

Sunday 7th December 2025

The Second Sunday of Advent

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight'

Welcome to everyone in church today and to those joining us online for our services. Please join us for refreshments after the service in the Church Hall. Please place your offering in the plate at the back of church before the service begins or use the QR code on each pew or use the card machine.

Hymns

	St Thomas	St James
Processional	358	11
Before the Gospel	307	3
Offertory	346	86
During Communion	27	9
	40	
Final	494	495

The Week Ahead & Information

- Mon-Fri** 9am Morning Prayer *on St Thomas' Facebook*
 6pm St John Stonefold Carol Concert *at St James*
- Tuesday** 9.30am Thomas Tots *at St Thomas' Hall*
 10am Eucharist *at St James*
 12-2pm Eat and Meat *at St James*
- Wednesday** 2.30pm Parish Nursery Nativity *at St James*
 7pm Film Night (Miracle on 34th Street) *at St James*
- Thursday** 10am Eucharist *at St Thomas'*
 11.45 Funeral of Jack Aston *at St Thomas'*

Next Sunday – 14th December: Third Sunday of Advent

- 8.00 Eucharist *at St Thomas'*
 9.15 Parish Eucharist *at St Thomas'*
 10.45 Parish Eucharist *at St James*

Thank You!

To all those who helped arrange and steward Friday evening's Brass Band concert at St James.

Diocesan Advent Booklets

These are available at the back of church. Please take one and use as a daily devotional during Advent.

'Reverse' Advent Calendar

A devotional suggestion for each day in December. Available at the back of church.

Christmas Services at both Churches

Please see the separate A5 sheet handed to you this morning, the posters in church and the external notice boards.

St John Stonefold Carol Concert. St James Monday 8th December at 6pm

The Head Teacher, Mr Burns, cordially invites all congregation members to attend.

The school also need new Foundation Governors. If you feel that you would like to serve in this way please speak to Fr Simon or Marjorie.

Advent Film Night 10th December at St James

A light-hearted and gentle snow drift towards Christmas with A Miracle on 34th Street.

Parish Nursery Nativity 2.30pm Wednesday 10th December

The little ones will be giving their nativity performance at St James on Wednesday. Thank you to the choir members who came to church last Wednesday to help them prepare and to those who can come to help with the performance.

Diocesan Renewal Programme

A reminder to keep the programme, and the participation of both parishes, in your prayers. Please pray the LyCiG prayer for growth as often as you can!

Children's Society Home Collection Boxes

If anyone has one of these that needs to be emptied please pass to Marjorie Charnley during December. Also, if anyone would like to support the work of the Children's Society new collection boxes are available or support at the forthcoming Christingle event at St James on 20th December.

St Thomas' Christmas Charity: "Nothing is Impossible".

This charity supports older people and children in being able to go on trips, holidays. The children are referred to the charity by social services.

We can help with donations of money or toys for children up to the age of 10 years. A box will be available in the back of church.

Leaf Compost at St Thomas'

Well-rotted leaf compost is now available to buy at £1 per bag. Help yourselves to the filled bags around the back of church near the Rhodes Avenue entrance. Please put your money in the post box on the church hall wall.

Eco Church

As the Eco church team move towards the gold award we are looking for new members to join the group. If you are concerned about how climate change is affecting our world and care for the people and nature who suffer from those changes, then we would love you to join our enthusiastic team at St Thomas. Please speak to any member of the team to volunteer or ask any questions about the role.

Christmas Eco Tips

As we approach Christmas, there are lots of things that we can consider putting into action to help make our Christmas one that is kinder to God's earth. Avoid cards with glitter or foil as these can't be recycled. Use recyclable wrapping paper or perhaps get creative and make your own from cloth, brown paper or newspaper. Try to buy food that is organic or Fairtrade. Plan meals carefully so not to have excess. If you need new Xmas lights, buy the LED option. Perhaps gift an experience. There are lots more good ideas on the internet, just google "Christmas eco tips". Here are a few sites that you might try:

www.wwf.org.uk/top-tips-sustainable-christmas

Www.wildlifetrust.org/how-have-eco-christmas

<https://arochoa.org.uk/our-twelve-tips-for-a-greener-christmas> **Inclusive Church**

Large print hymns books and Order of Service booklets are available. St Thomas also has some magnifying glasses with back lights, two sets of ear defenders and a small selection of sensory toys. If you know anyone who would like to bring children or adults with SEND please let them know they are very welcome.

Food Support

Please keep your kind gifts coming. We have undertaken a stock review and we have plenty of pasta for the time being (we received a large donation from Haslingden Link). However, we are short of the following items: Long life milk, Tins of meat, Sugar, Soup, Tins of fruit, Toiletries and Toilet Roll.

Christmas Tablescaping.

The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral and Bill Dixon invite you to watch as he brings Christmas tables to life with his usual flair and repartee.

Tuesday 9th December, 10.30am at the Cathedral.

Tickets £22.50 to include a seasonal light lunch and mulled wine. Tel: 01254 449016

Planet ABBA 7.30pm Friday 6th February

The next concert at St Thomas'. Ninety minutes of ABBA's greatest hits. For tickets call Steve on 07842 769175

Weekly Prayer List for the sick

Please contact Revd. Judith to include a name on the weekly prayer list.

For your prayers

Charley, Lizzie, Rachael, Quentin, John, Mother Mo, Sophie, Cynthia, Andrew, Anthony, Roz, Simon, Katie, Sara, Alastair, James, Catherine, Margaret, Christine, Kathleen, Arnold, Alicia, Jacqueline, Vivienne, Adrienne, Sylvia, Fr Roger Smith, Neville, Kenneth, Leo, Carl, Hazel, Gordon.

For all who have recently died, remembering Jack Aston and all whose anniversaries fall in the coming week. *Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.*

Please also let us know when someone is unwell or goes into hospital.