

Sunday 22nd February 2026

The First Sunday of Lent

*“One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”*

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	427	439
Before the Gospel	121	137
Offertory	<i>SHEET</i>	364
	God, you search me	
During Communion	352	445
	5	
Final	81	297

The Week Ahead & Information

- Mon-Fri** 9am Morning Prayer on *St Thomas' Facebook*
10:30am Funeral of Harry Jackson at *St Thomas'*
- Tuesday** 9.30am Thomas Tots at *St Thomas' Hall*
10am Eucharist at *St James*
- Thursday** 10am Eucharist at *St Thomas*
2 - 4pm Thursday Food and Friends at *St Thomas' Hall*

Next Sunday – 1st March: Second Sunday of Lent

- 9:15 Sung Eucharist at *St Thomas'*
10.45 Sung Eucharist at *St James* followed by Messy Church meeting
1:15 Baptism of George Latham at *St Thomas* (tbc)
2:15 Meeting of Spire Project Working Group in the *Refectory*

Thank you!

To all those who have been part of our Morning Prayer rota and those who will be on the new rota to begin shortly. It is an important part of our ministry and reaches people in far flung places of the world as well as those close to home!

Thank you also to those keen knitters who have provided mice for our proposed mouse trail at St Thomas'. Don't leave any cheese about – it will soon be gone!

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! Things will begin to pick up in speed during 2026. Your prayers are needed!

Dementia Friendly Service 1.30pm 26th February at Haslingden Link

A service of the Word lead by Tricia. This reassuring service is prepared carefully for those dealing with dementia. All welcome.

Lent Course begins 7pm Wednesday 4th March at St James

Based on the Stephen Cottrell book “The Things he Carried”.

Hazel's Social Group Wednesday 4th March 1:30pm in the Refectory

The talk will be from a Special constable about their work and non-members of the group are invited to attend. Please let hazel know if you intend to be present.

Mothering Sunday 15th March. 10:45am All-Age Service at St James

Join us for our special service to mark Mothering Sunday. We will be joined by the Brownies and Guides who will parade their flags. Children will read for us and help lead our intercessions. All welcome.

Messy Church Event. 2-4pm Saturday 21st March at St Thomas' Hall

Date for your diary. Join us for fun, fellowship and Jesus! Our topic will be Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Come along and join in.

Saturday 28th March St Thomas' Hall 10-1pm Coffee Morning

Coffee Morning to raise funds for Church Repairs.

Donations welcome for Choc & Bottle Stall, Raffle, Gift Stall and Bric-a Brac Stall. Box at rear of Church.

Chrism Eucharist 11:00 am Thursday 2nd April at the Cathedral

This is an important service in the Diocesan calendar where clergy renew their vows and collect oils of anointing. Members of our congregation are invited to attend to witness and support. Fr Simon has to let the Cathedral know how many are coming so if you would like to attend please could you let Fr Simon know when he returns from annual leave.

Spire Project Working Group

Please keep the Project and the Working Group in your prayers. Anybody who wishes to be part of this vital work in the future of our parish church please make yourself known to Fr Simon.

Eco Church: Carbon Fast For Lent

This Lent, take part in Climate Steward's Carbon Fast. Lent is a time when Christians traditionally fast and focus on God. The Carbon Fast will help you consider ways to live more simply, give you new ideas to cut your carbon footprint and invite you to focus on God and consider the whole of his creation. Beginning on 18th Feb, you'll receive a weekly email containing key facts, suggestions for how you could reduce your carbon footprint and a prayer to lead you through this Lenten season. Each week features a different theme designed to help us take climate action in manageable ways that bear witness to a God who has promised to restore all of his creation. Find out more and sign up at <https://climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast-for-lent/>

Inclusive Church

The Inclusive Church Group is always looking for ways to make St Thomas' more accessible for everyone. We have large print hymn books, Order of Service sheets, pew sheets as well as magnifying glasses both with and without lights. For anyone with any SEND needs, we have a wheelchair at the back of the church which can be used plus sensory toys and ear defenders to help anyone with sensory issues. Don't forget that, if you need to use the ramp at the back door, to ring the doorbell and someone will let

you in. If you have any ideas or issues please mention them to Jo, Rachel, Phil or Tricia.

Food Support

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

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, Sara, 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 Harry Jackson, Dorothy Mitchell 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.

LyCiG Prayer for Growth

God of Mission,
Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers in spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

NB: Fr Simon is away from Friday 20th to Friday 27th February inc.