



## *Welcome to St. Thomas'*

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### **Forthcoming Services in Church and Online**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August:** 10.30am Morning Worship

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August:** 6.30pm Evening Worship

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August:** 10.30am Morning Worship

**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/)**

**Phone 01922 453942 / Email [office@stthomasaldridge.org.uk](mailto:office@stthomasaldridge.org.uk)**



## *Rev's Ramblings*

### *12th August 2021*

Saturday 31 July is the feast day of St Ignatius of Loyola. I was reminded of this by the following post on Facebook from the Archbishop of Canterbury:

*One of St Ignatius' greatest gifts to the church is the Examen, a simple but profound practice which helps us see God's presence in every aspect of our lives. Why not try it this evening?*



1. *Become aware of God's loving presence and thank Him for it.*
2. *Ask the Holy Spirit to show you where God is at work in your life.*
3. *Look back on your day; remember what you did and how you felt.*
4. *Are there lessons to learn or gifts to receive?*
5. *How might you serve Jesus in new ways tomorrow?*

*There are so many ways to pray. God hears them all. The most important thing is that we spend time with Him and allow ourselves to be changed by His love and grace.*

That prompted me to find out about Saint Ignatius of Loyola. He was a Spanish Basque Catholic priest and theologian, who together with Peter Faber and Francis Xavier founded the religious order called the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). The Jesuit order is dedicated to teaching and missionary work through meditations, prayers and other mental exercises, known as Ignatian spirituality. Ignatius is patron saint of spiritual retreats and also the foremost patron saint of soldiers.

I also came across the following prayer which was one of the first prayers I learned at school – and guess who wrote it!! None other than St Ignatius!!

Teach us, Good Lord  
 To serve you as you deserve.  
 To give and not count the cost.  
 To fight and not heed the wounds.  
 To toil and not to seek for rest.  
 To labour and not to ask for any reward  
 Except that of knowing that we do Your Will.  
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
 Amen.

Take the example of St Ignatius (and Archbishop Welby) today and spend some quiet time with God. Perhaps use this picture to focus your mind.

*Blessings*  
*Sue Quibell*



**MISSION FOCUS: The Thomas Project Summer Update – August 2021**

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**Summer Update**

Summer is well and truly here! This morning we have enjoyed a sunny Health Walk and are so pleased that these are proving to be really popular. Thanks to two of our volunteer Health Walk leaders, Dave and Sue Satterthwaite, this week we have learnt so much of the history which is just on our doorstep. A gentle stroll with lots of stops to find shade and to listen to all that they know about times gone by in Aldridge. Other walks have taken us to the churchyard to explore the war graves, to visit Oliver and Eeyore, the donkeys on Greenwood Road and a surprisingly informative meander through Leighs Wood which, though a more drizzly affair, was really enjoyable and very refreshing.

If you would like to take part in one of our Health Walks then just turn up at 10:45am on Fridays for an 11am start. We would love to see you. Walks take around 50 to 60 minutes, we're seeing the number of participants rise and there's plenty of chatter and a cuppa and cake afterwards. If you know someone who could benefit from some company then please do invite them to join us.

From rain, to shade to drizzle we are reminded that "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3 v 3) and as we continue to walk through these uncertain times, we are so thankful to God that in every season, He knows what He is doing. In every step, He knows what is around the corner. We look back to when restrictions meant that we could not invite people into our premises and we are so blessed that we are now seeing lots of new faces at our Internet Café, at the employability support sessions run by Walsall Work Stations and soon at the new advice sessions which will be held here by Walsall and Sandwell Citizens Advice Bureau. We are so privileged also to continue to be able to help many individuals and families through foodbank.

Just recently we have been selected by Tesco as part of their Bags of Help initiative [tescocommunitygrants.org.uk](https://tescocommunitygrants.org.uk) If you shop in Tesco's Aldridge or Brownhills you will be able to vote for us by popping a token in the designated charity box.

A Quiz Night on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October at Aldridge Social Club will be the first fundraiser we have been able to hold in 19 months. We shall provide more information nearer the time.

We are thankful that the project has been able to continue through these uncertain times. This has been made possible by support from the local community but we are now facing a significant shortfall of £6k which may impact on the services we can provide. If you are able to and wish to support our work you can donate via Just Giving at [www.justgiving.com/thethomasproject](https://www.justgiving.com/thethomasproject) or through our website at [www.thethomasproject.co.uk](https://www.thethomasproject.co.uk) we are happy to accept cheques or cash at the project. Please Gift Aid if you can, as this makes a big difference to us. People who receive a pension can Gift Aid too.

