



## *Welcome to St. Thomas'!*



*A very warm welcome to St Thomas' Church.*

**This sheet is now also being sent via email! Please contact the office on our temporary number of 07702 822546 if you wish to receive an emailed copy.**

St Thomas' Website - [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4121/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4121/))

St. Thomas' Facebook - [www.facebook.com/stthomasaldridge/](http://www.facebook.com/stthomasaldridge/)

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### Services

**2<sup>nd</sup> August** Online Service – Great Escapes 1, Noah and The Flood

**9<sup>th</sup> August** Online Service - Great Escapes 2, Baby Moses

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*Rev's Ramblings*  
*30 July 2020*

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We're actually away in our caravan now for three weeks, but before we went I painted my nails – and in doing so, had a look at my hands – desperately in need of some care!! However, that reminded me of a quote from St Teresa of Avila:

**“Christ has no body now but yours.  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.  
Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world.  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.  
Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.  
Yours are the hands,  
yours are the feet,  
yours are the eyes,  
you are his body.  
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”**

We need to take of our bodies, both physically and spiritually – they are so important to our Saviour, Jesus, in continuing His work in the world. Perhaps we should make this a daily prayer to remind us.



*Blessings*  
*Sue Quibell*

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## Mission Focus – Monthly Update For August

### NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

*(Thank you to Vera Russell for sharing this news)*

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### Australia revisited

*Vera would like to re-share her previous update:*

- Australia revisited didn't happen due to covid19. However I have had conversations with the pastor of New Life Church and also friends in Melbourne whilst I was in New Zealand.
- The Sudanese we worked with have dwindled in number, most through house moves, but still there are some. The Chinese part of the congregation has increased with people coming to know Jesus.
- The church has moved location and also now meets on Saturday rather than Sunday. So lots of changes.
- Please pray for Pastor John and his wife Joanne as they deal with lots of different circumstances.
- According to people I've spoken with, the church remains loving and united and is as multicultural as ever.
- Please pray for the church as they minister to people who are strangers to Australia and are often struggling with language and cultural differences.



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**Digital Resources For Online Worship and Prayer**

*There are lots of options to keep us going! ...*

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**Family Worship:** If you are looking for online fun, faith filled, family worship sessions, why not take a look at, the 'Worship for Everyone: Family at 4' sessions which were originally streamed live via facebook, twice weekly throughout lockdown. The sessions can all be viewed at any time at: [www.facebook.com/worshipforeveryone/](http://www.facebook.com/worshipforeveryone/) or their YouTube

channel: [www.youtube.com/user/worshipforeveryone](http://www.youtube.com/user/worshipforeveryone)

'Family at 4' is presented by members of Gas Street Church, Birmingham: Nick and Becky Drake and their 4 children. Nick and Becky Drake are the people behind the songs such as 'Creator God', 'City on a Hill' and 'Big Family of God' if you know them. Their sessions comprise of some 'live' songs, an interactive, family participation story and prayer, as well as games and challenges. Each session lasts about 30 mins.

**St Thomas' Online Services:** We are providing regular weekly online services which you can view via You Tube, Faithlife or on our Church Website at <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4121/> To view via Faithlife simply follow the instructions below to go direct to our sermon site, Look out the button on the bottom right, it's blue like a tray with an arrow on it. The option then comes up down load audio, or download video. If you download video you will get pictures too. Any problems let me know and we'll see what we can do. I'm hoping to expand our options as time goes on. God Bless. **Roger Woodhall**

1 click on <http://faithlife.com/stthomas>

2 scroll down to choose message or sermon you want

3 click on blue button on right hand side, looks like a tray with an arrow in to it

4 choose either download audio or download video from little blue box

5 wait for it to download then press the play button in middle of screen.

**Lichfield Diocese Daily Prayer:** A **daily prayer video** posted on the [diocesan Facebook page](#) every weekday at 1pm for people across the diocese to join in prayer together.

**Lectico 365** – this is a free downloadable app providing a daily devotional resource that helps you pray the Bible every day.

**BBC Radio 4 Daily Services: Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August at 8.10am – Encountering God In Abandonment.** In this week's service The Rev Dr Isabelle Hamley, Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury, charts her walk with God and with Covid-19.

**Songs of Praise: Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August at 1.15pm.** Aled Jones visits London's Olympic Stadium to explore the links between Christianity and sport. JB Gill meets the former Premier League goalkeeper swapping the pitch for the pulpit. (You can also watch this online for 30 days.)

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**PRAYING TOGETHER**

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At this time of world crisis when we are not meeting together to worship or pray to the Lord we can still do this as individuals (couples or families) at home at the times some of us would be meeting together.

