

## Monthly News for March 2024



# Welcome to St Thomas'

<b>Sunday 3rd March:</b>	<i>Chairs</i> Simon & Sue / <i>Coffee</i> Allison & Spencer <b>Theme – Unsung Heros, Joseph of Arimathea</b> 8.30am Early Holy Communion 10.30am All-In (suitable for all ages) 6.30pm for coffee, starting at 6.45pm for prayer & praise
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March:</b>	<i>Chairs</i> – Clive & Genette / <i>Coffee</i> – Helen & Ann <b>Theme – Pilate</b> 10.30am Holy Communion 3.00pm Wonderfully Messy Church 6.30pm for coffee, starting at 6.45pm for prayer & praise
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March:</b>	<i>Chairs</i> – Geoff & Ed / <i>Coffee</i> – Brian & Margaret <b>Theme – Simon Peter</b> 10.30 Morning Gathering 6.30pm for coffee, starting at 6.45pm for prayer & praise
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March:</b>	<i>Chairs</i> – Jane & Adam / <i>Coffee</i> – Colin & Sue <b>Theme – Palm Sunday</b> 10.30am Morning Gathering 6.30pm for coffee, starting at 6.45pm for prayer & praise
<b>Sunday 31st March:</b>	<i>Chairs</i> – Phil & Colin / <i>Coffee</i> – Nigel & Jo <b>Theme – Easter Sunday He is Risen</b> 10.30am Morning Gathering 6.30pm for coffee, starting at 6.45pm for prayer & praise

Please share new items for the Notice Sheet before 20<sup>th</sup> of each month

**PLEASE KEEP ME!**

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### A MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR DAVID

Easter's coming!

As I write this, I can see our Easter postcard on my board behind my laptop. My mind is full of all the *stuff* on the pre-Easter to do list- rotas, sermons, service planning, emails, phone calls, assemblies...

And as I reflect on this, I also wonder what the few weeks before Jesus' death was like for those who were part of that story. From Pilate to Herod, Mary Magdalene to Nicodemus.... all these people have different roles to play, different input and influence- but what about the bits we don't see in scripture?

What about those conversations in their heads in the quiet nights? What about the hidden worries and secrets of their hearts? What about the questions they wondered, the worries they held, the hopes they dreamed?

We can guess - but we don't know for certain, but what we do know is that these people will have had these questions, these worries, and these hopes. We can read of some of them- of the disciples despairing in Matthew 26:22. Peter worrying about what others thought in Matt 26:74. Mary Magdalene having some kind of a sense of hope in Mark 16.

What about you? As we approach the pinnacle of the Christian year, what are your worries, dream, your hopes, and your fears?

We bring ourselves, all that we are, to the cross. We lay our worries, our fears, hopes and dreams at the bleeding feet of the Ancient of Days.

This Easter, we'd love to see you- as we gather, grow and go together, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we do it all for Jesus- the executed, risen and ascended King.

Every blessing in Jesus' name,

**David Sims**  
Vicar

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## THIS MONTH

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

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

**Phoenix Navigators, every Friday evening during term time** - Children and young people age 5-18. Friday evenings term time - [allisonjhopkins@googlemail.com](mailto:allisonjhopkins@googlemail.com)

**Healing on the Streets, Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 11am-1pm** - Every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month. 11am - 1pm. Meeting outside Costa in Aldridge Shopping Centre.

**Brownies & Guides, every Monday evening in Term Time** - Contact Steph Chebsie - [steph\\_steps@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:steph_steps@yahoo.co.uk)

**Toms Toddlers, Every Wednesday morning term time, 10.00am-11.30am** - For Children from birth to pre-school age. Contact Hannah Evans - [hannahevans@stthomasaldridge.org.uk](mailto:hannahevans@stthomasaldridge.org.uk)

**Footprints - every Wednesday in term time, 1pm - 2.30pm** - For children from 2½ to school age. Every Wednesday term time, 1pm-2.30pm. Contact Hannah Evans - [hannahevans@stthomasaldridge.org.uk](mailto:hannahevans@stthomasaldridge.org.uk)

**Space to Pray - every Wednesday - at 6.30pm** - Wednesday evenings 6pm-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 and be refreshed. All welcome. For more details contact Liz Spires, [lizspires55@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:lizspires55@blueyonder.co.uk)

**World Day of Prayer - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March, at 7pm** - Taking place at Aldridge Parish Church, all welcome to come and pray.

**Early Holy Communion, Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, at 8.30am**

**Filling Station, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March, at Aldridge Parish Centre, at 7.45pm for refreshments, 8pm start** - Join with the Churches of Aldridge for Filling Station. Now taking place on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at the new venue of Aldridge Parish Centre. See page 5

**Lent Course, Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March, at 7.45pm for an 8pm start** - Join us as we follow Pete Greig's Lectio Prayer Course.

