



Welcome to St. Thomas'

Forthcoming Services in Church and Online

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

Sunday 17th October: 10.30am Morning Worship

Sunday 24th October: 10.30am Morning Worship
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'!!



Happy Harvest!

Harvest is a funny one isn't it. In a world where most of us get our food from supermarkets, it's so easy to forget that everything we eat and drink relies on the faithful provision of God- and on his words in Genesis 8:22

**As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat,
summer and winter,
day and night
will never cease.**

Isn't it good that we can take God at his word? Over the last fortnight we have seen how fragile our human systems are at providing what we need (like petrol, for example!)- and what a huge contrast to our God. The words of a golden oldie, sums it up better than I can, saying 'His love has no limit, His grace has no measure, His power no boundary known unto men, For out of His infinite riches in Jesus, **He giveth and giveth and giveth again**'.

In Jesus, we see a God of boundless provision, endless love, unfathomable grace, and awesome holiness. If you're in need today, if you're feeling empty today, bring your prayers before God who cares for you. He is so good!

David 😊

MISSION FOCUS: Watts In Madegascar October 2021



Hello, we're the Watts Family. As many of you will know, we are normally based in Mandritsara, a town in northern Madagascar. Both of us (Ted and Rachel) are doctors – Ted is a surgeon and Rachel mainly looks after children and babies – and we work at the Good News Hospital. We're currently back in the UK on home assignment. We've had some very precious time seeing friends and family, as well as catching up with supporters and supporting churches. We also had a lovely time together as a family camping in the Lake District.

We're so thankful for your prayers for us and for the work in Mandritsara, particularly over the past couple of years which have been challenging in many ways. We are so thankful for many answered prayers, in particular for God's protection over us and our fellow-workers through the pandemic. Thankfully the number of cases of Covid in Mandritsara and Madagascar as a whole is currently low, but the borders are essentially closed to all but a few travellers and the country does not yet have the Delta variant. Please pray for God's ongoing protection, for wisdom for those in authority as they make difficult decisions and for vaccines to be available and taken up – currently only 0.7% of the population is fully vaccinated.



We are very thankful that we and several of our team-mates have been able to take a break away from Madagascar. We are also thankful for a number of new long and short term missionaries hoping to join the team in the coming months. However, with the Madagascar currently closed in international travel, it is uncertain when we might be able to return and when these new team members might be able to join the team. One doctor (Nathan) has recently been granted special permission to travel and has managed to rejoin the team after a long wait in the UK – this was a

wonderful answer to prayer. The government has been talking about re-opening the borders in October. Please pray for wisdom for those making decisions and pray for us to trust him with our travel plans – we hope to return in early November. Many thanks for all your prayers – God really does answer them and sustain us through them.

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

You no longer need to book for services, all are welcome!

Sunday's Services – 10.30am Holy Communion, 6.30pm Evening Worship

Monday Morning Prayer: You are welcome to join us on Monday mornings at 9.30am at church to pray.

Race For Life Thank you: Dear St Thomas members, I would like to say a huge thank you on behalf of Cancer Research for your amazing generosity and support for my Race for Life last Sunday. Together we raised £1226, which I know will make an enormous difference to the lives of many people. Thank you again. **Sue Grundy**

Greetings Cards: Birthday cards and occasion cards are once again on sale in church each Sunday. All proceeds are split between Tearfund and the Thomas Project. **Jean Whitehouse**

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**

McMillan Coffee Morning: Marlene Bradburn is holding a McMillan Coffee Morning at the Thomas Project on Saturday 9th October between 11am and 1pm. Please come along and enjoy a coffee and some delicious cake! Your support would be greatly appreciated. Also it would be wonderful if you might be able to donate a cake, Marlene will be at the Thomas Project from 10am onwards to receive any contributions. Thank you for your support. **Marlene Bradburn**

FIZZ: We are happy to let you know that Fizz has restarted every other Saturday from 9th October. This Saturday will be especially exciting as we will be celebrating Fizz's 15th Birthday! Please join us at Tynings Lane for relaxed, inclusive, accessible worship for adults (over 16 years) with a learning disability or those who have lost ability through a stroke, accident, illness or dementia. **Kathy Robinson, Fizz Coordinator**

Life Groups: Life groups are the way our church membership is organised into small groups so that we can support one another in our faith journey and 'do life' in the Spirit, sharing our practical lives in the context of worship, spiritual growth, the Bible and prayer. Post Covid, none of us will be quite who we were; if already a member, you may feel the need of a change or if not, you might feel this kind of support is something you would like. This is a good time to become a LG member, as most are beginning a course, The Wellbeing Journey, that looks at our physical, emotional, spiritual, relational, financial and vocational wellbeing within a Christian context, very accessible and a kind of 'life laundry' after the difficult time we have been through, looking at how we can take practical steps to improve our lives. This would be very suitable to invite a friend who is not a church member. Thurs/Tues evenings

Daytime Life Group? This has been set up as some preferred it and some may want to move groups, as they prefer not to meet in the evening. New people are very welcome. Contact Julie Fuggle if interested or for anything related to LGs or The Wellbeing Course. fugglej@blueyonder.co.uk **Mob: 07962438076.**

Julie Fuggle

CHILDREN & FAMILIES NOTICES

Tom's Toddlers / Footprints: Tom's Toddlers and Footprints have restarted **indoors**. 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!

WHAT'S ON!

Monday	Brownies & Guides	6.30am – 9.30pm
Tuesday	Dance Lessons	Mornings
Wednesday	Toddlers in the Park	10.00am -11.30am
	Space to Pray	6.30pm-7.15pm
Thursday	Karate Lessons	6.30pm-7.30pm
Friday	Knit Stitch and Natter	10.30am – 12pm, last Friday of each month
	Tea Dance	1pm onwards, fortnightly
	Navigators	5.15pm-9.30pm
Saturday	Karate Lessons	10.30-11.30am

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.