

# St Thomas Parish Newsletter

## September 2025

### **Hello friends**

It's September already! I hope the return to school (and especially the starting of new schools, colleges and places of further education) is going well. If that's you, please know that we are praying for you up here at St Thomas'. If you're breathing out because you no longer have to find ways to feed and entertain youngsters, well we're praying for you too!

The weather people seem to be a bit divided about whether we are going to get a final burst of sunny weather before the autumn properly kicks in so I think the only way to go is to make the most of whatever we get. It is time to think about those annual jobs of 'putting the garden to bed' or, in our case, the churchyard. If you have an interest in the churchyard please do come and help out if you can. We do rely on your help.

Sunday 7th September is our Back to School service, with the blessing of backpacks and lots of positive thoughts for the new school year. Do please come to that (even if you're a bit old for school!). We also have the barbeque afterwards, it should be a good do.

Looking further ahead, Milnrow Brass Band are coming on September 28th (yes, it's a Sunday) at 7pm with a proms themed concert. Tell your friends and neighbours – its always a great evening with the band.

The following Saturday, 4th October, we are going to 'Branch Out' with our very first outdoor worship event, 4.30pm on the school field up at church. we've been planning this for a while so pop a jumper on and come and join us! The 5th October is our Harvest festival so do join us for that.

Plenty to be going on with there, I hope to see you at some, if not all, of those things. In the meantime have a happy September, whatever it brings.

God bless  
Janet



### **Saturday 6 September - Gardening Gang**

Our next Gardening Gang event is taking place TOMORROW!

We'd love to welcome new members even if its just for an hour and ideally we need to cut as much of the grass as possible to help with access to grave plots - **drop in anytime from 8.30am -12pm**

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

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

### **Sunday 7 September – Backpack Sunday Family Service followed by BBQ**

This week we're having a full family service led by the Sunday School team, which will include Blessings and Prayer Stations – there will be no Communion this week.



Following our Family service, we would love as many as possible to stay behind and enjoy some refreshments together.

For anyone wanting to share Communion, there is a full Eucharistic service at St James, starting at 9.15am

## Special Services

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October – Forest Church**  
**4.30pm – St Thomas School Playing Field**



**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Service**  
**11am in Church**



**Donations for Aunty Irene's Pantry/ Rochdale Foodbank**

If you're able, please bring your donations of cans, bottles, cereals, pasta, rice, toiletries etc (ensuring all goods are in date and sealed)

## 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](mailto: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.

## Cleaning Rota / Big Clean – date tbc

If you can help for an hour every 6 weeks or so, please try to persuade a couple of your friends or family to join you to make up a new team. Alternatively, if you can join an existing team contact Judith for further information.

As we've fallen behind with some of the extra cleaning tasks such as brasses, high areas etc we need a BIG CLEAN to catch up. If you can help, please contact Judith.

Also, as we're an equality church, GENTLEMEN don't be shy, contact Judith to volunteer your support!

### Social Events – 2025

Event	Date
Night at the Proms with Milnrow Band	Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> September, 7pm
Christmas Quiz and supper	Potentially 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

We are as ever appreciative of donations for our raffles draws as they help us raise funds at every event.

Donations can be placed in the relevant container at the back of church.

### Christmas Fair Donations

Containers will be available soon for donated 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

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

### 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 visitors.

### 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

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:

#### Priest in Charge - Reverend Janet Pitman

Email: [hildaofwhitby67@gmail.com](mailto:hildaofwhitby67@gmail.com)  
Vicarage: 01706 594284  
Mobile: 07401 344526

#### Curate - Neil McClure

Email: [neil.mcclure@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:neil.mcclure@hotmail.co.uk)  
Mobile: 07799 417341

#### Warden - Judith Jones

Email: [stthomaschurchnewhey@outlook.com](mailto:stthomaschurchnewhey@outlook.com)  
Mobile: 07795 818047

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](mailto: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](mailto:lisa@lisashelpinghands.co.uk)

## Events & News from the Rochdale Deanery and Manchester Diocese

### EVENTS

#### Intercultural Kingdom Conference – Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> 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.ev  
entbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk)

**We very much look forward to welcoming you.**

## Advent Music: (Much) More Than Carols!

Manchester Cathedral invites you to a unique and enriching Advent music workshop on **Monday 6th October 2025, from 2:30pm to 4:50pm.**

Led by Dr Alessandra Pompili, an international concert pianist and liturgist, the session will explore how composers across the centuries have responded to the themes of Advent - not just through carols, but through a wide range of musical expressions that reflect contemplation, expectation, prayer, and joy.

