

Monthly News for September 2025



Welcome to St Thomas Church

Sunday 7 Sept	CHAIRS Jane & Adam / COFFEE Genette & James / WELCOME ? Theme – New Starts, Acts 17-18 (focusing on 18:5-11) 8.30am – The reflective one with early Holy Communion 10:30 – Lively All-In one, for all ages, , with Baptisms 4.00pm - Wonderfully Messy Church, with Baptisms (note date change) 18:30 - The informal one, with Baptisms. (18.30 for coffee, worship begins at 18.45)
Sunday 14 Sept	CHAIRS Phil & Colin / COFFEE Tony & Julie / WELCOME ? Theme – Acts 19 10:30 – The lively one with Holy Communion No Wonderfully Messy (date changed due to Wonderfully Messy Baptisms) 18:30 – The informal one, enjoy coffee before worship begins at 18.45
Sunday 21 Sept	CHAIRS Sue & Rich / COFFEE Sheila, Ann & Jo / WELCOME ? Theme – Acts 20 10:30 – The lively one 18:30 - The informal one, enjoy coffee before worship begins at 18.45
Sunday 28 Sept	CHAIRS Clive & Genette / COFFEE Colin & Sue / WELCOME ? Theme – Acts 21-25 10.30 – The lively one 18:30 - The informal one, enjoy coffee before worship begins at 18.45

We thank you for parking considerately,
please avoid parking in St Thomas Close 😊

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR, DAVID

New seasons can feel scary, can't they? Whether you're heading back to school, starting uni, or stepping into something completely new, there's that mix of excitement and nerves. But here's the good news: you're not doing it alone.

The Bible reminds us in Isaiah 43:19: *"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"* God loves new beginnings. Every fresh start is a chance to grow, trust Him more, and step into the plans He's already prepared for you. We'll be celebrating with 6 people next week on Sept 7th who will be making a choice about fresh starts for themselves- to be baptised and follow Jesus.

At uni or school, the workplace or whatever our frontline is, it's easy to feel the pressure. New friends, new routines, new challenges. But Proverbs 3:5-6 says: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."*

So, take a breath. God's got you. Every lesson, every task, every late-night prayer- He's with you through it all. Start this season with faith, invite Him into your plans, and watch what He'll do.

New starts aren't just about where you're going — they're about who's going with you. And with God, you're never alone.

David Sims

Vicar

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UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS

PRAYER & PERCOLATION - Every Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 9.15am. Come and join us for coffee in the church lounge, while we pray for our church, the world and each other.

SPACE TO PRAY - Every Wednesday evening, 6.30pm-7.15pm in church (except August). Sit in the presence of the Lord; to lay before him the burdens of our hearts or just to sit at his feet and be refreshed. All welcome. For more details contact Liz Spiers, lizspiers55@blueyonder.co.uk

FILLING STATION - Wednesday 3rd September and every first Wednesday of the month. Meeting in the Parish Church Centre next to Cooper and Jordan school from 7.30 for refreshments, 7.45pm start. As we start a new 'term', what plans do we have as individuals or churches? Come along to this monthly inter-church meeting to tune into God's plans for us in this very interesting season, to seek the filling of His Holy Spirit so that we might fulfil our part and discern His priorities. Our speaker and minister is a regular, Sandy McMeekin from Beacon Church in Burntwood. Worship led by our excellent house band.

CAFÉ ON THE CLOSE - Every Thursday, 10am-12pm - Offering a place to relax & enjoy social time with others over coffee and cake.

MIDWEEK GATHERING - Thursday 4th September. Usually every Thursday (except August), immediately after Café on the Close at 12.15pm, for 30 minutes of worship, often with Holy Communion. Everyone is welcome to come

HEALING ON THE STREETS - Saturday 6th September, at 11am - 1pm. Meeting outside Costa in Aldridge Shopping Centre. Takes place every first Saturday of the month.

WONDERFULLY MESSY CHURCH - Please note the following date changes!

September - Meeting on Sunday 7th September instead of the 14th, due to the exciting news that we have Messy Church Baptisms!

October - Meeting on the 5th October instead of 12th, at the revised time of 2pm, so that we can see the animals that are visiting the 10.30am Harvest Gathering.

