



Welcome to St. Thomas'

*The beautiful flowers in church are
in loving memory of Vera Russell*

Forthcoming Services in Church and Online

Sunday 26th September: 10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship

Sunday 3rd October: 8.30am Early Morning Holy Communion
10.30am All Age Service

Sunday 10th October: 10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship

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

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

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



Hello St Thomas'!!



Hi everyone!

Thanks again for such a kind, generous welcome from all of you. I've had numerous chats over coffee with many of you, and more lined up in my diary- and if you're yet to get in touch with me, please do drop me an email.

I'm currently spending a couple of hours a day on the M54 and M6 driving to Aldridge and back- and although this might seem a drag, it's become a really precious bonus time when I talk with the Lord about all that the day might hold, or indeed on the way back I lay before him all that it has held. What a great God we serve, that we can just talk with the creator of the universe as we sit in rushhour traffic- and that the voice that spoke the universe into being also speaks to us as we navigate our way through the rabbit runs of Walsall to try and skip the queues! I encourage you, this week, to take those moments of normal life- when we're in the car, walking the dog, cooking the dinner, or putting the bins out- and intentionally include Jesus in them. He loves to speak with us!

Finally, a public shout out to the wonderful Kimberley, who is very much holding the fort at home whilst I'm settling into this new place, and doing so with love, patience, and laughter. 😊

David 😊

MISSION FOCUS: Tearfund Update From Janet Berrill

We have a God who wants us to bring everything to him in prayer (Philippians 4:6-7). However, sometimes it can be difficult to know where to begin – or how to keep going when the situation feels unchanging or too big. Also, how can we talk to God about refugees or hunger when sometimes we don't even know the scale of the crisis ourselves, due to it being under-reported?

'For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, do not fear; I will help you.' (Isaiah 41:13)

We do not have to carry the crises of the world alone; God knows, understands and cares deeply. We can be assured that God is working to restore all things and when we align ourselves with his plan, incredible things can happen. With that in mind let's keep the work of Tearfund in our prayers and actions.

Ahead of the UK hosting the UN climate talks, COP26, in Glasgow in November, a UN report released this week has given the starkest warning yet about the urgency of the climate crisis. We must continue to call on our leaders to act. You can do this today by [emailing your MP](#) to let them know you want to see urgent climate action.

In addition, by making more sustainable choices in our own lives, each one of us also has the opportunity to demonstrate our love for our global neighbours and for God's creation.

OTHER NEWS FOR PRAYER:

Attacks by armed groups in **northern Nigeria** are causing entire communities to go on the run. With families forced to live in temporary camps in poor conditions, outbreaks of disease are common. In recent weeks, however, the worst outbreak for many years of cholera – a disease caused by dirty drinking water – has killed hundreds of people. Many of the victims are children.

The **DRC** is facing multiple crises. The country has been ravaged by decades of conflict, while the threat of diseases such as Ebola and Covid-19 hang over the population. And on top of that, disasters like floods and the recent volcanic eruption have created a wave of devastation across the east of the country. The result is that more than 5 million people have been forced from their homes – including 3 million children. Communities, homes and livelihoods have been abandoned, with families in temporary camps lacking access to many of the basics needed to survive.

Our actions and choices make a difference – and influence those around us to take action too. And as always, please do reach out to us at campaigns@tearfund.org if you'd like any help with taking the next step in your journey of climate action. Thanks for continuing in prayer and action to see an end to the climate crisis and poverty around the world. With your help, support and the love of God this can be solved.

Thank you
Janet
TEARFUND CHURCH REP

PRAYING TOGETHER – Liz Spiers Prayer Coordinator

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. 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

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/>

SPACE TO PRAY: 6.30pm-7.30pm, Wednesday evenings in the church extension. An opportunity for all to come together to pray in a socially distanced space. We do hope those of you who feel able to will join us as we look back over the last months and lift the things on our hearts to the Lord. All welcome.

Liz Spiers- Prayer Core Group Coordinator.

NOTICES

Bookings for Services: You will be very pleased to hear that you no longer need to book for services. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Zoom Prayer Meeting: Everyone welcome, please see details on page 5.

Space to Pray: All are welcome to join us every Wednesday, please see page 5 for details.

Watts back in the UK: Ted and Rachel ask for prayer for one of their colleagues Dr Nathan who has been on home assignment too. He is now trying to get back into Madagascar. Please pray that the border control authorities would look favourably on his application to return. The Good News Hospital staff ask that we pray also for Christian Malagasy doctors to respond to God's call to serve Him in Mandritsara. Please pray for the missionary children on site, friends of Ethan and Jamie who will shortly be returning to their school routines after a short holiday break. On the BBC news they report that in the south of Madagascar they are experiencing a severe drought believed to be caused by climate change. Please pray that rain will come there soon. **Colin and Sue Goodall.**

Thank you: As a church, we would like to say a HUGE thank you to the following people for their time, love and dedication to the children's work on a Sunday:

Chris Capewell and Lindsay Hughes for their many years leading Sunday Groups

Ann Bakewell, Margaret Gilchrist, Shelley Harrison and Chris Benton for their many years running Creche. You have all been such wonderful assets to the team and will be dearly missed. **Hannah Evans, Children and Families Worker**

Vera's Funeral: The AV team would like to apologise for the issues experienced with the live streaming of the service (our church PC just can't cope with it, in honesty). However, with this in mind we already had a back up plan and were recording the service too. We are in the process of editing this and piecing it together and hope to have this ready ASAP (by the end of the week). This will be available on our St. Thomas Church YouTube Channel, for all those who were hoping to join us on the live stream. We are really sorry about this, and please pass on our apologies to all those who experienced difficulties. **Hannah Evans and the AV Team.**