**Monday 6.30pm-7.15pm** – is when Space to Pray usually meet. **Wednesday 7.30pm-8.00pm** – is when the Revival Prayer Meeting usually takes place. Their members will be praying at home so why not set aside these times to join together 'in spirit' as we ask the Lord to intervene in our world and in our nation. We could also pray on **Fridays between 12 noon-1.15pm** when Jan's prayer group would be meeting and also on **Sundays when church would be meeting**.

There is always so much to pray about but even more at this time, so let's come together in Spirit and show the Lord that we are serious in our requests. Let's also just keep reminding ourselves of God's promises to us and remember that He is still Sovereign over all. Peace of the Lord be with you. **Liz Spires**

**Prayer Circle:** The Prayer Circle was originally set up many years ago to pray for those amongst us who were ill or suffering bereavement. Over the years we have prayed for many other things including job loss, even sick pets, as well as for people to come to know Jesus – God is concerned with every aspect of our lives, nothing is too big or too small for Him. This service is here for you, so if you have any worries about anything at this time, do get in touch and we will pray for you. We are a group of about a dozen St Thomas' members who are willing to pray for you or your loved ones each day. Prayer requests are contained within the Prayer Circle, Sue Quibell and Jeremy Bakewell, on a confidential basis and not shared with the wider congregation. Please get in touch with Liz Spiers on 01922 453944 or email Liz at

[Lizspiers55@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:Lizspiers55@blueyonder.co.uk) who will share your request and start praying. **Liz Spires, Prayer Coordinator**

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**NOTICES**

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**Face Coverings, New advice from The Church of England:** "We now strongly advise that face coverings should be worn by all those attending a place of worship, including ministers, worshippers, staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors, where there may be other people present; remembering that they are mainly intended to protect other people, not the wearer, from coronavirus COVID-19 and that they are not a replacement for physical distancing and regular hand washing."

**Watts in Madagascar:** Updates this week from Ted and Rachel tell us that the first coronavirus cases have now been confirmed in Mandritsara (by testing) and that there have been reports of one death locally due to the disease. They continue to prepare at The Good News Hospital and ask us to pray for them and the team along the lines of 2 Cor 4:17-18 " For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." **Colin and Sue Goodall**

**Weekly Zoom Prayers:** There will now be weekly live Zoom prayer meetings every Sunday at 6.30pm for the whole church and you would be most welcome to join. If you would like to take part, please give Roland a ring on 01922458769. He will help you to join the meeting, and provide you with the relevant pass numbers. **Roland Jones**

**Roof Fund Update:** Many thanks to all that have donated so far - we have collected a total of just over £13K! This is a great start, but we still have a way to go towards our £31K target. If you are still thinking about it, or simply putting it off until after the lockdown, could I ask that you drop me an email to 'pledge' your donation. We can arrange to collect the actual money at a later date. Equally I am happy to receive cash/cheques (payable to St Thomas Church) at my house (73 Lazy Hill Road), if you would prefer. Thanks Again. ([ronmaurheaton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ronmaurheaton@hotmail.co.uk))  
**Ron Heaton**

**Children's Home Grown Faith Activity:** Please look on our website at <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4121/>, look in the menu for "*Childrens Worship Activity (21) Saul's Conversation*". The PDF includes live hyperlinks to YouTube and the web if you just click on where it is underlined in blue. **Hannah Evans, Children and Families Worker.**

**Tom's Toddlers and Footprints:** Look out for our latest video about Jesus healing a man with leprosy. You can find this on the following sites -

**Facebook** - <https://www.facebook.com/StThomasAldridge/videos/2990665504364619>

**Church website** [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4121/](https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4121/)

You can also find a history of all of our videos on our church website under the heading Tom's Toddlers and Footprints. While you are there keep a look out for our latest activity which will be the link at the very bottom – this week it's called "**We're Going On a Psalm Walk**". Have fun!

**Hannah Evans, Children and Families Worker**

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**NOTICES**

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**The Thomas Project:** The Thomas Project are now also providing support to children from a number of local schools and further donations of the following suggested items are urgently required! Donations can be left at the project on Wednesdays 10am to 1pm or Fridays 3- 6pm.  
**Themes** – Dancing, super-heros, craft, unicorns, prince, princess, fairy tales, mini beasts, cars.  
**Examples** - crayons, paper, felt tip pens, colouring books, reading books, balls, skipping ropes, craft packs etc. **Liz Jones**

**House Available To Rent:** If anyone thinking of renting a house in Aldridge at a reasonable price would they please get in touch with Lilian Jones, Tel. 01922 452496. Thank you. **Lillian Jones**

**Help For Children and Families:** Our website includes three pages which families may find helpful especially during this time of Coronavirus. Look for them in the menu at [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4121/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4121/) ...

