

Notices

Please join us for tea & coffee after the service.

Thanksgiving Service & Farewell to Bishop Joanne

6:30-9:00pm, Monday, September 22

Christ Church Spitalfields, E1 6LY

To attend sign up at <https://stepneylives.org/event/stepney-thanksgiving-service/>

Our new parish priest, Fr Stephen Hearn, will be licensed to this parish and St John's on Wednesday, 24th September. The service will be at 7.30pm here at St Thomas's, with refreshments available from 6.30pm.

This week:

Wednesday 3rd September: Open Church 5pm – 7pm (note different time)

Thursday 4th:

Tea at St Thomas's 2pm – 4pm.

Singing Group rehearsal 7pm.

Friday 5th:

Folklore & Festivals, a new 'history' group exploring why we do the things we do, 2pm – 4pm;

Crafts Group 6.30 - 8.30pm

We are collecting jars of coins to add to church general funds. Please bring them to church if you have any.

Please do not leave your bike unattended after the service. The church doors are being left open for people to come in and spend time in the church. Therefore, it is best if you take your bike into the hall with you during tea and coffee.

Please note that children should be accompanied to the toilet by their parent/carer.

Churchwardens

Anne Rose

churchwarden1@stthomaschurch.co.uk

Lena Scantlebury

churchwarden2@stthomaschurch.co.uk

St Thomas the Apostle, Finsbury Park

11th Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 31st August 2025



Pray for:

- the United Church of South India: Reuben Mark (Moderator, and Bishop of Karimnagar)
- Turku (Finland): Tapio Luoma (Archbishop), Mari Leppänen (Bishop)
- those working on the underground and rail network in our city
- the work of the Honorary Assistant Bishops in the Diocese
- retired priests serving in the Edmonton Area
- Neighbours in Gillespie Road
- Mayor of London and Greater London Authority
- our new Priest-in-Charge Fr Stephen Hearn as he prepares to join us on 24th September

Birthdays: Briony Murray (3)

For those sick/in need: Ken; Sebastian; Stan Smart; Maggie & Ken Warner; Christopher; Afsoon & family; Salima & family; June Hamlet; Corinne Urquhart; Mavis Sewhcomar; Nadira Ali; Kevin; Ray Pope & Rachael Demwell; Sacha Marson; Pat; Deirdre Waddell; Emma; Helen; Moriah & Jade; Wilma Murphy; Mary Ball.

Anniversaries: Marilyn Archer, Ernest Nowell (1); Terry Stockwell (2); William Cope (3); Benedict Green, David Jenkins (4); Sue Shrubsall (5); Dorothy Whyte (6)

www.stthomaschurch.co.uk

Welcome to St Thomas's. This sheet has everything you need to follow what is going on. The writing in grey italics gives instructions. The text in normal type will be spoken by a priest or member of the congregation. We all join in with the bold type.

Please stand when the bell rings and the altar party enters.

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Opening Hymn

1. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!

**Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!

**Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the mighty one.**

3. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!

**Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

4. Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!

**Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!**

*Timothy Dudley-Smith
NEH 186*

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Confession

We are invited to call to mind our sins.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.**

**4. When death these mortal eyes shall seal,
And still this throbbing heart,
The rending veil shall thee reveal
All glorious as thou art.**

*Ray Palmer, 1808-87
NEH 389 (tune: ST ANNE, NEH 417)*

The Angelus

The angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary:

and she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus:

**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the
hour of our death. Amen.**

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

Be it unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary...

And the Word was made flesh.

And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,

that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts; that as we
have known the Incarnation of thy Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of an
angel; so by his Cross and Passion, we may be brought to the glory of his
resurrection. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

Absolution

The celebrant prays for the forgiveness of our sins, to which we respond:

Amen.

The Gloria

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.**

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.

The Collect

We remain standing for the Collect, to which we respond:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Ecclesiasticus 10.12–18

The beginning of human pride is to forsake the Lord;
the heart has withdrawn from its Maker.
For the beginning of pride is sin,
and the one who clings to it pours out abominations.
Therefore the Lord brings upon them unheard-of calamities,
and destroys them completely.
The Lord overthrows the thrones of rulers,
and enthrones the lowly in their place.
The Lord plucks up the roots of the nations,
and plants the humble in their place.
The Lord lays waste the lands of the nations,
and destroys them to the foundations of the earth.
He removes some of them and destroys them,
and erases the memory of them from the earth.
Pride was not created for human beings,
or violent anger for those born of women.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We say the Response:

Good people are a light in the darkness for the upright.

