



Welcome to St. Thomas'

Sunday Gatherings in Church and Online

Sunday 9th January: 10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship

Sunday 16th January: 10.30am Morning Worship
6.30pm Evening Worship

Sunday 23rd January: 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



NOTICES

Monday Morning Prayer: We look forward to joining together again for coffee and prayer at 9.30am. Everyone is welcome.

Sad News: Joanna (Jo) Parkes sadly died yesterday, 5th January. Jo was a member of St Thomas' for many years and more recently worshipped at APC. For some time she had suffered with dementia and died peacefully at the care home in Bristol where she has lived for the past couple of years or so near to where her son lives. Such a gentle soul. Please pray for Jo's family, particularly her children, Catherine and Matthew.

Church Flowers: To pay for church flowers in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special date, please contact Anita - 01922 441324 or 07850 156134

Funeral of Iris Gibbs: Friday 7th January at 11.15 at Streetly Crematorium. The cars are leaving her bungalow at 10.45. All are welcome to attend. Maureen Heaton

Watts in Madagascar: News reaches us this week from Ted, Rachel, Ethan and Jamie that they are pleased to say that the team of electricians from Northern Ireland are there and working on completing the new surgical building. Ted started the surgical training program on 5th January. The two Malagasy doctors beginning this program are Dr Tefy and Dr Rado.

Dr Tefy presently has Covid but thankfully his isolation period ends this week. Ted asks for prayer that the training program would begin on a solid, spiritual foundation, whilst also asking for prayers of protection for the visiting team from Northern Ireland to be free from Covid during their stay in Mandritsara.

Colin and Sue Goodall

Children & Family Notices, Next Page ...

CHILDREN & FAMILIES NOTICES

Tom's Toddlers / Footprints: We are aiming to restart Tom's Toddlers and Footprints on Wednesday 12th January. Please keep a look out on Facebook and email for any new updates if changes need to be made relating to Covid. We usually meet at **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).

Help Needed, 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!

Hello From Our Vicar!

Hi everyone!

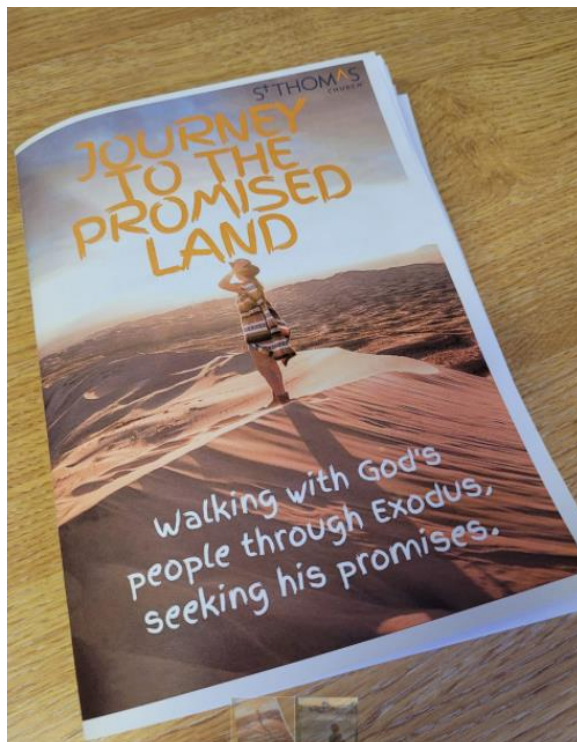
Yesterday, I took a day off and took A for his first time on a plane. We popped to Dublin and back for the day- and we had a brilliant time of aeroplane fun, hot chocolate, and exploring. But a major part of the day, for me in any case, was the prep beforehand. Printing off the boarding passes, getting a PCR test, booking the parking... and if I hadn't have done that, we wouldn't have gone anywhere. And, over the next few months at St T's, we'll be doing something similar.