**(1) Why Did God Allow Coronavirus?** Please look on our website for ways to help children with this very difficult question. There are 2 versions, depending upon the age of your child and how much you want to explain this. You may find this to be helpful in your household over the coming week, or in advance of the question at a later point

**(2) Helping Children Say Goodbye:** Please look at our website for an attachment, called '*Saying Goodbye*'. I hope this is something that you will not need to use, but it is shared as another 'up your sleeve'/'just in case pocket' (Peter Rabbit fans!) It's a support for if you should have to help your child in this way. We found this quite useful for Emily in understanding how she was feeling and happy things to remember, whilst coming to terms with the death of our elderly neighbour from Covid-19. **Hannah Evans, Children and Family Worker**

**(3) What is justice?:** This is a reflection page which might be appropriate and helpful to share and discuss as a family. **Hannah Evans, Children and Families Worker**

**Domestic Abuse, IRIS:** Look in the menu on our Website <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4121/> under the heading "Domestic Abuse" for contact information. We all need to keep people experiencing domestic abuse and their children safe!

**St Thomas' Church Office:** Hannah and Genette are currently working from their homes. Please see the end page for contact details.

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**ALL REGULAR WEEKLY GROUPS ARE CURRENTLY SUSPENDED**

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**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**Clergy:**

- Rev Jeremy Bakewell 07790 986575
- Rev Sue Quibell 07889 885545 if you want would like to talk please feel free to phone on the numbers above.

**Church office**

- Office hours are usually **Monday to Thursday from 9 am till 12 pm**. Genette Andrews is currently working from home and will be happy to help, you can contact her on the following temporary number:
- Telephone 07702 822546 / Email: [office@stthomasaldridge.org.uk](mailto:office@stthomasaldridge.org.uk)  
*(Please be mindful that messages may not be seen or heard on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays)*

**Children and Families Worker: Hannah Evans**

- Hannah is currently working from home and can be contacted on the following numbers:
- Telephone 01922 693298 or mobile 07921 387241 / Email: [hannahevans@stthomasaldridge.org.uk](mailto:hannahevans@stthomasaldridge.org.uk)  
*(Please be mindful that messages may not be seen or heard on Mondays, Saturdays or Sundays)*

**Pastoral Care Coordinator: Vera Russell**

- Telephone 01922 616383 or 07806 519301 / Email: [vjrus@gmail.com](mailto:vjrus@gmail.com)
- Prayer Coordinator: Liz Spiers**
- Telephone 01922 453944 if you wish to discuss any prayer needs, including ongoing prayer ministry and details of the Prayer Circle.

**Wardens**

- **Clive Thomas:** 07811 341212 or email [clivethomas62@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:clivethomas62@yahoo.co.uk)
- **Sue Grundy:** 07772 925069 or email [susan.grundy@yahoo.com](mailto:susan.grundy@yahoo.com)
- **Andrew Dickson:** 07989 143388 or [andrewjdickson999@hotmail.com](mailto:andrewjdickson999@hotmail.com)
- **Vera Russell:** 07806 519301 or email [vjrus@gmail.com](mailto:vjrus@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 **Sue Grundy (for children) on 07772 925069** or **Sue Quibell (for adults) on 07889 885545** (see poster in church foyer for other numbers and information). **A copy of our safeguarding policy is available from the church foyer and church office.**

**Fabrics and Health and Safety – Andrew Dickson may be contacted via 07989 143388 or [andrewjdickson999@hotmail.com](mailto:andrewjdickson999@hotmail.com) directly, if you notice or need help with any such issues.**

**Cooper and Jordan School Applications:** Parents should be aware that we follow the school's admission policy on attendance and in accordance with Diocesan guidelines 'regular attendance' at **worship** constitutes a minimum of at least **two services per month**. The guidelines further suggest that regular attendance should have been for at least two years before application. Please see the Welcome Desk to ensure your attendance is recorded. **New information: Supporting letters are now being done in batches when we receive the list of applications from C&J. The letters are then sent directly back to C&J but feel free to check with our office that your child's name features in the list.**  
**Thanks, Genette.**

**Gift Aid:** The Government adds 25% to each 'Gift Aided' donation at no cost to you. If you don't have a regular Gift Aid arrangement, but would nevertheless like to Gift Aid a donation today, please use one of the brown Gift Aid envelopes available from the leaflet rack, or do ask a Steward to find one for you. Please see our Treasurer, **Ron Heaton** for more information if needed.