

**PARISH CHURCH OF  
ST. THOMAS, DOUGLAS**



**March 2022**

# WELCOME TO THE ST THOMAS CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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And another month has flown by I see as I come to prepare another magazine article. I'm reminded of the phrase – 'time like an ever-rolling stream' from the hymn O God our help in ages past! Because as surely as eggs is eggs, as my mum used to say, time marches on. I hope that as it does, we start to see longer and brighter days and a turn to warmer weather from the recent stormy blasts that we've been experiencing.

We are approaching Lent, well as you read this, we may already be in Lent, and this will be the first time in a couple of years that we will be able to participate fully in the seasonal activities and services after the last couple of years.

So, I do hope that you will come and join in the variety of things on offer.

We begin Lent on Ash Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March with a service of Holy Communion at 10.30am where you will have the opportunity if you so wish to start Lent with the imposition of ashes, a reminder of our mortality and the opportunity that we take in Lent to draw closer to God through prayer and Bible Study as we approach Passion week, Good Friday before we celebrate with Easter joy.

We will have the opportunity to do this together once a week on a Friday morning at 11am when there will

be a short service of Morning Prayer before lunch at 12.00 when we will begin our Lent lunches again on Fridays from 12-1.30.

God bless.

Liz

Rev Liz Hull

CHURCH SERVICES
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## **Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent**

11:00 am                      Family service including the  
Baptism of Noah Kirk Williams

Preaching :                      Rev Liz Hull

Reader :                          Gospel : Maybe dramatized  
Luke 4 v 1 - 13

Prayers :                          All age

Sidesperson :                      Children of St Thomas

Tea Rota :                          Phyllis Christian  
Sandra Peters

## **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

11:00 am            Holy Communion

Preaching :        Steve Hull

Reader :            First reading : Ruhamah Daniel  
                          Psalm 27

Gospel : Edwin Creer  
Luke 13 v 31 – End

Intercessions :    Rev Liz Hull

Sidesperson :     Ralph Martin  
                          Peter Martin

Tea Rota :         Louise Faragher  
                          Joan Aitken

## **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

11:00 am            Holy Communion

Preaching :        Rev Liz Hull

Reader :            First reading : Peter Clague  
                          Psalm 63 v 1 - 9

                          Gospel : Marissa Forrester  
                          Luke 13 v 1 - 9

Intercessions :    Steve Hull

Sidesperson :     Jenny Copparelli  
                          Edward Littlewood

Tea Rota :          Lorna Martin  
                          Pat Walmsley

## **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> – Mothering Sunday**

11:00 am            Family Service

Preaching :        Rev Liz Hull

Reader :            Gospel : Mandy Bailey  
                          Luke 2 v 33 - 35

Intercessions :    All age

Sidesperson :     Mandy Bailey  
                          Marissa Forrester

Tea Rota :         The Gentlemen

If anyone cannot make their allotted date, please  
arrange cover



FRIDAY COFFEE MORNING ROTA
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Jacqy Frear Pat Walmsley	4 <sup>th</sup> March
Edwin Creer Michael Farnworth	11 <sup>th</sup> March
June McDowell Lorna Martin	18 <sup>th</sup> March
Barbara Gibbon Viola Ferris	25 <sup>th</sup> March

Please make sure you bring the milk and biscuits for the coffee morning.

FRIDAY FLOWER ROTA
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When it is your turn to provide flowers, you can arrange them on the altar when the Church is open on Friday coffee morning. Or if you are unable to be there in person, then please ask someone else to arrange the flowers for you, moving the previous weeks flowers to the side aisles.

LENT	4 <sup>th</sup> March
LENT	11 <sup>th</sup> March
LENT	18 <sup>th</sup> March
LENT	25 <sup>th</sup> March

## ASH WEDNESDAY AND THE OBSERVANCE OF LENT – A FACT SHEET

Ash Wednesday and the observance of Lent as we know it came into existence somewhere between the fifth and eighth centuries. Before that, Lent began on what is now the first Sunday in Lent, and so there were only thirty-six days of Lent (Sundays, which always celebrate the resurrection, were excluded).

Forty is the number of days our Lord fasted in the wilderness, like the forty-day fasts of Moses and Elijah which are recorded in the Old Testament. Thus Ash Wednesday is now forty-six days before Easter (forty weekdays).

The tradition of fasting during Lent mirrors that of our Lord. In the Book of Common Prayer, Ash Wednesday is described as a ‘Greater Fast’, one of two, with Good Friday being the other.

Fasting, in Biblical times, was always associated with acts of repentance, along with ‘sackcloth and ashes’. People or communities who had sinned would wear sackcloth and sprinkle themselves with ashes, as an outward sign of their repentance.