Please continue to keep the project in your prayers; that we might know God's plans and purposes and that we might see His provision for the work that He wants us to do. That He will continue to provide opportunities for us to 'Share Jesus'.

Finally, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your prayers and your financial support both as individuals and as a church.

God bless you from Karen and Julie and all at The THOMAS

**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: *Travel – Walking With God*

Monday: *(Title was not available at the time of writing this)*

Tuesday: Time – Time to Act

Wednesday: Time – Time to Change

Thursday: Time – The Nature of Time

Friday: Time – Time Well Spent

**BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship, Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August, 8.10am****Hail Queen of Heaven – Mass for the Feast of the Assumption.**

Mass for the Feast of the Assumption live from Salford Cathedral, with the Bishop of Salford, The Right Reverend John Arnold.

**PRAYING TOGETHER**

I would just like to mention the various ways of getting prayer for ourselves, our friends or our families whilst 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](mailto: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**

**Zoom Prayer Meeting:** There is an intercessory prayer meeting via Zoom on the Sundays when there isn't evening worship, at 6.30pm (note change of time) lasting about 45mins. We pray as led, for the world, our nation, our community and church and also individuals known to us, because it makes a difference and also at this time, to prepare the ground for David's ministry and for what God wants to do in and through St Thomas'. If you would like to be on the circulation list to receive a Zoom link, even if you can't make it each time just so you have it when you can please ask Julie Fuggle: [fugglej@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:fugglej@blueyonder.co.uk)

**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/>**

Please pray for David and Kimberley Sims and their family (our new minister) as they prepare to leave their home and say farewell to friends and church family in Wellington to come and join with us here in Aldridge. Please pray for a smooth transition and that they will settle in well and feel at home when they get here, and that the children would soon make new friends and be happy. Please also pray for us as church family that we might be loving and welcoming to them and excited to be part of the next phase of the Lord's plans for St Thomas Church.

**Liz Spiers**

## NOTICES

**Live Services:** We can now sing in Church and so to keep everyone safe we ask that you continue to wear masks during the service (*masks can become moist when singing and so you may like to bring additional masks, allowing you to change to a fresh one periodically*). Please continue to reserve your seat in advance by Wednesday of each week, by emailing [office@stthomasaldridge.org.uk](mailto:office@stthomasaldridge.org.uk) or leave a message on the answer phone on **01922 453942**.

We would love you to join us.

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August: 10.30am Morning Worship**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August: 6.30pm Evening Worship**

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**An Important Date For Your Dairy:** David's Licensing Service has been arranged for Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 4pm and we hope that you can save this date in your diary. More detailed information regarding the Service will follow nearer the time.

**Zoom Prayer Meeting:** There have been some changes to the Zoom Prayer Meeting, please see the note from Julie Fuggle on page 5.

**Watts back in the UK:** Thank you for your prayers for Ted, Rachel, Ethan and Jamie whilst they are on home assignment. They ask us to give thanks to God for His provision of more families planning to join them when they return to Mandritsara in Madagascar. However with more children arriving, providing for their educational needs becomes increasingly complex. They think that next year there might be 8 children aged 4 - 12 from three different countries, with parents working at The Good News Hospital. Please pray with them, that the Lord will provide someone to take on the role of teaching these children, when the current home school teacher Naomi takes a break from this position and returns to the U.K. during 2022/23. Please also pray for the team covering Ted and Rachel's duties whilst they are away, that they may know God's blessing as they work. **Colin and Sue Goodall.**

**Office Holiday:** The office will be closed next week and so there will not be a Notice Sheet on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August.

**A Message From Keith and Janet Capp:**

*"Dear Church Family, As we're leaving Aldridge soon we just wanted to let you know that we will miss you and that it has been a privilege to serve God alongside you over the many years that we have been part of St Thomas Church. We will pray for you all and would ask you to pray for us as we try to serve Him in a new place. May God bless you and the work of St Thomas Church.*

*Our new address from 23/8/21 will be - 15, Frankland Park, Orton, Cumbria CA10 3RP. Our telephone No. 015396 24661. Please keep in touch*

*God bless*

*Keith & Janet"*

**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**

**Family Services & Group Zoom:**

**5<sup>th</sup> September** - Our next Family Service is the 5th September, where we will do a Back to School Blessing Service. Because of being away, it would be great if you could and were able to sign up for this too ASAP, as I am preparing this before I go away. (*Bookings after 6<sup>th</sup> August should be directed to Julie Fuggle.*)

**There will be no Sunday Group Zooms during August**

## 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: **virus@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.