

Monthly News for April 2026



Welcome to St Thomas Church

SERVICES

Thursday 2 nd April	6pm MAUNDY THURSDAY Meal and Readings
Friday 3 rd April	2pm - GOOD FRIDAY Hour at the Cross
Sunday 5 th April	<i>COFFEE</i> Allison & Spencer, <i>CHAIRS</i> Adam & Jane <i>WELCOME</i> Geoff & Joyce Theme – EASTER CELEBRATION, Baptisms, confirmations and Bishop Tim! 8.30am – There is NO reflective early Holy Communion in April 10:30 – The All-In, for all ages 18:30 – Reflective Worship (18.30 for coffee, worship begins 18.45)
Sunday 12 th April	<i>COFFEE</i> Sheila, Anne, Jo, <i>CHAIRS</i> Genette & Keith, <i>WELCOME</i> Les & Gill Theme – Luke 24: 13-35, Road to Emmaus 10:30 – The Lively One with Holy Communion 3pm - Wonderfully Messy Church 18:30 – Reflective Worship (18.30 for coffee, worship begins 18.45)
Sunday 19 th April	<i>COFFEE</i> Helen & Ann, <i>CHAIRS</i> Sue & Simon, <i>WELCOME</i> Clarice & Kay Theme – Luke 24:36-end, Ascension 10:30 – The Lively One 18:30 – Reflective Worship (18.30 for coffee, worship begins 18.45)
Sunday 26 th April	<i>COFFEE</i> Ed & Jane, <i>CHAIRS</i> Colin & Phil, <i>WELCOME</i> Betty & Vivienne Theme – Intro to Ephesians 10.30 – The Lively One - 18:30 - The informal one, (18.30 for coffee, worship begins at 18.45)

Please avoid parking in St Thomas Close
and take care not to block drives 😊

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A Message From our Vicar David

April is a great time to pause and notice signs of new life all around us, isn't it! We've got longer days, warmer weather, and of course, the hope of Easter. We also find ourselves coming to the end of our walk through Nehemiah, whose story has something surprisingly relevant to say to us today about Easter.

When Nehemiah saw that Jerusalem's walls were broken down, he didn't just feel sad about it- he did something. With prayer, determination, and a lot of teamwork, he got stuck into rebuilding. We looked at this over the last few months- It wasn't quick or easy, and there were plenty of challenges along the way, but he kept going, trusting that God was with him in it. He encountered opposition- but kept on keeping on.

In a different way, Easter tells a similar story. What looked like the end of everything turned into a brand new beginning. The resurrection reminds us that God can bring life out of even the darkest situations. Nothing is beyond hope. The darkest day led to the brightest dawn!

Most of us have areas in life that feel a bit "in ruins" at times don't we, whether that's relationships, our confidence, or even our faith. Nehemiah's story encourages us to take small steps to rebuild, while Easter reminds us that we're not doing it alone- God is alive, and with us!

So this April, maybe it's about doing what we can, where we are, and trusting God with the rest. A little bit of rebuilding, a lot of hope, and seeing what God might do next!

NEWS, EVENTS AND INFORMATION

THANK YOU TO PHIL AND PAM PAGE - Wide Awake Club has been running for many years in our church, set up by Keith Capp and Phil Page about 15 years ago. Phil has maintained the helm every month, and when his sidekick Keith (and also Steve Cathcart) moved away. Whilst Pam has been making the breakfast baps for nearly as many years. We are so grateful for all that Pam and Phil have both contributed over the years in serving the Dads, Grandads and their children in the community for all this time. We would like to say a **HUGE** thankyou to them both, and a fond farewell, as it is time for them to hang up their aprons and pool cues. They leave a big hole, but a capable team whom they have trained up and modelled to, so well! Thanks also for the team who step up to fill their big shoes. Pam and Phil you will be so dearly missed by the WAC family!

THANK YOU FROM CLARE - Clare joined us for a two-week placement as part of her training for ministry. She has sent us a Thank You card which you can find in the flyers section of the covering email. Clare's card says *"To David and everyone at St T's, You made me so welcome and included. I loved being on placement at St T's and I hope not to be a stranger. Please know that I hold you in my prayers, and do continue to pray for me too! Every Blessing in Jesus' Name, Clare x"*

IMPORTANT REQUEST! - Please turn-off the lights and taps in the toilets after use. Also, if you are a group leader, please can you check each toilet before leaving. Thank you for your kind help.

