

Monthly News for November 2025



Welcome to St Thomas Church

Sunday 2 Nov	<i>COFFEE Alison & Spencer</i> Theme – The Lamb of God, John 1:29 8.30am – The Reflective One, with early Holy Communion 10:30 – The All-In One, for all ages 18:30 - The Informal One, (18.30 for coffee, worship begins at 18.45)
Sunday 9 Nov	<i>COFFEE Tony & Julie</i> Theme – Good Shepherd, John 10:11-18 10:30 – Lively One with Holy Communion 3pm - Wonderfully Messy Church 18:30 – The informal One, (18.30 for coffee, worship begins at 18.45)
Sunday 16 Nov	<i>COFFEE Helen & Ann</i> Theme – Tearfund Sunday 10:30 – The Lively One 18:30 - The informal one, (18.30 for coffee, worship begins at 18.45)
Sunday 23 Nov	<i>COFFEE Colin & Sue</i> Theme – The King of Kings, Rev 19:11-16 10.30 – The Lively One 18:30 - The informal one, (18.30 for coffee, worship begins at 18.45)
Sunday 30 Nov	<i>COFFEE Sheila, Anne and Jo</i> Theme – The Son of Man, Daniel 7:13-14 10.30 – The Lively One 18:30 - The informal one, (18.30 for coffee, worship begins at 18.45)

Please avoid parking in St Thomas Close 😊

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR, DAVID

Hello Church Family,

Can you believe we've reached November already? The days are shorter, the jumpers are out, and there's that familiar mix of cold mornings and warm cuppas that makes this season feel so cosy. Get the de-icer ready! As the year begins to close, we start preparing for advent, and then the celebration of Christmas.

In our Sunday readings lately, we've been reminded of that powerful moment when Jesus asks His disciples, "Who do you say I am?" (Matthew 16:15). It's a question that still echoes today, not just for us personally, but for our communities. Who do we say Jesus is, in the way we live, love, and invite others in? And what about those that don't yet know him?

That question feels especially important as we head towards Christmas. This is the season when hearts are a little softer, people are a little more open, and conversations about faith can maybe happen more naturally. Indeed, finding from the recent Quiet Revival research suggests that people are now more open than ever to an invite to church, and a gift of a Bible. So....

Here's a simple challenge for this month: think of one or two people - maybe a friend, neighbour, or colleague - who might be asking deep questions this year. Then, when our Christmas invitations come out, why not offer them a warm welcome to join us? It could be as easy as saying, "We've got a lovely Christmas service coming up - fancy coming along?" You never know how God might use that invitation.

And we'd also love you to keep an eye out for our Post and pray mornings. We want to deliver 2000 gospels and Christmas card invites across our communities- so be ready to take some for your streets if you can. And as always we pray Come Holy Spirit- that more people would come to know you as Saviour, Lord and King.

David Sims

Vicar

UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS, INCLUDING CHRISTMAS DATES

WELCOMING ELLIE OUR COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER - Ellie will be popping in from time to time to say hello and meet people. You may see her at our café from time to time, or at other events. She's very lovely.

THANKSGIVING FOR FREYA - date to be confirmed

CHRISTMAS CARD OUTREACH - We are hoping to give the gift of a Gospel with each Christmas Card which will be delivered to our neighbours this year. Is this something you can donate towards, and also help us deliver them soon.

HEALING ON THE STREETS - Saturday 1st November, at 11am - 1pm. Meeting outside Costa in Aldridge Shopping Centre. Takes place every first Saturday of the month.

SONGSMITHS & PSALMISTS - Saturday 1st November, at 1pm when you can join Andrew Clayton at St T's for songwriting sessions, music, prayer and coffee. All musicians and songwriters are welcome.

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LIGHT SAFARI - 31st October - 1st November, 5pm - 8pm. A walk for everyone to enjoy through local roads to spot the houses decorated with lights to reflect God's love as we move into the darker season. Collect your map from St Thomas Church, view on our Facebook page or contact hannaevans@stthomasaldridge.org.uk.

PRAYER & PERCOLATION - Every Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 9.15am. Come and join us for coffee in the church lounge, while we pray for our church, the world and each other.

