

Sunday 8th March 2026

The Third Sunday of Lent

'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty.'

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	145	67
Before the Gospel	<i>SHEET</i>	239
	In Christ Alone	
Offertory	120	357
During Communion	69	342
	299	
Final	500	333

The Week Ahead & Information

Mon-Fri	9am	Morning Prayer on <i>St Thomas' Facebook</i>
Monday	7pm	St Thomas PCC in the Refectory
Tuesday	9.30am	Thomas Tots at <i>St Thomas' Hall</i>
	10am	Eucharist at <i>St James</i>
	2pm	St Thomas' and St James Mother's Union at <i>St Thomas'</i>
Thursday	10am	Eucharist at <i>St Thomas</i>
	11 - 1pm	Refectory Café open
	2pm	St James Mother's Union in the Hall
Saturday	10am	Stations of the Cross at <i>St Thomas'</i>
	Next Sunday – 15th March: Mothering Sunday	
	9:15	All-Age Eucharist at <i>St Thomas'</i>
	10.45	Sung Eucharist at <i>St James</i>

Congratulations to St Thomas Tots on their 4th Birthday!

With thanks to Lin for leading the group and thanks to Linda, Victor, Mary, Tracey and Judith for being such dedicated volunteers to our Tots families and a truly supportive team for Lin.

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!

St. Thomas Mothers Union meet in Church 2.00pm.

Tuesday 10th March when Revd. Judith will be with for a service for Lady Day and Dedication of M.U. Candles. All welcome.

Lent Course Session Two. 7pm Wednesday 11th March at St James

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

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.

Sarah Smith, MP for Hyndburn will be in attendance.

Eat and Meet. 12-2pm Tuesday 17th March at St James

Join us for a delicious, freshly prepared and cooked three course meal.

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.

Step into Spring. 2pm 22nd March. Helmshore 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."

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 14th March at St Thomas' lead by Hazel.

10:00am Saturday 21st March at St Thomas' lead by Hazel and Lowri.

10:30am Monday 30th March at St Thomas' lead by Tricia.

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

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

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/>. Weekly carbon fast guidance can be found on the Eco church hall notice board if you don't have access to the Internet.

The Big Plastic Count

Sadly most of our plastic isn't recycled, it is either burned or sent to landfill in the U.K. or overseas, thus accelerating the climate crisis.

Since 2019 "Tearfund" has been campaigning against the impact of plastic pollution on the lives of people living in poverty. Studies show that plastic pollution is set to triple by 2060. Recycling isn't therefore enough, we need to produce less. The "Big Plastic Count" will gather evidence to show the scale of the plastic crisis. simply count every piece of plastic packaging you have from 9th - 15th March and submit the count online at:

<https://thebigplasticcount.com>

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 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.