

St Thomas Parish Newsletter

November 2025

Hello friends

It's beginning to feel a bit like winter, isn't it? The churchyard is looking good thanks to our hard-working gardening gang and there is probably only time for one last push to put everything to bed for the winter. If you have had any involvement in the gang this year many thanks. We genuinely couldn't do it without you.

On the subject of the churchyard, please can I ask that, if you are preparing to place seasonal tributes on graves, they are made from natural materials. Not only do these look more in keeping with our surroundings, but they are less likely to harm the deer which are now regular visitors here. We have noticed they seem to have a taste for yellow so you might want to consider that when choosing flowers! Please could you also keep dogs under control, especially on the vicarage drive. I love dogs but the deer and the foxes (and certainly my cats) are less keen on being chased.

It is time for first communion preparation once again. If you have a child who is baptised, over the age of 7 and wishes to take communion, there will be a Saturday morning preparation course and we hope to admit the candidates on Advent Sunday (30th November).

God bless
Janet

Gardening Gang - Saturday 8th November

This will be our last Gardening Gang session of the season 🍂🍁

All new volunteers welcome!

Ideally we want to cut the grass across the whole churchyard before putting the strimmers away for the winter season, so if you have a strimmer and can give an hour please come along.

Other tasks include; litter picking, weeding and cutting back. **Drop in anytime 8.30am -12pm**



If you can bring gloves and any of the following it would really help; strimmers, brushes, trowels, rakes, litter pickers etc

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

Special Servies

Remembrance Sunday 9th Nov	There will be no service at St Thomas' on this date due to the service of Remembrance in the park, instead the names of the fallen of Newhey will be read at the HC service at St James, 9am start
Family Service Sunday 16th Nov	All Age Service with singing, prayer stations
Advent Sunday / First Communion Sunday 30th Nov	Traditional All Age service with hymns and Holy Communion and First Communion for any candidates
Christingle Sunday 14th December, 3pm	Special service and collection in aid of The Children's Society

Breakfast in Church - Sunday 16th November

Start the day off with a proper breakfast roll in church before our special family friendly (all age) service - **from 10am**

Christmas Fair 2025 – Sunday 14th December

This year our Christmas Fair will be held in church after the Christingle service. There will be stalls and refreshments and we hope you will spread the word to family and friends and support this most important of our fund raising events.

As this event won't be as big as normal it's even more important that we all support it as much as possible in whatever way we can (volunteers needed and donations). If you can help by running a stall or baking cakes etc please let Judith or Gillian Baran know.

Christmas Fair Donations

Containers are available items to donate to this items in preparation for this year's Christmas Fair:

- Chocolate
- Bottles (all kinds welcome; alcohol, non-alcohol, juice, sauces, bath/shower gel etc)
- Re gifted items
- Mulled wine
- Raffle prizes

Advance warning - baked goods and mince pies will be on the donation list nearer the date

Social Events – 2025

Event	Date
Breakfast at Church	Sunday 16 th November, 10am
Wreath Making Workshop 	Sunday 7 th December, 2pm Tickets on sale soon
Christmas Fair	Sun 14 th December (after Christingle)

Regular Giving

Secure giving with no charges!

To prevent cash being left in church and the need for personnel to regularly count and bank monies, if you can move to a regular Standing Order, we would be extremely grateful.

Please email church and we'll send you the forms to complete
stthomaschurchnewhey@outlook.com.

NEW IN – regular giving tokens. If you donate via Standing Order or Digital Giving we now have tokens available.

Please collect one on arrival and place it in the bag during the collection.



Although of course we are delighted and extremely grateful to receive any income/donation, we can only maximise any giving through the Gift Aid scheme which gives us an extra 25p per £1, if made through the envelope scheme for cash or Standing Order. However, as mentioned above, security of monies is a regular headache for the management team, so if you can move to Standing order, please let us know.

Also, although the Digital Giving machine allows us to securely accept donations from visitors with no cash, we hope members of our congregation will arrange regular giving through a Standing Order as each transaction through the Digital Giving incurs a fee and we are not currently able to claim Gift Aid on these donations.