This illustrated workshop will:

- Present music that enhances seasonal liturgy
- Compare and contrast compositions from the time of St Ambrose (386 CE) to the present day
- Encourage reflection on how Advent music can deepen worship and liturgical experience
- Offer practical ideas for ministers, musicians, and anyone interested in music or liturgy.
- Whether you're a church leader, choir member, or simply someone who loves sacred music, this free event is open to all. There will also be opportunities for discussion and sharing ideas on how to bring the richness of Advent into our worship.

📍 Location: Manchester Cathedral

🆓 Free entry – no booking required

✉ For more information, Contact:

[canon.precentor@manchestercathedral.org](mailto:canon.precentor@manchestercathedral.org)

## Nelson Street Church – Spirit Cafe

Last Saturday each month

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



## -----NEWS-----

### The Revd Anne Gilbert Licensed as Area Dean of Rochdale



On Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August, The Rev'd Anne Gilbert was licensed as Area Dean for Rochdale, at St Aidan's Church, by the Bishop of Middleton, fifty years to the day since her father was made vicar at St Aidan's. The ceremony was also attended by the Mayor of Rochdale Cllr Janet Emsley and her Consort Kenneth Emsley.

Revd Anne has been carrying out the role of Acting Area Dean of Rochdale in recent months and brings to the role a deep commitment to collaborative ministry and a heart for local mission. Anne has a wealth of local knowledge, pastoral experience, and deep-rooted faith. She lived in Shaw for many years while teaching at Hathershaw College in Oldham, where she worked for 25 years, a specialist in Religious Education and was a senior teacher in charge of SMSC and British Values.

Answering a call that runs through her family, Anne left to pursue ordained ministry—following in the footsteps of her father, brother, and nephew. She was ordained in Manchester Cathedral in 2018, and served her curacy at St Andrew's, Dearnley and Littleborough before taking on the role of Vicar of Rochdale Parish Churches. Her experience and encouraging approach will be a great asset to the deanery as it continues to grow and flourish.

Accepting the appointment, Anne said:

“Whilst I will be sad to leave my churches and their church families, I am delighted to have been appointed Area Dean of Rochdale. I lived in Rochdale as a child, and it is where my faith

began to develop, especially through singing in a church choir. I was confirmed at Rochdale Parish Church, and now I have served all my ordained ministry in Rochdale Deanery as curate, incumbent, chapter clerk, and Acting Area Dean.

"I believe Rochdale Deanery has the potential to thrive through collaboration, mission-minded leadership, and empowering both clergy and laity.

"My goal is to nurture this transformation, ensuring we grow together for the Kingdom of God."

Advent Music

[canon.precentor@manchestercathedral.org](mailto:canon.precentor@manchestercathedral.org)

### **Thought for the Day** **Coffee and Happiness**

Archdeacon Rachel Mann shared this reflection on coffee and happiness on BBC Radio 4's Thought for the Day.



BBC  
RADIO



B B C 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](#)

CHURCH  
FOR A  
DIFFERENT  
WORLD



### **A Prayer for Our Diocese**

Almighty God,

we thank you for the life and witness of your people  
in Manchester Diocese over many years,  
and we are grateful for the signs of your kingdom today.

As we look to the future,  
may we grow younger, develop more missional leaders,  
and see many churches revitalised and new churches  
planted.

As the gospel of Jesus is proclaimed afresh in our  
generation,  
pour out your Spirit and renew our parishes, chaplaincies  
and schools in ministry and mission,  
changing precious lives and transforming our much-loved  
communities.

These things we ask for the glory of your Son, Jesus Christ  
our Lord.

**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!

<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](#).

### **Stories of faith**

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