BROWNIES, GUIDES & RANGERS - Every Monday evening during term time. Contact Steph Chebsie - steph_steps@yahoo.co.uk

DANCE LESSONS - External booking for one-to-one dance tuition. Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Contact Mandy Daniels for information - amandadaniels119@outlook.com

TOMS TODDLERS - Every Wednesday morning, 10.00am-11.30am in term time. For Children from birth to pre-school age. Contact Hannah Evans - hannahevans@stthomasaldridge.org.uk

FOOTPRINTS - Every Wednesday morning, 1.00pm-2.30am in term time. For children from 2½ to school age. Contact Hannah Evans - hannahevans@stthomasaldridge.org.uk

SPACE TO PRAY - Every Wednesday evening, 6.30pm-7.15pm in church (except August). 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 Spiers, lizspiers55@blueyonder.co.uk

POST & PRAY - Help us deliver Christmas Cards and Gospels to our neighbours - 5th Nov 12pm / 13th Nov 9.30am / 19th Nov 12pm / 27th Nov 9.30am.

FILLING STATION - Wednesday 5th November and every first Wednesday of the month. Meeting in the Parish Church Centre next to Cooper and Jordan school from 7.30 for refreshments, 7.45pm start.

SELWIN LECTURE - Thursday 6th November, at 9.15am, at Lichfield Cathedral.

CAFÉ ON THE CLOSE - Every Thursday, 10am-12pm - Offering a place to relax & enjoy social time with others over coffee and cake.

MIDWEEK GATHERING - Every Thursday (except August), immediately after Café on the Close at 12.15pm, for 30 minutes of worship, often with Holy Communion. Everyone is welcome to come

SERMON DISCUSSION GROUP - Every Thursday in the kitchen, 7.45pm - 9pm. A discussion group for people who are not yet in a Life Group. Providing the opportunity to look in greater detail at the sermons and discuss. To book your place contact Julie on fugglej@blueyonder.co.uk

FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENTS GROUP - Friday 7th November, 10am-11.30am, at St T's.

DOG TRAINING CLASSES - External booking, Friday evenings in church. For information, contact Sarah & Kit info@throughthedogseyes.com

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FIZZ - Saturday 8th November. Fizz is a church for adults with learning difficulties or special needs & their carers. Meeting at Tynings Lane Church at 12pm - 2pm, on the second Saturday of each month (except August).

WONDERFULLY MESSY CHURCH - Sunday 9th November, 3pm - 4.30pm and on the second Sunday of the month (except August). This is a Faith based group for littlies with additional needs & their grown-ups. Booking essential, contact vicar@stthomasaldridge.org.uk

MONTHLY MUNCH - Tuesday 11th November, at 12.15pm. Join us for a delicious home cooked lunch. It's free of charge, with a suggested donation of £3. Everyone is welcome and booking is essential, email to reserve your place - office@stthomasaldridge.org.uk.

SWING BAND, AT ST JOHN'S, WALSALL WOOD - 14th November 6.45 doors open, starts 7.30pm

TEARFUND CHRISTMAS FAYRE - Saturday 15th November, 11am - 4pm. There will be pre-loved toys, crafts, cards, jams, festive music, activities for kids and refreshments! Entry fee of 20p for adults. Please come along and support us.

RECONNECT CAFÉ AT TYNINGS LANE - Saturday 15th November. Usually taking place every other month, on the 3rd Saturday, 3pm - 5pm.

BRICK CHURCH - Wednesday 19th November. Come and enjoy a Bible story, told through brick play, then enjoy a chip-shop tea together. Every 3rd Wednesday of the month but please note the following changes - **March** - no Brick Church / **April** - the date has been changed to the 1st of April due to Easter.

ALDRIDGE PARISH CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAYRE - Saturday 22nd November, 10am - 4pm. There will be a variety of stalls, selling crafts, food and festive goodies.

NEWCOMERS CREAM TEA - Sunday 23rd November, 3pm - 4pm, at church. An opportunity for newcomers to enjoy a delicious cream tea and find out more about St Thomas Church. By invitation only.

GUEST SPEAKER, ANDREW BRUNSON - Sunday 23rd November, at our 6.30pm Gathering.

KNIT STITCH & NATTER - Friday 28th November and on the last Friday of the month (excluding August & December), in the Annexe, 10.30-12.00pm. All welcome, bring your crafts. Contact lizspiers55@blueyonder.co.uk

WIDE AWAKE CLUB - Saturday 29th November, and every 3rd Saturday of the month, at 10am-11.30am (except August). For Dads, Grandads & children up to age 10. There's a hot drink & breakfast sandwich for adults, and toys, toast & squash for smaller people.

ALDRIDGE VILLAGE CHRISTMAS FAYRE - Saturday 29th November. The Churches of Aldridge will have a shared stall at Aldridge Christmas Fayre. There will be crafts, a photo booth, Nativity dressing-up and a choir. Do pop down to say hello.