Catch-Up on St Thomas' News and Events

Backpack Family Service / BBQ – 7th September

During this family service Janet blessed all the backpacks and , we took part in prayer stations and we enjoyed worship songs. Following the service we shared a delicious BBQ cooked by Gillian and Fiona



Milnrow Band – 28th September

We were treated to an exceptional concert of the best of British proms and other music from our very own Championship band. Plus our wonderful social committee provided delicious nibbles and tipples to keep everyone sustained.

All who attended had nothing but compliments. Thank you to the band, our social team volunteers and the generous giving of all who attended and those who donated raffle prizes, we raised over £874 which means we each received over £437, which is fantastic and much needed.

However, as a side note, there were a number seats unsold, so if you haven't attended a concert or social event before, please consider joining us next time to help with our fund raising efforts.



Forest Church launch – 4th October

We had a busy family friendly eco service to celebrate all things nature and God given. The weather kept us inside or near the church and churchyard rather than the school field, however, there was still plenty of nature to be had both flora and fauna.

Harvest Service and Thanksgiving Lunch – 11th October

How grand was the Harvest Sheaf donated by Morrisons this year? During the service lots of much needed food was donated to the Rochdale Foodbank.

Following the service, we enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving lunch of warming vegetable soup which was consumed with the Harvest Sheaf. Many thanks to Gillian for making and serving this delicious treat. Thanks also to her team of volunteers.



Votive Candles

We provide votive candles for anyone who wants to light one in prayer for themselves or others.

Candles are in sand for safety reasons as they are left 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 ensure the safety of our young members.

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

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

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

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



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:

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

Join us online 
[St Thomas](#)

Need a Helping Hand?

Contact Lisa 07503 018629

✉ lisa@lisashelpinghands.co.uk



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

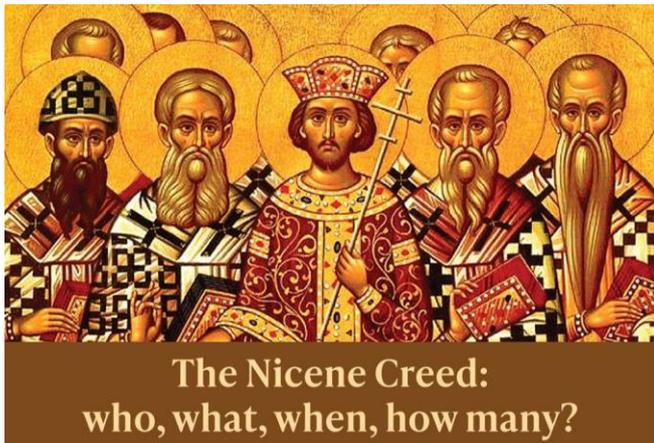
EVENTS

The Nicene Creed with Professor Stephen Todd

📅 Date: Monday 3rd November 2025

🕒 Time: 7.30pm

📍 Venue: Emmanuel Church, 6 Barlow Moor Road, Didsbury, M20 6TR



Intercultural Kingdom Conference – Saturday 15th November 2025

Our diocese will be hosting its first Intercultural Kingdom Conference on Saturday 15th

November 2025, at St Cross Church, Clayton. The event is an exciting opportunity to rejoice in the diversity of Manchester Diocese, with a day of worship, teaching, and hospitality. The keynote speaker is The Rt Revd Saju Muthalaly, Bishop of Loughborough, who helps Christians from Global Majority Heritage backgrounds feel welcomed and enabled in the life of the Church.

A whole church family event, there will also be a small number of breakout seminars to choose from and a free lunch of international cuisines. For further information and to secure your ticket(s), please visit the following Eventbrite link to register:

[Intercultural Kingdom Conference 2025.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk)

We very much look forward to welcoming you.

Nelson Street Church – Spirit Cafe

Last Saturday each month

- <https://www.nelsonstreetchurch.org/>



NEWS

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](#)

CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD



Prayer for Peace

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace
and loves to bless the peacemakers,
at this time
we particularly pray for
peace in our communities,
peace in our nation,
and peace across the world.

We pray that people may live in safety,
secure in your grace,
through Jesus Christ, who died to bring us
peace.

Amen

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!

<https://www.manchester.anglican.org/faith-calling/exploring-faith/prayer-community/>

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](#).

Stories of faith

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