

St Thomas Parish Church

Newsletter April 2026

Janet Writes

What a difference a sunny day makes, even if that wind is still a bit chilly! From where I am, the church yard looks really good, thanks to our lovely gardening gang. They are a friendly bunch so if you'd like to come and join in, please do – I can guarantee they'll find you something suitable to do.

The news this time is mainly about taking care of, and running, our church. You see, a church is not just a building (beautiful though our St Thomas' is), a church is the people in it as well. If the people are not involved in the church, it does not thrive. Now, there are lots of ways to be involved in the church but right now what we need are people to help run it – to serve on the church council (the PCC). It is not a difficult job but it is a responsible one, which is why people sometimes shy away from it. So if you're thinking 'I can't do that', don't. You don't need a degree in church management, common sense and a willingness to help are more important.

We also need people with good ideas on how to raise funds without asking the same people over and over again. This is our 150th anniversary so any ideas on how we celebrate that would be good too. If you can spare some time to help with the celebrations or general fundraising, or indeed any of the things that make up our church life (or could make it better, I'm happy to hear your thoughts) that too would be great.

There's an old saying – 'many hands make light work' and it is so true in church life. If we all offered a small amount of time, doing what we're good at or what will help, this church could be growing, thriving and reaching many more people with the good news of God's kingdom.

So come on over to family worship on Sunday, join us at our first Forest Church of the year at 2pm on Saturday 16th May, the Whit Sunday celebration in Milnrow memorial park or at 11am on any Sunday and let's see what we can achieve together.



God's blessings on you
Janet

Family Service this Sunday - 26th April

10am Breakfast
11am Service of songs, worship and prayer
12pm Chocolate Tombola

APCM – postponed

The APCM has been postponed from this Sunday to after service on Sunday 17th May

Hard Truths!

It's a fact that we continually struggle to meet the needs of our congregation, community, church building and grounds, as well as balance our finances and fulfil our legal obligations to the Diocese and National Church.

We desperately need more people to come forward to offer some time to help around church with the various admin, management, and maintenance tasks.

Whilst appreciating we all come to church for different reasons and we should be able to attend, feel refreshed and sustained spiritually and also leave – however, it is a fact that this church WILL NOT SURVIVE without additional regular financial contributions and new people coming forward to offer HELP.

The burden continues to land on just a few people and it's not sustainable!

Our ask is that you pray on what God is calling you to do in this place and consider what skills and experience you can offer.

Job carving and job sharing is possible, so none of the duties feel overwhelming. Please consider what you can offer and come forward

now to take on or shadow and support anyone of the following roles:

- **Treasurer** – accounts admin experience helpful
- **Secretary** – minute taking, correspondence management
- **Warden / Deputy Warden** – do you have any knowledge of building maintenance or management?
- **PCC member** – being involved in decision making regarding the management of the church

Help is also required with the following:

- **Verger** - support to help Janet through the week with weddings and funerals – help to set up, welcome and tidy after.
- **Church cleaning** – we desperately need new teams for the cleaning rota!

Its definitely time to let some of our cleaning teams retire or at least take a step back! Also, its not a job restricted to the ladies, so GENTLEMEN don't be shy!!

Can you and a few friends or family members give an hour or so once every 5 or 6 weeks and bring the children to help – the more the merrier!

- **Gardening Gang** – it's growing (pun intended), but we always need more people, especially if we want to be able to cut all the grass in the churchyard each visit – again, bring the kids!
- **Newsletter** – collating and writing the articles
- **Rota admin** – update and issue anyone of the following rotas; cleaning, refreshments, lay assistant/reader/intercessor

Social Events – 2026 Plans

Our social events calendar is well under way – these are an important way for us to connect, build friendships and grow, but they are also a vital source of income and the survival of our church!

Please support as many of the following events as you can.

Event	Date
Family Service Breakfast	Sunday 26 th April, From 10am
Afternoon Tea	Saturday 6 th June, 2pm
Family Service Breakfast	Sunday 7 th June, From 10am
Family Service Breakfast	Sunday 6 th September, From 10am
Milnrow Band Concert	September, date tbc
Harvest Lunch	Harvest lunch (soup & roll), approx. 12.30pm
Family Service Breakfast	Sunday 16 th November, From 10am
Christingle and Christmas Fair	Sunday 13 th December, 3pm

(All events in church unless otherwise stated)

Food in Church

Although we may be poor as church mice, we don't want to encourage any furry visitors into the building!

If you or your family members consume food in church, please ensure wrappers and any waste are disposed properly in the kitchen bin and any spillages are cleaned up.

Finance – why we need your help

We currently have the following major maintenance projects to fund:

- South door repairs
- Heating (move to Eco fuel or repair current system)
- Lighting (move to LED)
- Hearing loop

Rather than contributing just when you are physically in church, could you make a regular contribution by setting up a Standing Order?

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

If we could all increase our giving by a few pounds and ensure that giving was regular, these changes would make a massive difference to our income and ability to budget for large expenses and also plan and sustain any outreach projects.

