

St Thomas Parish Newsletter

June 2025

Hello friends

So here we are, almost at the longest day! Hopefully this will mean opportunities to enjoy our gardens, local parks and, of course, churchyard. Many thanks to those who are helping to look after it, if you fancy joining in, the more the merrier! There's something soothing to the soul about being out in nature and we are truly blessed up here in the hills. I'd really like to do some worship outside in the open, watch this space!

Which leads me neatly on to Whit Sunday. We are planning our party in the park again on 8th June at noon. Our friends from Moorhouse are planning to lead the music and we will have a few prayers and readings. Do come along if you can, it was lovely last year. Bring a picnic (and a chair, if so inclined). If you have any garden games you can bring for the children, that's great too. But all I really want to see is you. This is our annual opportunity to witness that God is great and has been generous to us in so many ways.

At the end of June we have a special service over at St James where our lovely curate, Neil, will celebrate his first Eucharist. He is being ordained Priest at the cathedral on Saturday and then the service takes place at 10am at Milnrow Parish Church. Everyone is welcome and it is a really special moment for Neil and us, so I hope you can all be there to celebrate with him.

All this and a family service on the 22nd at the usual time means June is packed full of happy events. Whatever is going on for you at the moment I hope you can share some of the joy with us this month.

God bless, Janet



Gardening Gang - Saturday 7th June

With all the sun and rain we've had recently, there's a jungle to tackle in the churchyard at the moment!

We're desperate for help and willing hands to help for a couple of hours this Saturday morning. Ideally we need to cut as much of the grass as possible to help with access.

Drop in anytime from 8.30am -12pm

Although we usually have plenty of spare gardening equipment, if you can bring gloves and any of the following it would really help; strimmers, brushes, trowels, rakes, bin bags, litter pickers etc

Tasks: litter picking, weeding, cutting back shrubs, strimming grass

If you're able to help this Saturday, please message Judith M: 07795 818047, that way we can let you know if the event is postponed for any reason.

Big Clean – date tbc

Unfortunately, as we've had no new volunteers for the cleaning rota, we are falling behind with some of the cleaning tasks (brasses, high areas, deep cleans etc).

If you can't help out once every 6 weeks or so, could you attend for a few hours if we all came together to help on a BIG CLEAN?

Please let Judith know if you're willing to join the BIG CLEAN and we'll arrange an event.

Services at St Thomas and St James in June

There will be no Holy Communion service at St Thomas on the following dates:

Date	Alternative Options
Sun 8th June	9.15am – HC service, St James Milnrow 12 noon – Party in the Park (see below)
Sun 22nd June	9.15am – HC service, St James Milnrow 11am Family Service (St Thomas)
Sun 29th June	10am – HC service for the Benefice, St James Milnrow

Sunday 8th June - Pentecost Party in the Park

As its **Party in the Park** this Sunday, there will be no Holy Communion service at St Thomas. However, for anyone who would like to take Communion, there is a service at St James, Milnrow, starting at 9.15am.

The churches will then come together in the park from 12 noon for a short service of songs and praise, prayer and readings and if the weather holds out we'll stay for food and games afterwards.

Meet in the park 12 noon

Please feel free to bring a picnic and something to sit on.



Sunday 22nd June – Family Service

Family breakfast from 10am

Join us for a special family orientated service, led by Sunday School. We'll enjoy singing and praise, prayers and activities.

Service starts 11am



Sunday 29th June – Neil's First Holy Communion service as Priest

On Saturday 28th June, our Curate Neil will be [Ordained Priest](#) at Manchester Cathedral by the Bishop of Bolton. Then on Sunday 29th June, Neil will be presiding over his first Holy Communion service.

As Neil's first joint service was held at St Thomas, this time the joint service will be held at St James Milnrow.

Hopefully St Thomas's congregation will attend this special service at St James to support Neil as he has supported us since his arrival in the Benefice.

