

Sunday 20th September 2026

The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

'So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

Welcome to everyone in church today and to those joining us online for our services. Please join us for refreshments after the service in the Church Hall. Please place your offering in the plate at the back of church before the service begins or use the QR code on each pew or use the card machine.

Our worship is livestreamed on Facebook. If you do not wish to be visible on any filming please sit towards the rear half of the church and let a Warden know so that Holy Communion can be brought to you.

Hymns	St Thomas	St James
Processional	522	333
Before the Gospel	242	377
Offertory	138	Sheet
		For the Fruits
During Communion	313	357
	120	Sheet
		Take my life
Final	148	239

The Week Ahead & Information

Monday 11:30 National Lottery Heritage Fund visit *to St Thomas'*

Tuesday 9.30am Thomas Tots *at St Thomas' Hall*
 10am Eucharist *at St James*

Thursday 10am Eucharist *at St Thomas'*
 2-4pm Thursday, Food and Friends *in St Thomas' Hall*

Saturday 10:30-12pm McMillan Coffee Morning *at St James*

Next Sunday – 27th Sept: Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

8:00 Said Eucharist *at St Thomas'*
 9:15 Sung Eucharist *at St Thomas'*
 10:45 Sung Eucharist *at St James*
 12:30 Baptism of Haille *at St Thomas'*
 3:00 Children's Ministry Group Meeting *at St Thomas'*

Thank You!

To everybody who contributed to the Diocesan Centenary celebrations. We outdoor worship at school, Heritage days, a quiz and our walk of witness. All were received well and were only made possible through the time and dedication of those who made those events happen. Thank you. Fr Simon.

Diocesan Renewal Programme

A reminder to keep the programme, and the participation of all three parishes, in your prayers. Please pray the LyCiG prayer for growth as often as you can!

Pet Service 3pm 20th September at St Thomas'

A special service to bless our 2,4 and even no legged companions. Well behaved owners are welcome to accompany their pets.

Thursday Refectory at St Thomas

Our refectory cafe offers soup, sandwiches, a hot meal and cakes. We are open 11am to 1pm, usually the first and third Thursday of each month.

Come along for good food and company, or just for a drink and a chat. We also do takeaways.

The dates for the next few months are - 1 October, 15 October, 5 November, 19 November and 3 December.

Neary's General Store Closes 20th September

Over many years James and Pat were very supportive of St Thomas activities, as well as being an important hub for the village of Helmshore. A retirement card and collection for Pat from the church is being arranged. Please do sign it and contribute to the collection if you can.

McMillan Coffee Morning at St James Saturday 26th September 10.30 - 12.00.

Cake donations will be gratefully received on the day.

Reel Connections – Community Film Club 7pm 30th September at St James Hall

Beginning this September, we're launching 'Reel Connections', a new monthly community film club. Each session will offer a welcoming space to relax, enjoy a film, and connect with others from across the community. Reel

Connections will aim to meet on the last Wednesday of each month in St James' Church Hall, starting at 7.00pm on Wednesday 30 September. Some future dates might need to change due to clashes with other commitments.

What to Expect

- **A varied programme** of films across different genres – uplifting stories, thought-provoking dramas, classics, and family favourites.
- **Family-friendly screenings** at the end of each school term, perfect for children, parents, grandparents, and carers to enjoy together.
- **Free admission** for everyone. Donations are always appreciated and will help us sustain the club.
- **Refreshments provided**, creating a warm, café-style atmosphere before and after the film.
- **Optional discussion resources** – short questions, reflections, and reading suggestions will be available to spark conversation on the night or at home later.

Film Licensing

Due to licensing restrictions, we are unable to publicly advertise individual film titles. However, the name of each month's film will be:

- *shared verbally within the church community, and*
- *available by email on request.*

St. Thomas's Macmillan Coffee Morning 3rd October 9.30 - 12.30 in St Thomas' church hall.

Everyone is welcome to our fundraising event in aid of this great cause. If you can bake for us, then please do let Joanne know or text on 07876015511. Many thanks for your continued support.

Harvest Festival 4th October (both churches)

Our Harvest celebrations will take place on Sunday 4th October at our main services. Both will be All-Age Eucharistic services.