Church Flowers: We have now reinstated the Church Flower Rota. If you would like to pay for a flower arrangement at church, perhaps in memory of a loved one or to mark a special date, you will now be able to do this again. Anita will arrange the flowers for you or you can arrange them yourself if you prefer. The Flower Rota is pinned on the Notice Board in the Foyer, please add your details and contact Anita on 01922 441324 or 07850 156134. **Anita Watts**

Cot Request: I will be having some Missionary Friends stay at my house soon and I wondered if someone might have a cot or travel cot that I could borrow. Please can contact me on 01922 453936 or frank.priest@hotmail.com. Many thanks. **Frank Priest**

Magazines and Leaflets: We have now restocked our book shelf in the Foyer at Church. Please enjoy and remember to gel your hands before touching the booklets.

Thomas Project Harvest Donations: Would welcome any of the following contributions - *Long life milk, fruit juice (including squash or cordial), breakfast cereal, jam, marmalade, jars of cooking sauce, hot chocolate, small jar of coffee, biscuits, packet mash potato, snack-boxes of raisins or apricots, toothbrush & paste, shower gel & shampoo, roll on deodorant, shaving gel or foam, tinned goods such as - rice pudding, custard, fish, chili, meatballs, curry, corned beef, ham, fruit in juice.* **Sandra Woodhall**

Thomas Project Quiz & Chips: Saturday 2nd October at Aldridge Social Club, High Street, Aldridge. 7pm for a 7.30pm prompt start. Tickets are sold in teams of 4 to 6 at £10 per person (includes fish and chip supper).

Thomas Project Vacancy: Trustee Vacancies, approximately 5 hours per month. To find out more about please visit our website www.thethomasproject.co.uk. For an application form and further details please email chair@thethomasproject.co.uk or call Nikki-Dee Haddleton (Chair of Trustees) on 07584 038878

CHILDREN & FAMILIES NOTICES

Tom's Toddlers / Footprints: Tom's Toddlers and Footprints are restarting **indoors** from **Wednesday 29th September**. Yippee! For the time being this will be at the new time of **12.30-2pm**, for all preschool babies and children, and Nursery Children who do not attend their Nursery at this time.

We are inviting families to come with a packed lunch or snack, to start the session off with us all able to join in eating together. Hot drinks will still be available for the adults. After the children have eaten, they can enjoy free play and craft time before we finish the session with a singing and short story time. Sessions are £2 per family, per session, with no obligation to attend each week. For more information, contact Hannah Evans (details on the back page).

Light Safari: Following the success of last year's Light Safari, we are repeating this again this year. So... we are looking for those of you with houses within walking distance of Church, to decorate their homes in light and/or joyous scenes for during the October Half Term, as an alternative to Halloween. Let's fill our streets with light at a time when darkness is celebrated. Ideas (and some items) available if required. Please speak to Hannah Evans (details on back page) for more information or to sign up your house.

Bedtime Bible Stories: Following the inspiration of 'CBeebies Bedtime Hour', I am hoping to create a bank of video recorded Childrens Bible Stories, that members of our church have recorded for our children to watch and enjoy. Stories can be provided, or chosen by yourselves, but I am keen to involve as many of the congregation as possible to record a story for our children. I am happy to do the recording, or you can simply record yourselves and pass it onto myself. If this is something that you would like to do, please speak to Hannah Evans (details on the back page)

Sunday Groups: Now that Sunday Groups have restarted, we are looking to recruit members of the team to lead or support the groups and to run creche. We are looking for people who love the Lord and are keen to share this love with the children. Sunday Groups involve providing a safe space for the children, telling stories, running crafts, games and activities, and praying and worshipping with the children, as part of a team on a rota to share to planning and delivery. Resources and materials are readily available and can be provided. Enhanced DBS clearance and safer recruitment procedure will be required before commencement. If this is something you might like to give a try, or see in action, please speak to Hannah Evans (details on back page). If joining the team is not up your street, may we ask you join our team of prayer warriors, praying for the children, the children's work and team. The children are not the future of our church, but are our church!

Thank you: As a church, we would like to say a HUGE thank you to the following people for their time, love and dedication to the children's work on a Sunday:

Chris Capewell and Lindsay Hughes for their many years leading Sunday Groups

Ann Bakewell, Margaret Gilchrist, Shelley Harrison and Chris Benton for their many years running Creche.

You have all been such wonderful assets to the team and will be dearly missed.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Monday	Brownies & Guides	6.30 – 9.30pm	
Tuesday	Dance Lessons	Mornings	<i>(ask the office for contact details)</i>
Wednesday	Toddlers in the Park	10.00 -11.30am	
Wednesday	Space to Pray	6.30-7.15pm	
Thursday	Karate Lessons	6.30-7.30pm	<i>(ask the office for contact details)</i>
Friday	Tea Dance	1pm onwards, fortnightly	<i>(ask the office for contact details)</i>
Friday	Navigators	5.15-9.30pm	
Saturday	Karate Lessons	10.30-11.30am	<i>(ask the office for contact details)</i>

CONTACTS

- **Clergy –**
Rev David Sims (MINISTER) vicar@stthomasaldridge.org.uk, office number 01922 453942
 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 –**
 Adminstrator - Genette Andrews. Office hours are usually **Monday to Thursday from 9 am till 12 pm.**
 Genette will be happy to help with your queries.
 Office contact details - 01922 453942) / office@stthomasaldridge.org.uk
 Please note 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
Please note that messages may not be seen or heard on Mondays and Saturdays.
- **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
- **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.