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CAFE ON THE CLOSE - Every Thursday, 10am - 12pm. Offering a place to relax and enjoy social time with others over coffee and cake. Please note there will not be a Café on Thursday 7th May due to the Elections taking place at St Thomas Church.

AFTERNOON WORSHIP - Every Thursday at 12.15pm. A short 30 minute time of worship, beginning immediately after Café. Arrive early and can enjoy coffee and cake first!

PRAYING FOR THE 34,000 - Join us on Zoom as we gather together across the Diocese to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. It's very informal and you can have your camera on or off and feel relaxed as you pray. Taking place virtually every 3rd Thursday at 1pm, for 30 minutes. Meeting Code: 765 1017 3191 Password: PRAY34.

POST & PRAY - Friday 27th March, at 9.45am. Join us as we post our Easter postcards, whilst praying for our streets.

KNIT, STITCH & NATTER - Friday 27th March at 10.30am, in the Annexe. Meeting every last Friday of the month (except for August).

DOG TRAINING CLASSES - Friday evenings - 6pm - 10pm - Contact Sarah or Kit for more information info@throughthedogseyes.com

PRAYER & PERCOLATION - Every Monday, Wednesday & Friday, at 9.15am in St T's lounge for 30 mins of prayer with coffee or tea.

BROWNIES, GUIDES & RANGERS - Taking a break for Easter and will return on Monday 13th April. Usually meeting every Monday evening in term time.

TOODERS & FOOTPRINTS - Taking a break for Easter and will return on Wednesday 22nd April. Usually every Wednesday in term time.
Toddlers - 10am-11.30am / Footprints - 1pm-2,30pm)

EASTER BRICK CHURCH - Wednesday 1st April, 4pm

SPACE TO PRAY - Every Wednesday, 6.30pm at St T's. Come and pray for everything on our hearts.

FILLING STATION - Wednesday 1st April, 7.30pm. At Aldridge Parish Church Centre. Join us for Spirit filled worship, teaching and ministry. Our speaker is Christopher Landau Director of ReSource, formerly Anglicans for Renewal. Christopher read Theology at Cambridge and joined a Holy Trinity Brompton plant in London and became the BBC World Service's religious correspondent before being ordained and becoming associate minister at St Aldate's Oxford. He aims to help churches seek the work of the Holy Spirit in 'little, local and ordinary' churches and to promote constructive conversation about the work of the Spirit across different church traditions. If you have not been to Filling Station before, this could be a good one to try!

MAUNDY THURSDAY GATHERING - Thursday 2nd April, at 6pm. Join us for a simple meal of soup, bread, cheese and paté, with songs & readings. Please note the earlier than usual start of 6pm. Booking Essential for catering purposes - office@stthomasaldridge.org.uk

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EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA - Good Friday, 3rd April, at 10am. A morning of crafts & activities, for all ages.

HEALING ON THE STREETS (HOTS) - Saturday 4th April, 11am-1pm. Meeting on the car park outside Methodist Church in Aldridge, every 1st Saturday of the month. Future Dates 1 Apr, 2 May, 4 Jun, 5 Sept, 3 Oct, 7 Nov, 5 Dec.

HOUR AT THE CROSS - Good Friday, 3rd April, at 2pm. A space to reflect & remember as we gather at the Cross.

EASTER MORNING CELEBRATION - Sunday 5th April, at 10.30am. Join us for our Easter Day Celebration, with Bishop Tim, Baptisms, Confirmations & Holy Communion.

EASTER EVENING CELEBRATION - Sunday 5th April, arriving at 6.30pm for coffee & cake, worship begins at 7.45pm.

FIZZ - Saturday 11th April, 12pm - 2pm. Church for adults with additional needs and their carers. Held at Tynings Lane Church, at 12pm, on the second Saturday of the month (except August). Future dates, May 2, Jun 13, July 11, Sept 12, Oct 10, Nov 14, Dec 12.

WONDERFULLY MESSY CHURCH - Sunday 12th April, at 3pm. Church for children with additional needs and their carers. Future dates are - May 10th, June 14th and July 12th.

