

Sunday 21st December 2025

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

'And he named him Jesus'

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	467	186
Before the Gospel	34	Sheet Angels from the realms
Offertory	471	Sheet The Angel Gabriel
During Communion	62 237	Sheet Blessed Assurance
Final	571	Sheet Little Donkey

The Week Ahead & Information

Today	3.30pm	A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols <i>at St James</i>
Mon-Tue	9am	Morning Prayer on <i>St Thomas'</i> Facebook
Tuesday	3pm	Family Carol Service <i>at St Thomas'</i>
Wednesday	4pm	Blessing of the Crib <i>at St James</i>
	6pm	Blessing of the Crib and Christingle <i>at St Thomas'</i>
	11:30pm	Midnight Mass <i>at St Thomas'</i>
Thursday	10:00am	Christmas Day Eucharist <i>at St James</i>

Next Sunday – 28th December: First Sunday of Christmas
10.00 Joint Parish Eucharist *at St Thomas'*

Christmas Services at both Churches

1. A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St James 3.30pm today. The traditional Christmas Carol Service.
2. 23rd December 3:00pm: Family Carol Service at St Thomas'. Singalong traditional carols, a couple of (new for adults) children's songs, readings, guitars, ukulele and opportunities to dress up (adults can too).
3. Christmas Eve 4pm at St James: Fun, family friendly Crib Service. Build the crib and sing traditional carols.
4. Christmas Eve 6pm at St Thomas': Fun, family friendly Crib Service with Christingle. Build the crib, sing traditional carols and enjoy your Christingle.
5. Christmas Eve 11:30pm at St Thomas': Midnight Mass.
6. Christmas Day 10:00am at St James: Christmas Day Eucharist

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.

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.

Repairs at St Thomas'

We are currently facing a number of bills at St Thomas' for repairs. The Refectory floor needs to be strengthened urgently, the leaking underfloor pipe needs to be repaired and the ceiling at the back of church needs to be patched up. The total cost is likely to be in the region of £6000 and will make a sizable dent in our unencumbered funds. Any donations towards the required repairs will be gratefully received.

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](http://www.wildlifetrust.org/how-have-eco-christmas)

[Https://arocha.org.uk/our-twelve-tips-for-a-greener-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.