1. The good are lights in the darkness for the upright;
they are generous, merciful and just.
Good people take pity and lend,
they conduct their affairs with honour. **R**

2. The just will never waver,

Psalm

The Notices

The Dismissal

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

...and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Final Hymn

**1. Jesus, these eyes have never seen
That radiant form of thine;
The veil of sense hangs dark between
Thy blessed face and mine.**

**2. I see thee not, I hear thee not,
Yet art thou oft with me;
And earth hath ne'er so dear a spot
As where I meet with thee.**

**3. Yet, though I have not seen, and still
Must rest in faith alone,
I love thee, dearest Lord, and will,
Unseen, but not unknown.**

**2. A heart resigned, submissive, meek,
My dear Redeemer's throne;
Where only Christ is heard to speak,
Where Jesus reigns alone:**

**3. A humble, lowly, contrite heart,
Believing, true, and clean,
Which neither life nor death can part
From him that dwells within:**

**4. A heart in every thought renewed,
And full of love divine;
Perfect and right and pure and good,
A copy, Lord, of thine.**

**5. My heart, thou know'st, can never rest
Till thou create my peace;
Till of mine Eden repossest,
From self, and sin, I cease.**

**6. Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart,
Come quickly from above;
Write thy new name upon my heart,
Thy new best name of love.**

*Charles Wesley, 1707-88
NEH 74*

Post Communion

**Lord of all mercy,
we your faithful people have celebrated
that one true sacrifice
which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace:
by our communion
keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel
and preserve us from all sin;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

they will be remembered for ever.
They have no fear of evil news;
with firm hearts they trust in the Lord. **R**

3. With steadfast hearts they will not fear;
Openhanded, they give to the poor:
their justice stands firm for ever.
Their heads will be raised in glory. **R**

Psalm 112:4-9 p60

Second Reading

Hebrews 13.1-8, 15, 16

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honour by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you.' So we can say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?'

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

We stand for the Gospel reading.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life;
You have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the Holy Gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 14.1, 7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. 'When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, "Give this person your place", and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, "Friend, move up higher"; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.'

He said also to the one who had invited him, 'When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'

At the end of the Gospel:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit for the sermon.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,**

The Creed

We break this bread, to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

We sing the Agnus Dei:

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

Behold Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

If you are baptised in the name of the Trinity, and are used to receiving communion, you are very welcome to do so here. Otherwise, you may like to come forward for a blessing. Please just bow your head as the priest comes to you.

Communion is available in both kinds. If you do not feel comfortable receiving from the common cup, it is perfectly valid to just receive the Host. If you would prefer to just receive in one kind, return to your seat before the chalice comes to you.

Please do not intinct (dip the bread into the wine). This is not permitted.

Communion Hymn

**I. O for a heart to praise my God,
A heart from sin set free;
A heart that always feels thy blood
So freely spilt for me:**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

The priest praises God for his mighty acts, and we sing or say the Sanctus and Benedictus:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the Highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the Highest.**

The priest prays the prayer of consecration, and this acclamation is said:

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

The Prayer continues, leading into the doxology, which ends:

... for ever and ever.

Amen.

The priest introduces the Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking of Bread

The priest breaks the consecrated host:

**maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Intercessions

In the intercessions, we make this, or another response:

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer

Merciful Father,

**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Peace

Please remain standing as the celebrant introduces the Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

**1. Angel-voices ever singing
Round thy throne of light,
Angel-harps, for ever ringing,
Rest not day nor night;
Thousands only live to bless thee
And confess thee
Lord of might.**

**2. Thou who art beyond the farthest
Mortal eye can scan,
Can it be that thou regardest
Songs of sinful man?
Can we know that thou art near us,
And wilt hear us?
Yea, we can.**

**3. For we know that thou rejoicest
O'er each work of thine;
Thou didst ears and hands and voices
For thy praise design;**

**Craftsman's art and music's measure
For thy pleasure
All combine.**

**4. In thy house, great God, we offer
Of thine own to thee;
And for thine acceptance proffer
All unworthily
Hearts and minds and hands and voices
In our choicest
Psalmody.**

**5. Honour, glory, might and merit
Thine shall ever be,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Blessed Trinity.
Of the best that thou hast given
Earth and heaven
Render thee.**

*Francis Pott, 1832-1909
NEH 336*

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Invitation to Prayer is said:

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands,
for the praise and glory of his name, for our good,
and the good of all his holy Church. Amen.**

The priest then prays the Prayer over the Gifts to which we respond:

Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.