The ‘ashing’ of repentant Christians was formerly only for public penitents. These people would have to go to the church door on the first day of Lent, wearing penitential clothing and with bare feet. Penances were

imposed, and they were then brought into the church before the Bishop, who would put ashes on their foreheads with the words “Repent, so that you may have eternal life”. Out of humility and affection, friends of the penitents would join with them and also have ashes imposed. Numbers increased gradually until eventually all Christians present came forward for 'ashing'. This became the Imposition of Ashes as we know it today. Only the words have changed: “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” This is rather like saying “Don’t forget your place or get above your station, for that is not what God wants of you”.

The ashes used on Ash Wednesday are obtained by burning the palms of the previous year (now the palm crosses).

Lent, as a time of fasting, has been kept almost since the time of the Apostles. It is an end in itself for spiritually strengthening the faithful. Throughout the ages, the church has highlighted the many and varied purposes of Lent. It is a season when we pray for God’s compassion, and we should also show compassion to others. Money saved by fasting has traditionally been given to those in greater need. The church forgave sinners, rulers released prisoners, masters pardoned slaves and enemies became friends again. Lent became a season when Christians would grieve and show remorse for their sins and wickedness. For this reason the Church discouraged celebrations and festivities and this is reflected in the

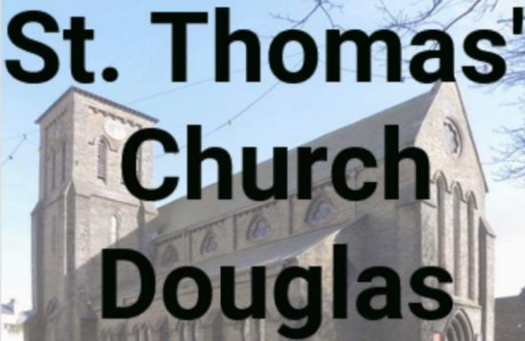
use of a sombre purple as the seasonal colour.

By denying ourselves luxuries and pleasures, we can concentrate our attentions on spiritual matters, and from early times communions, sermons and spiritual exercises have been increased during Lent. In modern times we are equally encouraged to ‘take something on’ as ‘give something up’.

Shrove Tuesday, which is the day before Ash Wednesday, has taken on a higher significance in modern times. In some traditions, sinners have moved their acts of penitence to private confession before Lent starts. The old verb ‘to shrive’ means ‘to hear confession from or give absolution to’ someone.

In French, Mardi Gras or ‘Fat Tuesday’ indicates that this is a day for eating up rich foods and, as it were stocking up the bodily larder for the leanness of Lent, and so supplies of eggs, fat, flour and sugar were used up to make the now-traditional pancakes.

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# St. Thomas' Church Douglas

## LENT LUNCHES

FRIDAYS 11th  
MARCH to 8th  
APRIL

Delicious home made soup, roll,  
and cheese  
followed by dessert, tea or coffee.  
Suggested minimum donation £7.

ST.THOMAS' CHURCH, DOUGLAS, IM1 2PL

A Warm  
Welcome  
to All

TIMES  
12.00pm  
to  
1.30pm

Check out our  
website  
[www.  
stthomaschurch.im](http://www.stthomaschurch.im)

Follow us on:



## LENT CHARITY – DOUGLAS COAL FUND

This year we are supporting the Douglas Coal Fund for Lent.

Interestingly, this is not the first time St Thomas Church has supported the fund. A look at the iMuseum newspaper images below shows us that the Church has supported the fund for over 100 years by providing trustees, as well as supporting the fund financially.

15<sup>th</sup> December 1894

The following committee was appointed for next year on the motion of Mr Kelly seconded by Mr Barber:—St. Matthews, Messrs J. R. Fielding and R. Quayle; St. George's, Messrs R. H. Collister and J. Boyd; St. Barnabas', Mr P. Killey and Dr. Edwards; St. Thomas's, Messrs H. Brearley and R. Clucas; Thomas-street Wesleyan Chapel, Messrs W. J. Kermode and Henry Shimmin; Baptist Church, Mr T. Hough; Well-road Chapel, Messrs J. P. Cain and J. Clague; Rosemount Chapel, Mr R. Curphey; St. Andrew's Church, Mr D. Mitchel; Finch-hill Church, Messrs G. Barber and H. Worrall; St. Mary's Church, Messrs J. J. Bucknall and E. Flynn; Loch Parade Chapel, Mr W. Proctor; Seamen's Bethel, Mr William Kneen; Wellington-street Chapel, Mr W. Sansbury.