DANCE LESSONS - Taking a break for Easter. Usually every Tuesday morning for one-to-one tuition for couples. Contact Mandy Daniels for details - amandadaniels119@outlook.com

MONTHLY MUNCH - Tuesday 14th April. Join us for a 2 course home cooked lunch at church. There is no charge, but a suggested donation of £3. Booking is essential, and also let us know if you have any allergies or dietary requirements. Next Lunch will be Tuesday 12th May.

SAFEGUARDING COURSE - Thursday 16th April at St Thomas Church. Please make every effort to attend if your Safeguarding Training is due for renewal. If you are unable to make the date, you will need to complete training independently online themselves. It is important that as many people as possible attend the course, even if they are not involved in a specific role in church, as we understand that the more people that are aware of potential risks, will help to keep our church a safe place for everyone.

WIDE AWAKE - Saturday 18th April. For Dads, Grandads, Male Carers and kids! Come and enjoy a morning with toys and crafts, including coffee or tea with a breakfast sandwich for adults, toast and squash for kids. Future dates are - 18th Apr, 16th May, 20th Jun, 18th Jul, not meeting in August, 19th Sep, 17th Oct, 21st Nov, 19th Dec.

FOSTER & ADOPTIVE PARENT GROUP - Wednesday 22nd April, 12.30pm - 2pm in the Annexe. This is a Christian support group for foster and adoptive parents. The Group aims to meet every 4th Wednesday of the month. Future dates 27 May, 24 June, 22 July, 23 Sept, 28 Oct, 25 Nov.

KNIT, STITCH & NATTER - Friday 24th April at 10.30am, in the Annexe. Meeting every last Friday of the month (except for August).

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CELEBRATION SUNDAY - Sunday 26th April, at 10.30am. Join us as we celebrate all that the Lord has done for us over the last 12 months during our normal 10.30am gathering. There will be some legal aspects, such as electing a new warden to replace Glennys who stepped down in January, and also confirming who will be on the DCC in the coming year (the DCC is a bit like our central leadership team). We will also hear about our finances from our treasurer, Ron.

THANK YOU TO OUR TREASURER RON HEATON - Ron Heaton will be stepping down as Treasurer at our AGM. Ron has faithfully and kindly been in this ministry for 8 years and he has decided that the time is now right for him to hang up his calculator. We are all so thankful for all that he has done behind the scenes for his commitment to this important roll - thank you Ron! This means, that from the end of April, we will be looking for a new treasurer. Someone who is willing to have access to our online banking, to whizz over expenses and payments, and to keep an eye on the books. **This might be you!** If this is something you feel you might be interested in knowing more about please feel welcome to contact Ron for a no strings attached chat - finance@stthomasaldridge.org.uk! Please join me in sending a sincere thank you to Ron 😊

ELECTIONS - St Thomas Church will host the Elections on Thursday 7th May. Any groups that usually meet in church on Thursdays will be postponed (or alternative arrangements made).

CHARITY AUCTION - Saturday 20th June. At Aldridge Methodist Church, at 12pm. Donations are welcomed, but please avoid donating alcohol, clothing, electrical items or large furniture. The auction opens for viewing at 10am, with bidding starting at 2pm. Please see flyer in the covering email.

THOMAS PROJECT COMMUNITY FAYRE - June 27th, 11am - 3pm. . Come along to Aldridge Community Centre to enjoy this fun day for all of the community. There will be a variety of stalls offering food, crafts and much more!

TEARFUND CHRISTMAS FAYRE - Saturday 14th November 2026! Please save the date!

TIKTOK VICAR - Hear David on his regular Radio Show (*see flyer in covering email*). Also soon to be on God TV date of airing to be shared soon. Finally don't forget watch David's regular TikTok videos.

CAR PARKING - thank you for parking with consideration to our neighbours, ensuring that their drives are not blocked, and avoiding parking partially on the pavement. Kingshayes Road is best suited to leave your car if the car park is full.

LET'S PRAY

We meet for **Prayer & Percolation** in the church lounge on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays at 9.15 am - 9.45 am. Do join us even if you don't like coffee (tea is available).

Space to Pray - Usually meeting on Wednesday evenings in church from 6.30 pm - 7.15 pm (except in August). Time to sit in the Lord's presence & pray as the Spirit leads. Do join us.

Church Prayer List - for prayer support.

Prayer Circle - for confidential prayer support from a small group of prayer warriors.

Remember that nothing is too small or too big for the Lord's help.

