

Sunday 14th December 2025

The Third Sunday of Advent

'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?'

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	209	7
Before the Gospel	401	12
Offertory	Sheet	10
	Oh God You search me	
During Communion	454	11
	289	
Final	158	362

The Week Ahead & Information

Mon-Fri	9am	Morning Prayer <i>on St Thomas' Facebook</i>
Tuesday	9.30am	Thomas Tots Christmas Party <i>in St Thomas' Hall</i>
	10am	Eucharist <i>at St James</i>
	11am	Haslingden link Nursery Nativity <i>at St James</i>
Wednesday	9am	School Eucharist <i>at St John Stonefold</i>
	7pm	Film Night (Miracle on 34 th Street) <i>at St James</i>
Thursday	10am	Eucharist <i>at St Thomas'</i>
	2-4pm	Thursday Food and Friends <i>at St Thomas' Hall</i>

Next Sunday – 21st December: Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 9.15 Parish Eucharist *at St Thomas'*
- 10.45 Parish Eucharist *at St James*
- 3.30 Nine Lessons and Carols *at St James*

Thank You!

To all those who helped prepare and serve last Tuesday's Eat and Meet Christmas Dinner at St James. Thanks to the choir members who helped the children's performance last Wednesday at St James for the Parish Nurse's Nativity.

Thanks also to those who helped at Jack Aston's funeral last Thursday at St Thomas.

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 Tree at St Thomas'

This is an invitation to come to church on Saturday 20th December at 10:30am to help decorate the tree. Many hands make light work!

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. Note that the 9 lessons and carols service will now take place at 3.30 (not 3.00) on Sunday 21st December.

Advent Film Night 17th December at St James

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

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'

Sales have raised over £120. There are still a few bags left!

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://arocha.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.

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, 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.