

Sunday 22nd March 2026

Fifth Sunday of Lent

'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory 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	457	119
Before the Gospel	73	377
Offertory	121	383
During Communion	54	331
	464	
Final	186	353

The Week Ahead & Information

Mon-Fri 9am Morning Prayer *on St Thomas' Facebook*

Monday 2pm Stations of the Cross *at St James*
6.30pm Fundraising Meeting *at St James Hall*

Tuesday 9.30am Thomas Tots *at St Thomas' Hall*
10am Eucharist *at St James*

Wednesday 7pm Lent Course *at St James Hall*

Thursday 9am St James School worship in church
10am Eucharist *at St Thomas*

Saturday 9.30am Stations of the Cross *at St Thomas'*
10-1pm Coffee Morning *at St Thomas' Hall*

Next Sunday – 29th March: Palm Sunday

9:15 Sung Eucharist *at St Thomas' (Blessings of Palms and Procession, meet at Millenium Stone at 09:00)*

10:45 Sung Eucharist *at St James (Blessings of Palms and Procession, meet at top of Deardengate 10:30)*

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! Thank you to those who have returned their survey forms. Any other forms still out there will be gratefully received.

Step into Spring. 2pm 22nd March. Helmsore Circular Walk.

Our Eco team are hosting a local, circular 4.7 mile guided walk on Sunday March 22nd at 2pm from the Refectory. Proceeds will go to our church repair fund and to the Baxenden hedgehog rescue hospital. £5 pp . See posters for details. Please highlight this to anyone in the community that you think might like to walk."

Lent Course Final Session with Celtic Style Eucharist. 7pm Wednesday 25th March at St James

Based on the Stephen Cottrell book "The Things he Carried". A reflective evening of prose, music and prayer.

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.

Stations of the Cross

10:00am Saturday 28th March at St Thomas' lead by Hazel and Lowri.

2pm Monday 23rd March at St James lead by Fr Simon.

2pm Tuesday 31st March at St James lead by Fr Simon.

Easter Flowers: Both churches

Any and all donations towards flowers for Easter Day will be gratefully received. Thank you.

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.

Easter Services

April 2nd. The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday with foot washing and stripping of the altar 7pm at St James.

3rd April. Good Friday. 2pm Reflection on the Seven Last Words. Service held at St Thomas'.

Easter Sunday: 6am Dawn Vigil at St Thomas followed by breakfast 9.15am Festival Eucharist at St Thomas 10.45 Festival Eucharist at St James both services followed by fizz and cake.

Monthly Dementia Friendly Services

The next service will be 'The Last Supper' to be held at Haslingden Community Link at 1 30 pm on Maundy Thursday 2nd April. We are trying to grow this much-loved service, and your support would be really appreciated. All are very welcome. Tricia your Anna Chaplain

Foundation Governors at St James and St John Stonefold

Both schools need one more Foundation Governor. If these rewarding opportunities to serve church, school and community grab your interest please speak to Fr Simon.

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 Notice regarding Earth Hour

Saturday 28th March is Earth Hour Day. This year is the 20th anniversary of a movement which started in order to help fight the climate and nature crisis. The basis is still the same, we are asked to turn off our lights and everything electronic for one hour during that evening. We are now being asked however, to go further, by doing something positive for God's planet for one hour at some point during that day.

The website <http://www.earthhour.org> gives lots of tips on what you might do and information on why we are being asked to support the movement.

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, Gordon.

For all who have recently died, remembering 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.