Service starts 10am

Social Events – 2025 Plans

Event	Date
Sponsored walk & BBQ (route tbc)	Saturday 12 th July, 10am
Milnrow Band Concert	September, date & time tbc
Christmas Quiz and supper	November, date & time tbc
Wreath Making Workshop	December, date & time tbc
Milnrow Band Christmas Concert	December, date & time tbc
Christmas Fair / Christmas Tree Festival	December, date & time tbc

Raffle Prizes

Please continue to donate to our regular raffle box for the next social event.

Afternoon Tea

A delicious afternoon tea a raffle and an exciting tense game of bingo were enjoyed by 30+ visitors to St Thomas on 17th May.

Here are a few photos of this lovely event.



Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Gillian Baran and Noeleen Adshead for all their hard work in organising and preparing the delicious food and to our bingo caller and raffle man Neil.

Volunteering Opportunities

• Gardening Gang

Meets once a month to help keep our Churchyard tidy.

We are desperate for help from those with a bit more youth, fitness and strength on their side so we can tackle some of the larger jobs!

Please consider if you (or anyone you know) would like to join the Gardening Gang and volunteer just 2 hours a month.

• Cleaning Rota

New teams required - could you / friends / family give an hour or so every 6 weeks to help give the church a clean and vacuum? All equipment and training provided!!

We very much need new volunteers to come forward

• Lay Assistant / Service reader

Have you ever thought about joining the service team to support the Sunday readings or potentially serve as Lay Assistant?

For more information about what's involved for any of the above opportunities, please speak to Janet, Neil or Judith

Fund Raising

1. Regular Giving

Rather than contributing just when you are physically in church, would you consider setting up a Standing Order to make a regular weekly or monthly contribution?

For those already making regular contributions, are you able to increase your giving?

If we could increase our giving by just a few pounds and make those gifts regularly it would make a massive difference to our income and ability to budget for large expenses and also plan and sustain our outreach projects for the benefit of our community.

Coming soon – regular giving tokens

#stewardship #regulargiving

2. Fund Raising Socials

Our social events are an important way for us to connect and build friendships, but they are also vital to the survival of our church!

It might surprise you to know we don't receive funding from the national church or the Government. The only way our doors stay open on Sundays and for each wedding, baptism or funeral is with income from YOU in form of regular weekly collections, gift aid claims and from fund raising events.

- If you haven't attended one of our events yet, please buy your ticket and join us for some fun.
- Use our #easyfundraising link to make a gift to Church at no extra cost when you shop from your favourite online brands (over 7500 available).

It's an easy way to support us by doing what you do anyway and it doesn't cost you a penny extra.

So far we only received £10 from Easy Fund Raising this year – can you help us improve this income stream NOW.

For further information, please click here <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stthomaschurch/>

Take a look as it's really easy to use and you can make a BIG difference without any additional cost to yourself as we receive a % contribution based on your total spend.

Nominate St Thomas for a chance to receive £1,000

The **Movement for Good Awards** programme gives churches the opportunity to obtain grants of £1,000 or more.

You can nominate St Thomas and your other favourite charities (one nomination per charity

per person). The Movement for Good Awards has gifted over £5.75 million to more than 2,500 charities since the initiative started in 2019.

In 2023, £11,000 was gifted to 10 church-related charities through the £1,000 Movement for Good Awards. Kilkenny Christian Centre actually won twice, so get nominating, next time it could be us!!

To nominate, click on the link below:

<https://movementforgood.com/ecclesiastical>

Scroll down the page and click on this box ...

Nominate a charity for £1,000

In the search box, type or copy & paste 624345 St Thomas church, Newhey

Search for an organisation, group, charity name or charity number	624345 St Thomas church, Newhey	Search
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Click 'Search' and tick the 'Registration exempt' box and select charity type 'church'. Complete your details and submit – it's that easy! If every adult receiving this newsletter completed a nomination, we might be in with a chance to receive a bonus gift of £1000!

Once you've submitted your nomination, share it, and get your friends and family to support us too.

A Church Near You

All services and activities are listed on our page on AChurchNearYou website. Click the link below and search for St Thomas, Newhey <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>



Votive Candles

We provide votive candles for anyone who wants to light one in prayer for themselves or others. We have placed the candles in sand for safety reasons as we leave them lit for the duration of the natural burn time after service.