This is a Faith based group for littlies with additional needs & their grown-ups. Usually meeting at 3pm - 4.30pm, on the second Sunday of the month (except August). Booking essential, contact vicar@stthomasaldridge.org.uk

BROWNIES, GUIDES & RANGERS - Monday 8th September and every Monday evening during term time. Contact Steph Chebsie - steph_steps@yahoo.co.uk

MONTHLY MUNCH - Tuesday 9th September, at 12.15pm. Join us for a delicious home cooked lunch. It's free of charge, with a suggested donation of £3. Everyone is welcome and booking is essential, email to reserve your place - office@stthomasaldridge.org.uk.

TOMS TODDLERS - Return on Wednesday 10th September. Usually every Wednesday morning, 10.00am-11.30am in term time, with the last meeting on Wednesday 16th July before breaking for summer. For Children from birth to pre-school age. Contact Hannah Evans - hannahevans@stthomasaldridge.org.uk

Continued ...

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FOOTPRINTS - Returning on Wednesday 10th September. Usually every Wednesday morning, 1.00pm-2.30am in term time, with the last meeting on Wednesday 16th July before breaking for summer. For children from 2½ to school age. Contact Hannah Evans - hannahevans@stthomasalldridge.org.uk

FIZZ - Saturday 13th September. Fizz is a church for adults with learning difficulties or special needs & their carers. Meeting at Tynings Lane Church at 12pm - 2pm, on the second Saturday of each month (except August).

BRICK CHURCH - Wednesday 17th September. Come and enjoy a Bible story, told through brick play, then enjoy a chip-shop tea together. Every 3rd Wednesday of the month but please note the following changes -

March - no Brick Church.

April - the date has been changed to the 1st April due to Easter.

BISHOP TIM'S CALL TO PRAYER - Friday 19th September, at St T's, at 7pm.

WIDE AWAKE CLUB - Saturday 20th September. Usually every 3rd Saturday of the month, at 10am-11.30am (except August). For Dads, Grandads & children up to age 10. There's a hot drink & breakfast sandwich for adults, and toys, toast & squash for smaller people.

RECONNECT CAFÉ AT TYNINGS LANE - Saturday 20th September. Usually taking place every other month, on the 3rd Saturday.

KNIT STITCH & NATTER - Friday 26th September. Usually meeting on the last Friday of the month (excluding August & December), in the Annexe, 10.30-12.00pm. All welcome, bring your crafts. Contact lizspiers55@blueyonder.co.uk

ADOPTION SUPPORT GROUP - Monday 29th September. Usually every last Monday of the month, 12.30pm - 2pm. A friendly and supportive group for adoptive parents and children.

SONGSMITHS & PSALMISTS - Saturday 4th October, at 1pm when you can join Andrew Clayton at St T's for songwriting sessions, music, prayer and coffee. All musicians and songwriters are welcome.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING, Coming Soon! - We encourage everyone who is required to complete safeguarding to do so online. For those who may find this difficult, we will be holding a group-based training course at church. The date of this course has been postponed, so keep a look out for a new date coming soon!

TEARFUND CHRISTMAS FAYRE - We are looking forward to our Tearfund Christmas Fayre which will take place at St T's, on Saturday 15th November. Tables are now available to hire at a cost of £10 and can be booked by emailing Liz Spies lizspiers55@blueyonder.co.uk.

WELCOME BOX FOR NEW NEIGHBOURS

Speak to Sue Quibell or one of the Team if you would like to welcome new neighbours with an informative pack from St T's (including a little gift of chocolate too!)

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EXTERNAL EVENTS THAT YOU CAN JOIN

Dance Lessons - with one to one tuition for adult couples. Every Tuesday morning or Wednesday evening. Contact Mandy Daniels for more information - amandadaniels119@outlook.com.

Dog Training Classes, Through The Dog's Eyes - A wonderful new opportunity to join dog training classes. A number of 6 week training sessions take place at St Thomas Church. Email Sarah & Kit for details - info@throughthedogseyes.com

LET'S PRAY

We meet for **Prayer & Percolation** in the church lounge on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays at 9.15 am - 9.45 am. Do join us even if you don't like coffee (tea is available).