We do apply for Church of England and Manchester Diocesan Grants where possible to help with the cost of expensive repairs and upgrades. However, as this is OUR church and in many cases we also need to provide matched funding.

For anyone already giving by Standing Order, to have something to enter to the weekly collection we have regular giving tokens available.



If you would like to set up a new Standing Order, please email Judith to request the forms

stthomaschurchnewhey@outlook.com

Bank Details

Account Name: PCC of St Thomas
Sort Code: 09-01-55
Account Number: 95985181

Votive Candles

We provide votive candles free of charge for everyone who would like to light one in prayer for themselves or others. The candles are placed in sand for safety reasons as they are left to burn out naturally after service.

Please feel free to light a candle before, during or after service, however, to respect the needs of others and the cost to church, please limit to one candle only per person.

Safety Notice: for safety reasons children are NOT permitted to light candles unaccompanied. Parents and guardians, please help ensure the safety of our young members.

Fund Raising

It might surprise you to know that 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 the form of regular weekly collections, gift aid claims and from fund raising events and Will legacies.

- If you haven't attended one of our events yet, please buy your ticket for the Afternoon Tea (6th June) 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).

Easy Fundraising

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.

Please support us by clicking 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 as we get 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

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/>



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

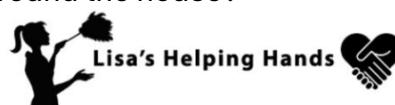
Email: stthomaschurchnewhey@outlook.com

Mobile: 07795 818047

Please avoid contacting Janet on Friday's if possible as this is her day off and there will be a delay in .

Need a Helping Hand?

Do you or someone you know need a helping hand around the house?



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@lisahelpinghands.co.uk

Events & News from the Rochdale Deanery and Manchester Diocese

EVENTS

Celebrating Our Shared Journey: Deanery Gatherings Across our Diocese

Rochdale Deanery - Wednesday, 6th May - [Book Your Place Here](#)

Venue: Nelson Street Church, 6 Nelson Street, Rochdale, OL16 1NL

This spring, please join us for one of our deanery celebration events taking place across the Diocese of Manchester. People from our parishes, chaplaincies, and schools will come

together to reflect on how God is renewing lives and communities and to explore the next steps we can take together.

We'll share our diocesan vision, hear stories of hope from each deanery, and outline the national support and investment that is strengthening our mission and ministry.

At each gathering, we will explore the following four themes at the heart of our diocese's strategy and how national funding will support your deanery:

1. Parish Renewal
2. Growing Younger
3. Church Planting and Revitalisation
4. Developing Missional Leaders

You'll hear local stories of creativity, faithfulness, and discipleship offering ideas and encouragement for your own ministry context. Each evening will be led by one of our bishops alongside members of the teams responsible for supporting the delivery of our shared vision. Through worship, prayer, and conversation, we will celebrate what God is doing, acknowledge the challenges we face, and highlight the support, resources, and investment available to help us flourish.

These gatherings are for everyone: clergy, lay leaders, members of PCCs, school staff, chaplains, volunteers, new worshippers, and anyone curious about where God might be calling us. We hope you'll leave inspired and equipped to share this vision in your local context.

Dates and Locations

Each venue will open at 6.45pm for refreshments and the event will start at 7.15pm. You are welcome at any gathering but you'll get the most from attending your local deanery evening. As each gathering follows the same format, you only need to book onto one event.



Come and Sing at St Ann, Manchester

You are invited to join the [Sing my Soul](#) Choral Scholars for a day of singing and fun. We will be learning a programme of music under the guidance of choral leader Harry Mobbs, and performing these songs and hymns together at the end of the session.

Join us for what promises to be an uplifting and joyful day, all while raising funds for the upcoming Manchester and Salford Whit Walk.

Date: Saturday 9th May

Time: 10.30am – 1pm

Cost: £12 per person

To book, please email Revd Caroline Hewitt
revd.caroline.hewitt@gmail.com



Prayer is both simple and profound. It changes us and the world. It moves us to action and stirs us out of our complacency.

When we pray repeatedly, publicly and privately, there is a slow conversion of the heart to the priorities of God. Grace seeps into the fractures and failings of our humanity, as well as into the hopes and longings of the soul.

Our [Transforming Prayer Community](#) is our diocese-wide community that seeks to connect and reconnect us with this simple vocation to pray.

Our prayer community is an invitation to simplicity, to growth and change, and to an adventure in which we will discover more about God's priorities and equip us to be his Body in a world of need.

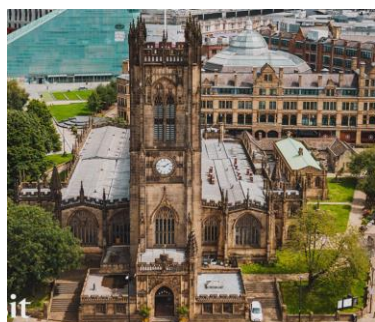


TRANSFORMING PRAYER COMMUNITY

DIOCESE OF 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](#)

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.

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