Prayer requests to Prayer Co-ordinator: Lizspiers55@blueyonder.co.uk or 01922 453944. **Cont...**

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Prayer Focus for April – Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord for the quiet revival that is going on around us and the ways in which Jesus is touching the lives of people today and drawing them into His church. We give thanks for the new people he has led to come to St. Thomas' and pray that He will enable us to be a people of welcome and encouragement so that they will soon find where they fit into the body of Christ and be blessed in their roles. We pray too for the Lord's blessings on those being baptised or confirmed on Easter Sunday as they publicly declare their faith in Jesus Christ our Lord. "For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost". Luke 19:10.

COOPER & JORDAN SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Parents should be aware that we follow the school's admission policy on attendance & in accordance with Diocesan guidelines 'regular attendance' at **worship** constitutes a minimum of at least **two services per month**. The guidelines suggest that regular attendance should have been for at least two years before application. Please check with one of the Team to ensure your attendance is recorded in the folder which is located on the large table at the back of church.

GIVING TO ST T'S

- Simply scan this QR code with your phone.
- Alternatively, a card reader is located on the large table at the back of church.
- Our Team can also provide you with information to enable you to set-up a regular standing order.
- Don't forget to add Gift Aid, ask a member of our Team for help with this.



CALENDAR OF ST THOMAS CHURCH EVENTS

Please contact the office if you wish to check availability of the Annexe 😊

Wed 1 April - EASTER	Prayer & Percolation Toddlers Footprints Brick Church Space to Pray Filling Station Dance Lessons	9.15am (Lounge) 10.00am – 11.30am 1pm – 2.30pm 4.00pm – 5.30pm 6.30pm – 7.15pm 7.30pm – 9pm 7.30pm – 8.30pm
Thur 2 April - EASTER	Café on the Close <i>No Refresh Life Group</i> Midweek Gathering <i>No New Life Group</i> Lent Course	10am – 12pm <i>Usually 10am – 12pm</i> 12.15-12.45pm <i>Usually 7.30pm (Lounge)</i> 7.30pm coffee / 7.45pm start
Fri 3 April - GOOD F'DAY	Prayer & Percolation Easter Eggstravaganza Hour at the Cross <i>No Dog Training Classes</i>	9.15am (Lounge) 10am – 11.30am 2pm – 3pm <i>Usually 6pm – 9pm</i>
Sat 4 April - EASTER	Healing on the Streets	11am – 1pm (At Aldridge Methodist Car Park)
Sun 5 April - EASTER	See Gatherings on Front Page (10.30am Bishop Tim visiting, Baptisms & Confirmations)	10.30am / 6.30pm 3pm – 4.30pm

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Tues 7 April - EASTER	<i>No Dance Lessons</i> Toddler Set-Up Band Practice	<i>Usually 10am – 1.00pm</i> 1.00pm-3pm 7pm – 9pm
Wed 8 April - EASTER	Prayer & Percolation <i>No Toddlers</i> <i>No Footprints</i> Space to Pray Dance Lessons	9.15am – 9.45am <i>Usually 10am – 11.30am</i> <i>Usually 1pm – 2.30pm</i> 6.30pm – 7.15pm 7.30pm
Thur 9 April - EASTER	Café on the Close <i>No Refresh Life Group</i> Midweek Afternoon Worship <i>No New Life Group</i>	10am – 12pm <i>Usually 10am – 12pm (Lounge)</i> 12.15-12.45pm <i>Usually 7.30pm (Lounge)</i>
Frid 10 April - EASTER	Prayer & Percolation <i>No Dog Training Classes</i>	9.15am (Lounge) <i>Usually 6.30pm – 9pm</i>
Sat 11 April -	FIZZ	12pm (Tynings Lane Church)
Sun 12 April	See Gatherings on Front Page Wonderfully Messy Church	10.30 & 6.30pm 3pm
Mon 13 April	Prayer & Percolation Brownies/Guides/Rangers	9.15am Evenings
Tues 14 April	Dance Lessons <i>No Toddler Set-Up</i> Band Practice	10am – 1.00pm <i>Usually 1.00pm-3pm</i> 7pm – 9pm
Wed 15 April	Prayer & Percolation Toddlers Footprints Space to Pray Dance Lessons	9.15am – 9.45am 10am – 11.30am 1pm – 2.30pm 6.30pm – 7.15pm 7.30pm
Thur 16 April	Café on the Close Refresh Life Group Midweek Gathering Safeguarding Training New Life Group	10am – 12pm 10am – 12pm (Lounge) 12.15-12.45pm 7.30pm 7.30pm (Lounge)
Frid 17 April	Prayer & Percolation Dog Training Classes	9.15am (Lounge) 6.30pm – 9pm
Sat 18 April	Wide Awake Club	10am – 11.30am
Sun 19 April	See Gatherings on Front Page	10.30am / 6.30pm
Mon 20 April	Prayer & Percolation Brownies/Guides/Rangers	9.15am Evening
Tue 21 April	Dance Lessons Toddler Set-Up Band Practice	10am – 1.00pm 1.00pm-3pm 7pm – 9pm
Wed 22 April	Prayer & Percolation Toddlers Foster & Adoptive Parents Footprints Space to Pray Dance Lessons	9.15am – 9.45am 10am – 11.30am 12.30pm – 2pm (Annexe) 1pm – 2.30pm 6.30pm – 7.15pm 7.30pm
Thur 23 April	Café on the Close Refresh Life Group Midweek Gathering New Life Group	10am – 12pm 10am – 12pm (Lounge) 12.15-12.45pm 7.30pm (Lounge)
Fri 24 April	Prayer & Percolation Knit, Stitch & Natter Dog Training Classes	9.15am (Lounge) 10.30am (Annexe) 6.30pm – 9pm
Sat 25 April	No Events	
Sunday 26 April	See front sheet for gatherings	10.30am / 6.30pm

