



Welcome to St. Thomas'

Forthcoming Services in Church and Online

Sunday 27th June: 10.30am Morning Worship

Sunday 4th July: 6.30pm Evening Worship

Sunday 11th July: 10.30am Family Service

St Thomas' Website - www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4121/)

St. Thomas' Facebook - www.facebook.com/stthomasaldridge/

Phone 01922 453942 / Email office@stthomasaldridge.org.uk



Rev's Ramblings

24th June 2021

Firstly, my apologies for there being no Ramblings last week – a case of post-holiday brain fade!!

Holidays always make me more aware of God in nature – probably because I have more time to stand and stare! This time in Wales I've marvelled at the power of the tide – how far the seas goes out, and how quickly it seems to come back in again. The beach looks entirely different when the tide is out – the living quarters of small organisms can be seen: sandworm casts and mussels on the beach, cockles and limpets clinging to the sides of rock pools.

Have you ever noticed how pretty some of the finer seaweeds look when floating in the water, but how limp and uninteresting when left on the sand? There were lots of big jellyfish too – again, just large blobs lying on the sand, but floating around elegantly when submerged.

Then there are the hills and the valleys. We spent a day in the Elan Valley, marvelling at the hills rising up round us; at the surrounding woodlands full of birdsong, bluebells and wild garlic; at the provision of water for our daily needs that was collecting in the immense reservoirs. And not just in nature – I marvelled too at the skills God has given human beings as I looked at the walls of the dams – built long before computer-aided design and hydraulic lifting machines. Human brains and hands – how awesome!!

Perhaps we can share some of my feelings now. Sit quietly and close your eyes. Listen to the wash of the sea as it ripples over the beach; hear the song of the birds announcing to the world that they are busy rearing their young; sniff the air and imagine the smell of the wild garlic, and see in your mind's eye the carpet of bluebells on the woodland floor.

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small; all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

Blessings
Sue Quibell



MISSION FOCUS: Africa News From Vera – June 2021



Thanks again for the gift from your church for helping to build a Dorobo church building in Ilkilorit in the Loita Hills. The money went to Pastor David Letuati on Friday and the church had a building weekend. They bought 26 iron sheets and nails and paid some skilled builders to oversee the work for a day. The sides went up on the building. An entrance way went up as well. The gift you sent (half of the total) came to 52,000/- (Kenya Shillings). What they spent this weekend came to 36,000/- They still need to put in a double door, a single door and four windows. The remaining money you sent will cover the double door and one window and they will buy and put those in soon. That still leaves a portion for the church to raise to finish (about 18,000/-) but as the Maasai say in their proverb, when someone gives you a cow, you have to provide the rope to lead it home. So I think they can be responsible for the last door and windows as their "rope to lead the cow home." Thanks for buying them a "cow", and giving such generous gift. I've attached pictures from the pastor that show the progress on the church from the poles and mabati (paid for by me last year) up until this weekends building the sides of the church with iron sheets. Thanks again and I hope this report will be an encouragement to your church.

PS, I didn't get all the way up to the church this weekend as the road from the Naroosura side was quite bad. But Pastor Musanga and I did show the Jesus film four times to two villages (Olepishet and Olushuru) at the base of the Loita Hills. Over 500 watched the film in the four showings and about five young people prayed to receive Christ. So God's work is continuing among the Dorobo.

Shel Arensen.

Resources For Online Worship and Prayer

Virtual Sunday School: Every week, Virtual Sunday School release a fun Sunday School session to watch involving a story, activity or game and prayer. These are full of energy and lots of fun. These can be watched here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMu2bG8L2dp7ywUZVa9uXDA>

Bible Buds: On Facebook every fortnight <https://www.facebook.com/biblebuds/>

Worship for Everyone

For a whole host of fun, faith filled family worship and story sessions available online, do check out the Drake Family either on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/worshipforeveryone> or on you tube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2dYemDuCz36mIKAt0DwhcA>

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.