Space to Pray - Space to Pray will be taking a break in August. We will meet this Wednesday 30th July and then again on 3rd September. Usually meeting on Wednesday evenings in church from 6.30 pm - 7.15 pm. Time to sit in the Lord's presence & pray as the Spirit leads. Do join us.

Church Prayer List - for prayer support.

Prayer Circle - for confidential prayer support from a small group of prayer warriors.

Remember that nothing is too small or too big for the Lord's help.

Prayer requests to Prayer Co-ordinator: Lizspiers55@blueyonder.co.uk or 01922 453944

Prayer Focus for September - September sees the start of the new school year so let us pray for children everywhere as they start new classes or new schools and pray that they will soon settle down and enjoy school life. We pray for all teachers too as they return to the classroom and welcome new pupils into their care. Let us also pray for 'Revive & Restore', an evening of prayer for Walsall Deanery with Bishop Tim on 19th September here at St. Thomas', praying for God's Kingdom to come across our deanery. *Matt.6:10 "your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."*

MISSION FOCUS

We periodically share emails, containing updates from our Mission Partners. After the email has been sent, it is uploaded to our website (A Church Near You) - Click the following link to see our latest update - <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/78262/view/>

COOPER & JORDAN SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Parents should be aware that we follow the school's admission policy on attendance & 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 check with one of the Team to ensure your attendance is recorded in the folder which is located on the large table at the back of church.

GIVING TO ST T'S

- Simply scan this QR code with your phone.
- Alternatively, a card reader is located on the large table at the back of church.
- Our Team can also provide you with information to enable you to set-up a regular standing order.
- Don't forget to add Gift Aid, ask a member of our Team for help with this.



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WHAT'S ON ...

Mon 1 September	Prayer & Percolation <i>No Brownies/Guides/Rangers</i>	9.15am <i>Usually Evenings</i>
Tues 2 September	Dance Lessons <i>No Toddler Set-Up</i> Band Practice	10am – 1.00pm <i>Usually 1.00pm-3pm</i> 7.30pm – 9pm
Wed 3 September	Prayer & Percolation <i>No Toddlers</i> <i>No Footprints</i> Space to Pray Filling Station Dance Lessons/Practice	9.15am (Lounge) <i>Usually 10.00am – 11.30am</i> <i>Usually 1pm – 2.30pm</i> 6.30pm – 7.15pm 7.30pm (APC Centre) 7.30pm
Thur 4 September	Café on the Close Refresh Life Group Midweek Gathering New Life Group	10am – 12pm 10.30am – 12pm (Lounge) 12.15-12.45pm 7.30pm (Lounge)
Frid 5 September	Prayer & Percolation Dog Training Classes	9.15am (Lounge) 6pm – 9pm
Sat 6 September	Healing on The Streets	11am – 1pm (Aldridge Centre, Nr Costa)
Sun 7 September	See Gatherings on Front Page BAPTISMS Wonderfully Messy Church	10.30am, 6.30pm & Wonderfully Messy 3pm – 4.30pm
Mon 8 September	Prayer & Percolation Brownies/Guides/Rangers DCC	9.15am Evenings 7.45pm (<i>venue to be confirmed due to decorating taking place in the Annexe</i>)
Tue 9 September	Dance Lessons Monthly Munch Toddler Set-Up Band Practice/Lessons	10am – 1.00pm 12.15pm – 1.45pm 1.00pm-3pm 7pm – 9pm
Wed 10 September	Prayer & Percolation Toddlers Footprints Space to Pray Dance Lessons	9.15am (Lounge) 10.00am – 11.30am 1pm – 2.30pm 6.30pm – 7.15pm 7.30pm
Thurs 11 September	Office Closed for 45 mins Meeting Café on the Close Refresh Life Group Midweek Gathering Neighbourhood Watch Meeting New Life Group	9.15am – 11am 10am – 12pm 10.30am – 12pm 12.15-12.45pm 7.30pm (Annexe) 7.30pm (Lounge)
Frid 12 September	Prayer & Percolation Dog Training Classes	9.15am (Lounge) 6pm – 9pm
Sat 13 September	FIZZ	12pm – 2pm at Tynings Lane Church
Sun 14 September	See Gatherings on Front Page	
Mon 15 September	Prayer & Percolation Brownies/Guides/Rangers	9.15am Evenings
Tues 16 September	Dance Lessons Toddler Set-Up Band Practice	10am – 1.00pm 1.00pm-3pm 7pm – 9pm