During this season, we'll be seeking God for the next season for us here in this church by spending time in the book of Exodus as we 'journey to the promised land' together. What lessons are there from this book for us today? What might St T's look like in 2030? What hopes and dreams do we have for us, as God's people, in his family here?

And we can all play our part. We'll be asking housegroups to discuss, pray and think about what we talk about on Sunday mornings, and asking them to feedback what God might be saying. We're also inviting everyone to read a chapter of Exodus every day, and our evening gathering will, as always, have a focus on seeking his presence and listening to his voice.

Let's journey together! 😊

David Sims
Vicar



MISSION FOCUS OVERVIEW - December 2021

This month we have provided an overview of the mission interests from the Mission Core Group for your prayer over this Christmas period

Ted and Rachel Watts, SIM ... please pray for the family as they settle back in Madagascar... Pray for their work in the Madritzra hospital meeting Medical and spiritual needs of the patients ... Also for the new surgical Courses giving junior doctors a registered qualification using the recently completed theatre block.

Brian and Chris Clarke, KRASIF Aid ... please pray for the people In Bulgaria as they cope with a hard winter ...Covid problems and the political situation...KRASIF Aid have been able to offer financial support to be distributed by the various churches they support.Also pray for the Blue House centre as they reach out to those in need and present the Gospel of God's love and for Chris and Brian as the minister remotely through the phone and the internet.

The Thomas Project ... please pray for those who work, volunteer and receive Support from the Project ... pray for the Christmas activities and the regular activities as they restart in the new year.

Pastor Godfrey ... at the children's centre in Kenya as he and his wife Joyce work tirelessly to meet their needs and introduce them to our Lord and provide them with a home and education.

TEAR fund ... please pray for the workers, volunteers and local projects in areas of the world suffering from climate changes and Political unrest ... in times of need may they feel Gods love and have hope for the future .

The mission Core group would like to hear of mission interests held by Members of the congregation as we move into the New Year. New members for the core group always welcome.

Contact - Jim Chalmers (07969023705)



PRAYING TOGETHER – Liz Spiers Prayer Coordinator

I would like to mention the various ways of getting prayer for ourselves, our friends or our families 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**

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: Will be returning on the 5th January at 6.30pm-7.15pm, 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 lift the things on our hearts to the Lord. All welcome. Liz Spiers - Prayer Core Group Coordinator.

WHAT'S ON!

Monday 27th Dec	Morning Prayer Meeting Brownies & Guides	Returning After Christmas at 9.30am Returning After Christmas
Tuesday 28th Dec	Dance Lessons Band Practice	Mornings (ask office for contact details) Returning After Christmas, Evening
Wednesday 29th Dec	Toddlers Space to Pray House Group	Ended for Christmas Holidays Returning 5 th Jan, 6.30pm-7.15pm Returning 5 th Jan, 7.30pm-9.30pm, Corner Room
Thursday 30th Dec	House Group Karate Lessons Wellbeing Course	Returning 6 th Jan, 10.30am-12pm Returning 6 th Jan, 5.45pm-7.30pm Returning 6 th Jan, 7.45pm-9.30pm
Friday 31st Dec	Navigators	Ended for Christmas Holidays
Saturday 1st Jan	-	-
Sunday 2nd Jan	Early Holy Communion All-In, Morning Worship Evening Worship	8.30am 10.30am 6.30pma

CONTACTS

- **Clergy –**
Rev David Sims (VICAR) vicar@stthomasalldridge.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 –**
Administrator - Genette Andrews. Office hours are **Monday to Thursday from 9 am till 12 pm.**
Genette will be happy to help with your queries.
Office contact details - 01922 453942 / office@stthomasalldridge.org.uk
Please note that messages may not be seen or heard on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays.
- **Children and Families Worker: Hannah Evans -**
Telephone: office 01922 453942 / home 01922 693298 / mobile 07921 387241
Email: hannahevans@stthomasalldridge.org.uk
Please note that messages may not be seen or heard on Fridays 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.