27<sup>th</sup> December 1902

The committee consists of the following representatives of the different churches and chapels:—  
 St. George's, Messrs Boyd and Christian; St. Matthew's, Messrs Fielding and Quayle; St. Barnabas', Mr Thos. Clucas; St. Thomas', Messrs Brearey and R. Clucas; Victoria-street Wesleyan Messrs Kermode and Shimmin; Rose Mount Wesleyan, Mr Curphey; Well-road Wesleyan, Messrs Cain and Kermode; Finch Hill, Mr A. Hough, St. Andrew's Mr Corlett; St. Mary's (R.C.), Messrs O'Hanlon and J. J. Proctor; Loch Parade (P. M.), Alderman Proctor; Buck's-rd. Primitive Methodist Mr W. R. Sansbury; and Seamen's Bethel, Mr W. Kneen.

31<sup>st</sup> March 1913

DOUGLAS COAL-FUND.		
Statement of receipts and payments for the year ending 31st March, 1913.		
Receipts.		
Balance in bank, 1st April, 1912 ...	£33	9 1
St Matthew's Church .....	1	0 0
Seamen's Bethel .....	1	10 0
St Andrew's Church .....	2	0 0
Buck's-road P.M. Church .....	1	15 0
St Barnabas Church .....	4	2 6
Loch Parade P.M. Church .....	1	1 0
St Mary's Church .....		17 0
St Thomas' Church .....	3	9 4
St George's Church and All Saints'	7	4 0
Wesleyan Churches .....	10	10 0
Part proceeds of Douglas Teachers' Grand Charity Bazaar .....		
	5	0 0
Estate of H. K. Ward .....	3	0 0
St Trinian's Lodge of Freemasons ...	1	1 0
Tynwald Lodge of Freemasons.....	1	1 0
Spencer Walpole Temperance Lodge	1	1 0
Part proceeds of Entertainment Max Picturedrome .....		
	2	0 0
Subscriptions and donations .....	28	16 6
Interest from investments and bank interest .....	67	15 11

14<sup>th</sup> Dec 1956

## **Douglas Coal Fund**

We have been asked by Mr J. Scarff, the hon. secretary, to acknowledge the following donations to the Douglas Coal Fund: M.T., £2; R.B., £1; A.C., 9s; A. Lace, 10s; St. Thomas' Church, £5 1s 2d; Miss E. Moore, £1; Mrs A. L. Watson, £3; Inner Wheel, £10; and Staff, Greeba Works, £1 10s.

Do any Church members have any family stories from the support the Church had provided in the past. If so then I'm sure we would all like to hear them.



MENS FELLOWSHIP
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Normally the first Tuesday in each month from October to May.

1 <sup>st</sup> March	Rev Jo Dudley “From Policewoman to Priest”
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5 <sup>th</sup> April	Mr Peter Clague “Further Travels”
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3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Mrs Elaine Christian “Little things mean a lot”
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AGM and outing to be arranged for June or July 2022

## WHAT'S ON AT ST THOMAS' IN FEBRUARY 2022

Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	7:30pm Mens Fellowship "From Policewoman to Priest" by Rev Jo Dudley
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10:30am Ash Wednesday Communion service
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am World day of Prayer service 10.30am Coffee and chat 12.00pm Lent Lunch.
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am Working Party
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am Brunch 11.00am Family service including the Baptism of Noah Kirk Williams
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm Craft Group
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	2:00pm Mothers Union
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am Coffee and chat 11:00am Morning prayer for Lent short service 12.00pm Lent Lunch.
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am Holy Communion
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm Craft Group
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am Coffee and chat 11:00am Morning prayer for Lent short service 12.00pm Lent Lunch.

Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am Holy Communion
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup>	2.00pm Craft Group
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am Coffee and chat 11:00am Morning prayer for Lent short service 12.00pm Lent Lunch.
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am Mothering Sunday
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm Craft Group

If anyone has any future events they would like to put “in our diary” please let us know

## CHURCH CONTACTS

### **Minister**

Rev. Liz Hull - Tel 677711

### **Church Wardens**

Mr Michael Faragher, High View Road, Douglas – Tel 626655

Mr Peter Martin, 20 Maple Avenue, Birch Hill, Onchan  
Tel 622080/478076

### **Organist**

Bogumil Tomasz Godlewski

### **P.C.C Secretary**

Vacant

### **Treasurer**

Pam Beedan

### **Day School Head Teacher**

Mr Chris Kirk  
St Thomas School, Meadow Campus – Tel 674230

### **Junior Church Leader**

Jacqy Frear

### **Newsletter Editor**

Mrs Tracey Martin  
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### **Safeguarding Officer**

Mandy Bailey – Tel 393747 / 620984

**Please can ALL contributors to the magazine ensure articles are sent in no later than the 20<sup>th</sup> of the Month. (articles received after this date may not be included until the following month)**

**Did you know, you can find us on facebook or our website?**

For facebook search - St Thomas' Church of England, Isle of Man  
[www.stthomaschurch.im](http://www.stthomaschurch.im)