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CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING PARTY - Sunday 30th November, at 12pm (immediately after the 10.30am gathering.) For young families - pizza, crafts and to help decorate our Christmas Tree.

ADVENT DEANERY SERVICE WITH BISHOP SARAH - Thursday 4th December, at St T's.

CAROLS & CREAM TEA - Saturday 6th December, at 3pm. Join us for a festive singing and enjoy a cream tea!

CAROLS BY TWINKLE LIGHT - Sunday 14th December, at 6.45pm.

BLUE CHRISTMAS - Sunday 21st December, at 4pm. For those who might prefer a quieter Christmas Gathering to reflect on a lost loved-one. Names will be read during the gathering, so please let us know if you would like to attend, and the name of your loved-one.

BEDTIME CHRISTINGLE - Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th December, at 6pm. A traditional family celebration, with an orange, a candle, fruits and sweets.

MIDNIGHT COMMUNION - Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th December, at 11.15pm.

THE CHRISTMAS DAY SPECIAL - Join us at 10.30am on Christmas Day, to celebrate the birth of Jesus!

COMPANIANSHIP CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH - Aldridge Methodist Church will be providing a Christmas Day Lunch for anyone who may be alone on Christmas Day. Please share this information with anyone who may be celebrating Christmas Day alone. Aldridge Methodist Church will provide a delicious three-course traditional Christmas lunch, with a focus on companionship and having some fun! Please contact Mary Vass from Aldridge Methodist Church for more details 07771 712291

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY - 7pm - 9pm at St T's. All welcome, suitable for all ages! Join us for some light-hearted New Year's fun. There will be games and a quiz. Bring your own snacks and drinks.

NEW YEAR'S DAY LANTERN WALK - Thursday 1st January, at 4.30pm. Meet at church to make a lantern before setting off on our short walk and returning to church for a hot chocolate.

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 - Usually meeting on Wednesday evenings in church from 6.30 pm - 7.15 pm (except in August). 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 or 01922 453944

Prayer Focus for November - As we look forward to our annual Christmas Fayre on 15th November, and try to raise some extra funds for Tearfund, let us focus our prayer this month on the work of Tearfund. We thank the Lord for this Christian organisation and all that they do in helping people around the world and especially in times of emergency. We pray for the workers on the ground in difficult situations working tirelessly to help others often at the risk of their own lives. We pray too for the leaders of Tearfund and pray for wisdom and discernment for them as they make life-changing decisions on where their funding should be spent. *"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."* (1 John 3:18)

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COOPER & JORDAN SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

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 suggest that regular attendance should have been for at least two years before application. Please check with one of the Team to ensure your attendance is recorded in the folder which is located on the large table at the back of church.

GIVING TO ST T'S

- Simply scan this QR code with your phone.
- Alternatively, a card reader is located on the large table at the back of church.
- Our Team can also provide you with information to enable you to set-up a regular standing order.
- Don't forget to add Gift Aid, ask a member of our Team for help with this.



CALENDAR

Sat 1 November	Healing on The Streets Songsmiths & Psalmists Light Safari	11am – 1pm (Aldridge Centre, Nr Costa) 1pm – 4.00pm 5pm – 8pm
Sun 2 November	See Gatherings on Front Page	8.30am / 10.30am / 6.30pm
Mon 3 November	Prayer & Percolation Brownies/Guides/Rangers	9.15am Evening
Tue 4 November	Dance Lessons Toddler Set-Up Band Practice/Lessons	10am – 1.00pm 1.00pm-3pm 7pm – 9pm
Wed 5 November	Prayer & Percolation Toddlers Post & Pray Footprints Space to Pray Dance Lessons Filling Station	9.15am (Lounge) 10.00am – 11.30am 12.00pm 1pm – 2.30pm 6.30pm – 7.15pm 7.30pm 7.30pm
Thurs 6 November	Selwin Lecture, Lichfield Cathedral Café on the Close Refresh Life Group Midweek Gathering New Life Group Sermon Discussion Group	9.15am – 9.45am 10am – 12pm 10.30am – 12pm 12.15-12.45pm 7.30pm (Lounge) 7.45pm (Kitchen)
Frid 7 November	Prayer & Percolation Foster & Adoptive Parents Group	9.15am (Lounge) 12pm – 2pm
Sat 8 November	FIZZ	12pm – 2pm at Tynings Lane Church
Sun 9 November	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY See Gatherings on Front Page Wonderfully Messy Church	10.30am / 6.30pm 3pm – 4.30pm
Mon 10 November	Prayer & Percolation Brownies/Guides/Rangers DCC Meeting	9.15am Evenings 7.45pm (Annexe)
Tues 11 November	Dance Lessons Monthly Munch Toddler Set-Up Band Practice	10am – 1.00pm 12.15pm 1.00pm-3pm 7pm – 9pm