Please take a candle to light and pray for any loved ones, however please limit to one candle to respect the needs of others.

Fire Safety – for safety reasons, children are not permitted to light candles unaccompanied. Parents and guardians, please help ensure the safety of our young visitors.

Regular St Thomas Service Timings

Sunday	Holy Communion	11.00am
Thursday	Holy Communion	10.00am

Contact Us

If you would like to add anyone to our collective prayers, or if you would like to talk to Janet about anything:

Priest in Charge - Reverend Janet Pitman

Email: hildaofwhitby67@gmail.com

Vicarage: 01706 594284

Mobile: 07401 344526

Curate - Neil McClure

Email: neil.mcclure@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07799 417341

Warden - Judith Jones

Email: stthomaschurchnewhey@outlook.com

Mobile: 07795 818047

Please note, Friday is Janet's usual day off, so there will be a delay in any response.

Need a Helping Hand?



Do you or a loved one need help around your home?

Are you feeling isolated or lonely?

Helping hands offers Reliable Domestic Help and/or a Befriending Service.

Whether it is light cleaning or a cup of tea & a chat we are here to help.

The services we offer include:

- Keep your home Clean & Tidy
- Laundry & Ironing
- Run Errands & Shopping
- Accompanying you to Outings & Social Events
- Support with Activities & Hobbies
- Meal Planning & Preparation
- Book & Take to Appointments
- Maintain Contact with Friends & Family
- Light Gardening
- Simply have a Cup of Tea & a Chat

For your peace of mind, we are & have:

- Advanced DBS Checked
- Fully Insured
- Level 2 Award in Food Safety & Catering
- Level 3 Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Emergency First Aider
- 18 years experience in Social Care

For further enquiries & pricing please contact:

Lisa

T: 07503 018629

E: lisa@lisashelpinghands.co.uk

Events & News from the Rochdale Deanery and Manchester Diocese

EVENTS

Nelson Street Church – Spirit Cafe

Last Saturday each month



Thought for the Day

<https://www.manchester.anglican.org/news/thought-for-the-day/>

Welcome to our "Thought for the Day" page, where we host reflections and insights to inspire and uplift your spirit. The reflections and thoughts are often shared by members of our

Diocese, including our Bishops and our Archdeacons during their contributions to national and local radio stations, including BBC Radio 4 and BBC Radio Manchester. Within these reflections, you'll find a blend of timeless truths and contemporary insights, addressing the joys and challenges of daily life through the lens of Christian faith. We invite you to explore these daily offerings as a source of inspiration, guidance, and spiritual nourishment.

BBC
RADIO



BBC RADIO
MANCHESTER

Livestream services from Manchester Cathedral



[Click here for the Cathedral Facebook page](#)

Events at the Cathedral

Manchester Cathedral is a thriving, diverse and welcoming church in the heart of the city, Daily worship lies at the heart of cathedral life and offered throughout the day and on most days it includes at least one service sung by the Cathedral Choir.

[What's On - click here for more info](#)

-----NEWS-----

Transforming Prayer Community

Lord, teach us to pray

The Diocese of Manchester invites you to join its Transforming Prayer Community.

A community that will help each of us to grow closer to God through prayer, and find support and fellowship with others.

All that's asked is you set aside a little time each day to pray The Lord's Prayer, Our Diocesan Prayer of Thanksgiving and Hope and the Prayer for our Local area, You may choose to say these prayers at home, in church, on your commute or at work, wherever suits you best!

<http://tinyurl.com/3rxcbrnn>

It would also be great to know who is joining the prayer community, so please sign up online using the QR code below or the link above.



A supportive Facebook group is also available, just search '**Transforming Prayer Community in the Diocese of Manchester**'.

Additionally, Bishop Matthew Porter will be leading a short time of focussed prayer for various situations of conflict each Wednesday at 12 noon for twenty-five minutes on Facebook Live [via his page](#).

All are invited to join him to pray for peace.

Sign up for our daily election reflections via email using the form below [Church House Publishing](#).

Curious? [Get a sneak peek](#) of the content to come over the coming weeks.

Stories of faith

<https://www.manchester.anglican.org/news/storiesoffaith/>