9.15am (Lounge)
	<i>No Toddlers Half Term</i>	<i>(usually 10.00am – 11.30am)</i>
	<i>No Footprints Half Term</i>	<i>(usually 1pm – 2.30pm)</i>
	Space to Pray	6.30pm – 7.15pm

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	External – Dance Practice	7.30pm
Thurs 15th February	Café on the Close Life Group (Sheila Gilchrist) External Room Hire, Party Pizza Evening For 14-18's	10am – 12pm 10.30am–12.00pm 4pm- 6pm (Brian Open / Joyce Close) 6.30pm
Friday 16th February	Prayer & Percolation External – Line Dancing External Room Hire, Party (No Navigators Half Term)	9.15 (Lounge) 10am – 12pm 1pm -5pm (Open/Close Sue or Brenda tbc) (usually Evening)
Sat 17th February	Black Dog Children's Fitness Wide Awake Club	9am – 12.30pm (Annex) 10am
Sun 18th February	Gatherings on front sheet	
Mon 19th February	Prayer & Percolation Adoption Support Group Brownies & Guides	9.15am (Lounge) 12.30pm-2.30pm Evening
Tue 20th February	External – Dance Lessons Monthly Munch Toddler Set-Up Band Practice	10am – 1.00pm 12.15pm 1.00pm – 3.00pm 7pm – 9pm
Wed 21st February	Prayer & Percolation Toddlers Footprints Brick Church Space to Pray External – Dance Practice	9.15am (Lounge) 10.00am – 11.30am 1pm – 2.30pm 4pm-5.30pm 6.30pm – 7.15pm 7.30pm
Thur 22nd February	Café on the Close Life Group (Sheila Gilchrist) Lent Course	10am – 12pm 10.30am–12.00pm Time to be confirmed
Frid 23rd February	Prayer & Percolation External – Line Dancing Knit, Stitch & Natter Navigators	9.15am lounge 10am – 12pm 10.30am – 12pm (Annex) Evening
Sat 24th February	Black Dog Children's Fitness Potential Room Hire Party (tbc)	9am – 12.30pm 1pm-4pm
Sun 25th February	Gatherings on front sheet Newcomer's Cream Tea	 3pm
Mon 26th February	Prayer & Percolation Brownies & Guides	9.15am (Lounge) Evening
Tues 27th February	External – Dance Lessons Toddler Set-Up Band Practice	10am – 1.00pm 1.00pm – 3.00pm 7pm – 9pm
Wed 28th February	Prayer & Percolation Toddlers Footprints Space to Pray External – Dance Practice	9.15am (Lounge) 10.00am – 11.30am 1pm – 2.30pm 6.30pm – 7.15pm 7.30pm
Thurs 29th February	Café on the Close Life Group (Sheila Gilchrist) Lent Course	10am – 12pm 10.30am–12.00pm Time to be confirmed

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Contacts

- **Clergy –**
Rev David Sims (VICAR) vicar@stthomasaldridge.org.uk, office number 01922 453942
Rev Jeremy Bakewell 07790 986575
Rev Sue Quibell 07889 88554
If you would like to talk please feel free to phone on the numbers above.
- **Church Office –**
Administrator - Genette Andrews. Office hours are **Monday to Thursday from 9 am till 12 pm.**
Genette will be happy to help with your queries.
Telephone - 01922 453942 / Email - office@stthomasaldridge.org.uk
Please note that messages are not be seen or heard on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays.
- **Children & Families Worker: Hannah Evans -**
Telephone: office 01922 453942 / home 01922 693298 / mobile 07921 387241
Email: hannahevans@stthomasaldridge.org.uk
Please note that messages are not be seen or heard on Fridays & Saturdays.
- **Intern –** Barney Doel 01922 453942
- **Prayer Coordinator: Liz Spiers -**
Telephone 01922 453944 / email lizspiers55@blueyonder.co.uk if you wish to discuss any prayer needs, including ongoing prayer ministry & details of the Prayer Circle.
- **Wardens -**
Sue Grundy: 07772 925069 / susan.grundy@yahoo.com
Andrew Dickson: 07989 143388 / andrewjdickson999@hotmail.com
Glennys Davis: 07905 210399 / glennys49@hotmail.com
Joyce Peel: 01922 456140 / joycepeel@btinternet.com
- **Safeguarding -**
Safeguarding is *everybody's* responsibility. If you have concerns about how somebody might be treating you or another person, please do not hesitate to contact the following people –
Sue Grundy (for children) - 07772 925069 / susan.grundy@yahoo.com
Sue Quibell (for adults) - 07889 885545 / s.quibell@gmail.com
(see poster in church foyer for other numbers & information). **A copy of our safeguarding policy is available in the church foyer & church office.**
- **Fabrics & Health and Safety –**
Andrew Dickson: 07989 143388 / andrewjdickson999@hotmail.com

Websites <https://stthomasaldridge.org.uk/> or www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4121/)

Cooper & Jordan School Applications: Parents should be aware that we follow the school's admission policy on attendance & in accordance with Diocesan guidelines 'regular attendance' at **worship** constitutes a minimum of at least **two services per month**. The guidelines further suggest that regular attendance should have been for at least two years before application. Please see the Welcome Desk to ensure your attendance is recorded. **New information: Supporting letters are now being done in batches when we receive the list of applications from C&J. The letters are then sent directly back to C&J but feel free to check with our office that your child's name features in the list.**

Gift Aid: The Government adds 25% to each 'Gift Aided' donation at no cost to you. If you don't have a regular Gift Aid arrangement, but would nevertheless like to Gift Aid a donation today, please use one of the brown Gift Aid envelopes available from the leaflet rack, or do ask a Steward to find one for you. Please see our Treasurer, **Ron Heaton** for more information if needed.