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Wed 12 November	Prayer & Percolation Toddlers Footprints Space to Pray Dance Lessons	9.15am (Lounge) 10.00am – 11.30am 1pm – 2.30pm 6.30pm – 7.15pm 7.30pm – 8.30pm
Thur 13 November	Post & Pray Café on the Close Refresh Life Group Midweek Gathering New Life Group Sermon Discussion Group	9.30am 10am – 12pm 10am – 12pm 12.15-12.45pm 7.30pm (Lounge) 7.45pm (Kitchen)
Fri 14 November	Prayer & Percolation Dog Training Classes Set-Up For Tearfund Christmas Fayre	9.15am (Lounge) 6pm – 9pm 9pm – 10.30pm
Sat 15 November	Tearfund Christmas Fayre Reconnect Café at Tynings Lane Ch	11am - 4pm 3pm – 5pm (Tynings Lane Church)
Sun 16 November	See Gatherings on Front Page	10.30am / 6.30pm
Mon 17 November	Prayer & Percolation Preachers & Leaders Meeting Brownies/Guides/Rangers	9.15am <i>Time unknown</i> Evenings
Tues 18 November	Dance Lessons Toddler Set-Up Band Practice	10am – 1.00pm 1.00pm-3pm 7pm – 9pm
Wed 19 November	Prayer & Percolation Toddlers Post & Pray Footprints Brick Church Space to Pray Dance Lessons	9.15am – 9.45am 10am – 11.30am 12.00pm 1pm – 2.30pm 4pm – 5.30pm 6.30pm – 7.15pm 7.30pm
Thur 20 November	Café on the Close Refresh Life Group Midweek Gathering New Life Group Sermon Discussion Group	10am – 12pm 10am – 12pm (Lounge) 12.15-12.45pm 7.30pm (Lounge) 7.45pm
Frid 21 November	Prayer & Percolation Dog Training Classes	9.15am (Lounge) 6.30pm – 9pm
Sat 22 November	Aldridge Village Christmas Fayre Private Room Hire - Party	10am – 4pm 11am – 3pm
Sun 23 November	See Gatherings on Front Page Newcomers Cream Tea <i>by invitation</i> Guest Speaker at Evening Gathering	10.30am / 6.30pm 3.00pm – 4.30pm 6.30pm
Mon 24 November	Prayer & Percolation Leighswood Christingle at St T's Brownies/Guides/Rangers	9.15am 1pm – 3pm Usually Evenings
Tues 25 November	Dance Lessons Toddler Set-Up Band Practice	10am – 1.00pm 1.00pm-3pm 7pm – 9pm
Wed 26 November	Prayer & Percolation Toddlers Footprints	9.15am – 9.45am 10am – 11.30am 1pm – 2.30pm

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	Space to Pray	6.30pm – 7.15pm
	Dance Lessons	7.30pm
Thur 27 November	Post & Pray	9.30am
	Café on the Close	10am – 12pm
	Refresh Life Group	10am – 12pm (Lounge)
	Midweek Gathering	12.15-12.45pm
	New Life Group	7.30pm (Lounge)
Frid 28 November	Prayer & Percolation	9.15am (Lounge)
	Knit, Stitch & Natter	10.30am – 12pm (Annexe)
	Dog Training Classes	6pm – 9pm
Sat 29 November	Aldridge Village Christmas Fayre	10am – 4pm
	Wide Awake Club	10am – 11.30am
Sun 30 November	See Gatherings on Front Page	10.30am / 6.30pm
	Tree Decorating Party	12pm – 2pm
	Private Booking	4.15 – 5.30pm

Contacts

- **Clergy –**
Rev David Sims (VICAR) 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
 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
Please note that messages are not be seen or heard on Fridays & Saturdays.
- **Prayer Coordinator: Liz Spiers -**
 Telephone 01922 453944 / email 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
Andrew Dickson: 07989 143388 / andrewjdickson999@hotmail.com
Glennys Davis: 07905 210399 / glennys49@hotmail.com
Lisa Winnall: 07805 114471 / lisawinnall.church@gmail.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
Sue Quibell (for adults) - 07889 885545 / 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
- **Websites:**
<https://stthomasaldridge.org.uk/> or www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4121/)