St Thomas' 'A Church through Time' talk at the Whitaker 8th October (also January, date tbc)

Temperance local history talk at the Whitaker.

The church history book continues to be available at Potato Man, Neary's, the Museum and church.

Advance Notice for Events at St James (full details to follow).

27th November: Brass Band Concert

5th December: Christmas Fair

24th January: Burns Night

Eco Church Notices:

World Car Free Day

22nd September is World Car Free day, so a good time to launch our "St Thomas car share scheme". We would like you all to consider car sharing whenever you are attending an event that you know other members of the church will be attending. This might be for example, one of our joint services at St James or St Peters, a regular church service, or a church social event. You may already be doing this and that's great news if you are. Some however, may not have it at the forefront of their minds.. It just takes a little forward planning a week or two before the event. We will try to highlight the opportunity whenever it arises within the church calendar.

World Rivers Day

27th September is World Rivers day. This day serves to highlight the value of our rivers and strives to improve the stewardship of rivers around the world. Our eco church group have discovered that our local rivers, the Ogden and the Irwell are polluted, both with run off from agricultural land and illegal sewage out flow by United Utilities. This pollution makes our rivers a danger to the children who play in the them, the animals that drink from them and the nature that lives in them. Our eco team have written to our M.P. about our concerns and have highlighted the issue to him. He, in turn, has contacted the Environment Agency who have written a detailed reply, confirming the pollution and notifying us that they have asked United Utilities for a detailed action plan on how they are going to improve the condition of the water in the rivers on their patch going forwards. This plan is at present being reviewed by the Environment Agency to assess whether it is acceptable.

Blister Pack Recycling

Please keep your blister packs coming. They can be left at the back of both churches. Please note that some packs are now all metal and can be recycled from home with other metal products. The mixed plastic and metal packs can still be brought to church.

Bell Ringing Opportunities

Bell ringing is a fun and satisfying pastime. If you would like to learn a new skill and be part of a good social gathering please speak to Linden or Tim.

St James Mother's Union Ukraine Assistance

St James Mothers Union is collecting household goods, good bed linen and shoes etc. to be passed on to a Ukrainian lady who comes to church. All goods are transported to the Ukraine every two weeks. The media seems to have forgotten that there is still a war going on over there. The goods go to villages two miles from the Russian border. Ukraine Assistance are looking for storage facilities. Any donations and suggestions welcome. Please speak to Kaye Ridings.

St Thomas' Hall Cleaning Team

The cleaning team is short of volunteers. An hour or two each week would be excellent if anybody is able to offer.

Would anybody interested in helping out please speak to Fr Simon.

Inclusive Church

The Inclusive Church Group is always looking for ways to make St Thomas' more accessible for everyone. We have large print hymn books, Order of Service sheets, pew sheets as well as magnifying glasses both with and without lights. For anyone with any SEND needs, we have a wheelchair at the back of the church which can be used plus sensory toys and ear defenders to help anyone with sensory issues. Don't forget that, if you need to use the ramp at the back door, to ring the doorbell and someone will let you in. If you have any ideas or issues please mention them to Jo, Rachel, Phil or Tricia.

Food Support

Please keep your kind gifts coming. We have undertaken a stock review and we have plenty of pasta for the time being. However, we are short of the following items: Pasta sauce, Long life milk, Tins of meat, Sugar, Soup, Tins of fruit, Toiletries and Toilet Roll.

Weekly Prayer List for the sick

Please contact Revd. Judith to include a name on the weekly prayer list.

For your prayers

Charley, Lizzie, Rachael, Quentin, John, Mother Mo, Sophie, Joyce, Andrew, Anthony, Sara, Derek, Catherine, Christine, Kathleen, Arnold, Alicia, Jacqueline, Vivienne, Adrienne, Fr Roger Smith, Neville, Kenneth, Leo.

For all who have recently died and remembering all whose anniversaries fall in the coming week. *Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.*

Please also let us know when someone is unwell or goes into hospital.

LyCiG Prayer for Growth

God of Mission,
Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions, Joy to our worship
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers in spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.