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

BBC Radio 4 Daily Services at 9.45am each morning.

Services are available every day with spiritual reflection, bible reading, prayer and Christian music. Simply tune in at 9.45am.

Friday: Christian Worship with Bible reading, music and prayer
Monday: Forgiveness, The Joy of Forgiveness
Tuesday: Forgiveness, The Limits of Forgiveness
Wednesday: Forgiveness, Seeking Forgiveness
Thursday: Forgiveness, Forgiving Enemies
Friday: Forgiveness, God's Forgiveness

BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship, Sunday 27th June, 8.10am**Exile and Return –**

A service from Rugby School which explores the parallels between the experience of those in education during the Coronavirus pandemic in the UK and themes of exile and return in the bible. The readings follow the Israelites' conquest by Babylon, the exile, their protection by God during times of despair and loss, the unity of the community, the promise of return, and the rebuilding of Jerusalem. The School's Chaplain reflects on parallels with the national experience over the last 18 months; those - for many - of loss, fear, sacrifice, community cohesion, hope, restoration, and rebuilding.

PRAYING TOGETHER

I would just like to mention the various ways of getting prayer for ourselves, our friends or our families whist we are not meeting up and just a reminder that nothing is too small or too big to ask for the Lord's help with:

Prayer Circle

The prayer circle is a group of about a dozen people who are willing to pray for anyone or any situation that needs prayer. A weekly list of prayer needs is produced which is circulated to Prayer Circle Members and remains confidential to that group and is not shared anywhere else. Prayer requests should be passed on to Liz Spiers at Lizspiers55@blueyonder.co.uk. If your request is for someone else please ensure you have their permission before sharing.

Special prayer list

This was originally set up to pray for those known to us who were suffering the effects of, or affected by, Covid19 but has now expanded to include those who have other needs and wish to be prayed for by all members of the church rather than within the confines of the Prayer Circle. This information should still respectfully be kept within the congregation. Any requests for this list should either be passed on to Liz Spiers or Genette Andrews in church office. If your request is for someone else please ensure you have their permission before sharing.

We need to keep on praying, however we do it. The Lord needs to hear our prayers for our world and ourselves. Be encouraged that the Lord does hear all our prayers. 'The prayers of a righteous person has great power' James 6.16 **Liz Spiers, Prayer Coordinator**

Weekly Zoom Prayers: If you would like to take part in our weekly live Zoom prayer meetings you would be most welcome to join on Sundays at 5.30pm for the whole church. 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**

A CALL TO PRAYER: Can we ask you to commit to praying at 6pm each day focusing on the NHS and those working there. We will then know that we will be praying powerfully together every day. Please also continue to pray for this situation during your usual prayer time.

This is the least we can do for one of our sisters in Christ, and for all those who daily put their own lives at risk in fighting Covid. There is strength in praying together. *(Jesus said...)* Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my Name, there I am with them. Matthew 18:19-20. Thank you.

The Wardens, Sue and Jeremy * <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4121/page/62951/view/>

NOTICES

Live Services: Please reserve your seat in advance by Wednesday of each week, by emailing office@stthomasaldrige.org.uk or leave a message on the answer phone on **01922 453942**.

We would love you to join us.

Sunday 27th June: 10.30am Morning Worship

Sunday 4th July: 6.30pm Evening Worship

Sunday 11th July: 10.30am Family Service

Watts in Madagascar: As the Watts family continue their journey home to the U.K. Ted and Rachel tell us that over the next 10 days or so, as a family they will need lots of Covid tests. They ask for prayer that everyone of them is negative and also that the pre-flight ones arrive in time for their first flight that leaves for Paris on Tuesday evening before their onward flight to land in the U.K. on Wednesday 30th June, during the morning. Life here in the U.K. will feel very different for them, than when they were last here pre CV19. Please uphold them in prayer during their isolation on arrival and that Ethan and Jamie can quickly feel settled into a new routine. Please uphold in prayer, the great team of co-workers that Ted and Rachel have left behind in Mandritsara, as they cover their home furlough period. **Colin and Sue Goodall**