**FIZZ, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March, at 12pm** - Church for adults with learning difficulties or special needs & their carers. Meeting at Tynings Lane Church at 12pm - 2pm, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month, (except August).

**Holy Communion, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March, at 10.30am**

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**Wonderfully Messy Church, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March, at 3pm** - A Faith based group for littlies with additional needs & their grown-ups. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, 3pm-4.30pm. Booking essential, contact [vicar@stthomasaldridge.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stthomasaldridge.org.uk)

**Monthly Munch, Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March, at 12.15pm** - An opportunity to meet once a month for a home-cooked lunch. Generally takes place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month (however dates can fluctuate) at 12.30pm, at St Thomas Church. Booking is essential, contact [office@stthomasaldridge.org.uk](mailto:office@stthomasaldridge.org.uk). Suggested donations of £2.

**Parish PCC, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March, at 8pm** - Aldridge Parish Church Centre

**Knit Stitch & Natter, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, at 10.30am 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](mailto:lizspiers55@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Wide Awake Club, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, at 10am** - Dads, Grandads & children up to age 10. 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of month, except August, 10am-11.30am. Hot drink & breakfast sandwich for adults. Toys, toast & squash for smaller people

**Palm Sunday Celebration, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March, at 10.30am** - A relaxed gathering, complete with parade, singing and hot cross buns.

**Brick Church, Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March, at 4pm** - Monthly on Wednesday afternoons (dates vary). 4pm-5.30pm (except Summer Holidays). Hear a Bible story, fun with bricks & share a chippie tea. Booking is essential!

**Maundy Thursday Evening Gathering, Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March, at 6.30pm** - A reflective time, thinking through the last supper.

**Good Friday All-In, Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 10.30am** - A celebration for all ages and stages. Something for everyone!

**Good Friday, Hour at the Cross, Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March, at 2.00pm** - A quiet, reflective gathering as we sit in front of the cross together.

**Easter Worship Vigil, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 8pm until Midnight** - Join us in church as we worship and wait for the King.

**EASTER DAY CELEBRATION! Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> April, at 10.30am** - Join us as we celebrate the resurrection together. There will be hot cross buns, coffee to start, and children's groups during the service.

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### OTHER EVENTS TO LOOK OUT FOR

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

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

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

**Church Away Day, Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September** - Full details to be shared soon.

### EXTERNAL EVENTS THAT YOU CAN JOIN See booking details below

**Black Dog Children's Fitness** - Children's fitness classes. Contact Lucy Khayat, [lucykhayat4@gmail.com](mailto:lucykhayat4@gmail.com)

**Dance Lessons (External Booking), Tuesday Mornings** - One-one tuition for adult couples or individuals. Contact Mandy Daniels, [amandadaniels119@outlook.com](mailto:amandadaniels119@outlook.com).

**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 - Contact [dotluc@hotmail.com](mailto:dotluc@hotmail.com)

### MISSION FOCUS

The Thomas Project, will soon be sharing news about their wonderful work in Aldridge. 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 the 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](mailto:Lizspiers55@blueyonder.co.uk) or 01922 453944

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**Prayer Focus for March** - How good it is to pray together! Our Call to Prayer at Space to Pray in February had such a positive response, and someone shared a picture of looking down into the church seeing beams of light shining upwards to heaven, representing our prayers. So, let us continue to focus our prayers this month on the Church Prayer List where there are so many people in need of the Lord's help and especially the children, yet to be born or at the beginning of their lives. Let us look through the list each day and pray for their needs. *Jesus said "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."* Matt.19.14

