

Sunday 27th September 2026

The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

'By what authority are you doing these things'

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	26	271
Before the Gospel	500	297
Offertory	346	86
During Communion	463	307
	414	296
Final	268	362

The Week Ahead & Information

- Monday** 6:30pm St James Standing Committee *at the vicarage*
- Tuesday** 9.30am Thomas Tots *at St Thomas' Hall*
10am Eucharist *at St James*
- Wednesday** 7pm Film Club *at St James Hall*
- Thursday** 10am Eucharist *at St Thomas'*
11-1pm Refectory Café Open
2pm MU Meeting *at St James (speaker Fr Simon)*
- Saturday** 9:30-12.30pm McMillan Coffee Morning *at St Thomas*
9am Clergy Assault Course at Whitehough for +P's Harvest Appeal

Next Sunday – 4th Oct: Harvest Festival

- 9:15 All Age Eucharist *at St Thomas'*
10:45 All Age Eucharist *at St James*

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!

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.

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.*

Toddler Group at St James School 1st October - 14th December

Suitable for 2-4yr olds, accompanied by parents or carers. See the QR code on the church Facebook page to book.

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. Our focus is clean water. We are gratefully receiving toiletries and sanitary products for our foodbank.

New St Thomas' Church Tour guide

We're testing out a new tour of the church, which can be self-guided or led. You will find them at the back of church. There's a bit of a glitch with the first copies (font size, last page) which will we get right for the future copies we hope visitors might pay for. Try it out and see what you find out and let George know of any comments (omissions, clarity....) by the end of October.

Feedback on St Thomas Heritage Open Day, 19 September

85 people were involved, of whom 7 were children, some familiar, some new (the walk up from the Museum was particularly successful in this). Although it was a free event, £126 was raised by the Refectory and £30 in book sales, ignoring any additional donations by cash or card. For the future, we learnt: not to bother with the mornings; & not to offer two things at the same time, even if they were at different locations.

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.

24th October Autumn Coffee Morning at Antioch Christian Bookroom

At Kay Street Baptist Church, Rawtenstall,

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.

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.

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.

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. 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. If you need to use the ramp at the back door, 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, Barbara, Henry, Christine, Kathleen, Arnold, Alicia, Jacqueline, Vivienne, Adrienne, Fr Roger Smith, Neville, Kenneth, Leo, Mark, Kerry.

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.