Sad News: It is with great sadness that I have to tell you that June Hutchinson passed away on Monday 21st June. The last few days she was surrounded by her family and seemed contented. The family are grateful for the cards and letters she received from the church, particularly for her recent 91st birthday. June was a member of our church for many years and was very fond of the 8.30 communion service. As her journey on earth ends, we rejoice that her new life is just beginning with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sylvia Pardoe

Welcoming Jon and Ella to Aldridge Parish Church: Please pray for Jon & Ella Morley as they settle into Aldridge having recently moved from South London. Jon will be ordained this Saturday at Lichfield Cathedral and will begin as curate in the parish next week. There is a short bio about him here: <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/vocations-and-training/ordained-ministry/ordination/ordinations-2021/newrevs2021--jonathan-morley.php>
If you want to watch the ordination live it will be streamed at 6pm on Saturday on the Diocesan Ordinations 2021 page: <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/ordinations-2021/>

CHILDREN & FAMILIES NOTICES

Together At Home: Please look on our website for the section titled "Children – Together At Home".

Church Website - <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4121/page/56973/view/>

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

Hannah Evans, Children and Families Worker

Tom's Toddlers and Footprints: Tom's Toddlers and Footprints restarted on 21st April. Albeit differently to usual for the time being and outside in smaller groups. So feel free to spread the word with your families and neighbours with young children and direct them either to me for more info:

hannahevans@stthomasaldrige.org.uk

You will need to register to reserve your place - For all those of you wishing to return (or start) at Tom's Toddlers or Footprints as we return this term, please register by clicking the link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/hannah-evans-33145555043>

Numbers are limited per session for us to remain covid-secure, so registration is vital for attendance, I'm afraid. Please be aware that registration is for each following week in order to maintain consistent groupings and bubbles. Looking forward to welcoming you all back!

You can also find the link on our website and Facebook -

Church Website - <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4121/page/63466/view/>

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

July Family Services & Group Zoom

If you wish to attend, please contact Hannah by email or phone register – 07921 387241

hannahevans@stthomasaldrige.org.uk

4th July - Sunday Group Zoom 10.30am (Theme: Dorcas/Tabitha, please contact Hannah Evans to sign up to receive the zoom log in details)

11th July - Family Service 10.30am - Theme: Paul's Ministry. Please sign up to book a family table with Hannah Evans.

25th July - Sunday Group Zoom 10.30am (Theme TBC, please contact Hannah Evans to sign up to receive the zoom log in details)

THIS WEEK'S REGULAR CHURCH GROUPS

Monday: Guides 8.00pm-9.30pm

Wednesday: Preschoolers in the Park' Session 1: 9.30-10.30am
Preschoolers in the Park' Session 2: 11am-12noon

Friday: Navigators 5.15pm- 9.30pm

CONTACTS

- **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 with your queries. Messages on the office answer phone are listened to twice weekly (01922 453942) / Emails are read Monday's-Thursdays **office@stthomasaldridge.org.uk** **Please be mindful that messages may not be seen or heard on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays.** (for urgent or emergency contact, Genette's personal mobile number is 07702 822546).
- **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**
(Please be mindful that messages may not be seen or heard on Mondays and Saturdays)
Pastoral Care Coordinator: Vera Russell -
Telephone 01922 616383 or 07806 519301 / Email: **vjrus@gmail.com**
- **Prayer Coordinator: Liz Spiers -**
Telephone 01922 453944 / email **lizspiers55@blueyonder.co.uk** 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
Sue Grundy: 07772 925069 or email susan.grundy@yahoo.com
Andrew Dickson: 07989 143388 or andrewjdickson999@hotmail.com
Vera Russell: 07806 519301 or email 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 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.