### WHAT'S ON ...

<b>Friday 1st March</b>	Prayer & Percolation External Line Dancing Navigators World Day of Prayer	9.15am (Lounge) 10am – 12pm Evening 7.00pm (Aldridge Parish Church)
<b>Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	External – Black Dog Fitness	9am – 12.30pm
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	Gathering on front sheet	
<b>Mon 4<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Prayer & Percolation Brownies & Guides	9.15am (Lounge) Evening
<b>Tues 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	External – Dance Lessons Toddler Set-Up Band Practice	9.00am – 1.00pm 1.00pm – 3.00pm 8.00pm – 9.00pm
<b>Wed 6<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Prayer & Percolation Toddlers Footprints Space to Pray External – Dance Practice Filling Station	9.15am (Lounge) 10.00am – 11.30am 1pm – 2.30pm 6.30pm – 7.15pm 7.30pm 7.45pm for 8pm start (Aldridge Parish Cntr)
<b>Thur 7<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Life Group (Sheila Gilchrist) Café on the Close Lent Course	10.30am – 12.00pm 10.00am – 12.00pm 7.45pm for 8pm start
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Prayer & Percolation External – Line Dancing Navigators Sleepover	9.15am lounge 10am – 12pm Evening – 9am Saturday morning
<b>Sat 9<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Black Dog Children's Fitness FIZZ	9am – 12.30pm 12pm – 2pm (at Tynings Lane)
<b>Sund 10<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Gatherings on front sheet Wonderfully Messy Church	 3pm
<b>Mon 11<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Prayer & Percolation Brownies & Guides DCC	9.15am (Lounge) Evening 7.45pm (Annex)
<b>Tues 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>	External – Dance Lessons Toddler Set-Up Band Practice	10am – 1.00pm 1.00pm – 3.00pm 7pm – 9pm
<b>Wed 13<sup>th</sup> March</b>	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

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<b>Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Café on the Close Life Group (Sheila Gilchrist)	10am – 12pm 10.30am–12.00pm
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Prayer & Percolation External – Line Dancing Navigators	9.15 (Lounge) 10am – 12pm Evening
<b>Sat 16<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Black Dog Children’s Fitness External Party Room Hire	9am – 12.30pm 12.30pm – 4.30pm (open Andy TBC)
<b>Sun 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Gatherings on front sheet	
<b>Mon 18<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Prayer & Percolation Adoption Support Group Brownies & Guides	9.15am (Lounge) 12.30pm-2.30pm (Annex) Evening
<b>Tue 19<sup>th</sup> March</b>	External – Dance Lessons Monthly Munch Toddler Set-Up Band Practice	10am – 1.00pm 12.15pm 1.00pm – 3.00pm 7pm – 9pm
<b>Wed 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Prayer & Percolation Toddlers Footprints Space to Pray External – Dance Practice PCC at Aldridge Parish Church	9.15am (Lounge) 10.00am – 11.30am 1pm – 2.30pm 6.30pm – 7.15pm 7.30pm 7.45pm (time to be confirmed)
<b>Thur 21<sup>st</sup> March</b>	Café on the Close Life Group (Sheila Gilchrist) Lent Course	10am – 12pm 10.30am–12.00pm 7.45pm for 8.00pm start
<b>Frid 22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	Prayer & Percolation External – Line Dancing Knit, Stitch & Natter Navigators	9.15am lounge 10am – 12pm 10.30am – 12pm (Annex) Evening
<b>Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	Black Dog Children’s Fitness Wide Awake Club	9am – 12.30pm (ANNEX) 10.00am – 11.30am
<b>Sun 24<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Gatherings on Front Sheet Including Palm Sunday Parade	
<b>Mon 25<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Prayer & Percolation <i>No Brownies/Guides EASTER</i>	9.15am (Lounge) <i>Usually Evening</i>
<b>Tues 26<sup>th</sup> March</b>	External – Dance Lessons Band Practice	10am – 1.00pm 7pm – 9pm
<b>Wed 27<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Prayer & Percolation Brick Church Easter Special Space to Pray External – Dance Practice	9.15am (Lounge) 4pm – 5.30pm (booking essential!) 6.30pm – 7.15pm 7.30pm
<b>Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	Café on the Close Life Group (Sheila Gilchrist) Thinking About Last Supper	10am – 12pm 10.30am–12.00pm 6.30pm
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	Prayer & Percolation Good Friday All-In An Hour at the Cross <i>No Navigators EASTER</i>	9.15am lounge 10.30am 2.00pm <i>Usually Evening</i>
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Black Dog Children’s Fitness Easter Worship Vigil	9am – 12.30pm 8pm - Midnight
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March</b> <b>EASTER DAY</b>	Easter Celebration	10.30am – 12.00pm



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## Contacts

- **Clergy –**  
**Rev David Sims (VICAR)** [vicar@stthomasaldridge.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:susan.grundy@yahoo.com)  
**Andrew Dickson:** 07989 143388 / [andrewjdickson999@hotmail.com](mailto:andrewjdickson999@hotmail.com)  
**Glennys Davis:** 07905 210399 / [glennys49@hotmail.com](mailto:glennys49@hotmail.com)  
**Joyce Peel:** 01922 456140 / [joycepeel@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto:susan.grundy@yahoo.com)  
**Sue Quibell (for adults)** - 07889 885545 / [s.quibell@googlemail.com](mailto:s.quibell@googlemail.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](mailto:andrewjdickson999@hotmail.com)

Websites <https://stthomasaldridge.org.uk/> or [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4121/](http://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.