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Wed 17 September	Prayer & Percolation Toddlers Footprints Brick Church Space to Pray Dance Lessons	9.15am (Lounge) 10.00am – 11.30am 1pm – 2.30pm 4pm – 5.30pm 6.30pm – 7.15pm 7.30pm
Thur 18 September	Café on the Close Refresh Life Group Midweek Gathering New Life Group	10am – 12pm 10am – 12pm 12.15-12.45pm 7.30pm (Lounge)
Fri 19 September	Prayer & Percolation Deanery Prayer Evening	9.15am (Lounge) 7pm – 9pm
Sat 20 September	Wide Awake Club Private Party Room Hire Reconnect Café at Tynings Lane Neighbourhood Watch Nosh/Natter	10am – 11.30am 1pm – 4pm 3.30pm – 5pm 5pm – 10pm
Sun 21 September	See Gatherings on Front Page	
Mon 22 September	Prayer & Percolation Brownies/Guides/Rangers	9.15am Evenings
Tues 23 September	Dance Lessons Toddler Set-Up Band Practice	10am – 1.00pm 1.00pm-3pm 7pm – 9pm
Wed 24 September	Prayer & Percolation Toddlers Footprints Space to Pray Dance Lessons	Prayer & Percolation 10am – 11.30am 1pm – 2.30pm 6.30pm – 7.15pm 7.30pm
Thur 25 September	Café on the Close Pastoral Team Meeting Refresh Life Group Midweek Gathering New Life Group	10am – 12pm 10am – 11am 10am – 12pm 12.15-12.45pm 7.30pm (Lounge)
Frid 26 September	Prayer & Percolation Knit, Stitch & Natter Knit, Stitch & Natter Dog Training Classes	9.15am (Lounge) 10.30am – 12pm 10.30am – 12pm 6.30pm – 9pm
Sat 27 September	<i>No Events</i>	
Sun 28 September	See Gatherings on Front Page	
Mon 29 September	Prayer & Percolation Life Group Leaders Meeting Brownies/Guides/Rangers	9.15am ? Evenings
Tues 30 September	Dance Lessons Toddler Set-Up Band Practice	10am – 1.00pm 1.00pm-3pm 7pm – 9pm

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Contacts

- **Clergy –**
Rev David Sims (VICAR) vicar@stthomasalldridge.org.uk, office number 01922 453942
Rev Jeremy Bakewell 07790 986575
Rev Sue Quibell 07889 88554
If you 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.
Telephone - 01922 453942 / Email - office@stthomasalldridge.org.uk
Please note that messages are not be seen or heard on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays.
- **Children & Families Worker: Hannah Evans -**
Telephone: office 01922 453942 / home 01922 693298 / mobile 07921 387241
Email: hannahevans@stthomasalldridge.org.uk
Please note that messages are not be seen or heard on Fridays & 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 & details of the Prayer Circle.
- **Wardens -**
Sue Grundy: 07772 925069 / susan.grundy@yahoo.com
Andrew Dickson: 07989 143388 / andrewjdickson999@hotmail.com
Glennys Davis: 07905 210399 / glennys49@hotmail.com
Lisa Winnall: 07805 114471 / lisawinnall.church@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 the following people –
Sue Grundy (for children) - 07772 925069 / susan.grundy@yahoo.com
Sue Quibell (for adults) - 07889 885545 / s.quibell@googlemail.com
(see poster in church foyer for other numbers & information). A copy of our safeguarding policy is available in the church foyer & church office.
- **Fabrics & Health and Safety –**
Andrew Dickson: 07989 143388 / andrewjdickson999@hotmail.com
- **Websites:**
<https://stthomasalldridge.org.uk/> or www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4121/