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Monday 27 April	Prayer & Percolation Brownies/Guides/Rangers	9.15am Evening
Tuesday 28 April	Dance Lessons Toddler Set-Up Band Practice	10am – 1.00pm 1.00pm-3pm 7pm – 9pm
Wednesday 29 April	Prayer & Percolation Toddlers Footprints Space to Pray Dance Lessons	9.15am – 9.45am 10am – 11.30am 1pm – 2.30pm 6.30pm – 7.15pm 7.30pm
Thursday 30 April	Café on the Close Refresh Life Group Midweek Gathering New Life Group	10am – 12pm 10am – 12pm (Lounge) 12.15-12.45pm 7.30pm (Lounge)

Contacts

- **Clergy –**
Rev David Sims (VICAR) vicar@stthomasaldridge.org.uk, office number 01922 453942
 Rev Jeremy Bakewell 07790 986575
 Rev Sue Quibell 07889 88554
 If you would like to talk please feel free to phone on the numbers above.
- **Church Office –**
 Administrator - Genette Andrews. Office hours are **Monday to Thursday from 9 am till 12 pm**. Genette will be happy to help with your queries.
 Telephone - 01922 453942 / Email - office@stthomasaldridge.org.uk
 Please note that messages are not be seen or heard on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays.
- **Children & Families Worker: Hannah Evans -**
 Telephone: office 01922 453942 / home 01922 693298 / mobile 07921 387241
 Email: hannahevans@stthomasaldridge.org.uk
Please note that messages are not be seen or heard on Fridays & Saturdays.
- **Prayer Coordinator: Liz Spiers -**
 Telephone 01922 453944 / email lizspiers55@blueyonder.co.uk if you wish to discuss any prayer needs, including ongoing prayer ministry & details of the Prayer Circle.
- **Wardens -**
Sue Grundy: 07772 925069 / susan.grundy@yahoo.com
Andrew Dickson: 07989 143388 / andrewjdickson999@hotmail.com
Lisa Winnall: 07805 114471 / lisawinnall.church@gmail.com
- **Safeguarding -**
 Safeguarding is *everybody's* responsibility. If you have concerns about how somebody might be treating you or another person, please do not hesitate to contact the following people –
Sue Grundy (for children) - 07772 925069 / susan.grundy@yahoo.com
Sue Quibell (for adults) - 07889 885545 / s.quibell@googlemail.com
(see poster in church foyer for other numbers & information). A copy of our safeguarding policy is available in the church foyer & church office.
- **Fabrics & Health and Safety –**
Andrew Dickson: 07989 143388 / andrewjdickson999@hotmail.com
- **Websites:**
<https://stthomasaldridge.org.uk/> or www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4121/)