

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS, DOUGLAS



August 2022

WELCOME TO THE ST THOMAS CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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Dear friends

As I write normal service has resumed in terms of the weather i.e. wet and windy as the schools broke up. But even here on the Isle of Man we have had a dry season until this time and exceptionally hot weather across the British Isles. This sadly is what we can expect with climate change due to our increasing CO₂ emissions. It certainly is focusing my mind on what I can do to reduce my carbon footprint, i.e., reducing my use of fossil fuels in travel and home heating and looking at what I eat and what I buy. As churches too we need to think about this as we have agreed at Synod to make our churches NetZero by 2030. So, avoiding letting the heat escape our buildings by such simple things as closing the doors behind us, to looking in the longer term to what temperature we have our churches at and how and where we heat them; for example do we heat the building or the people, are all ways of being more careful about our environment.

The Church of England, as a recognition of our roles as stewards of God's creation, has created a season called Creationtide which runs from the first Sunday in September to the first Sunday in October. We will celebrate this season in our Sunday services beginning on the 4th of September with a family service at 11am when we will celebrate and give thanks for all the

good gifts of creation with a Pet Service. We will end the season of Creationtide with our Harvest service on October the 2nd, another family service.

And thinking of the good gifts from God, we have enjoyed the gift of music each Wednesday evening at 7.45pm as we have celebrated our Summer Concerts which continue through August. We have enjoyed a wonderful variety of music and really appreciated the depth of talent on the Isle of Man and the beautiful acoustics of St Thomas church, as well as the delicious refreshments on offer, whilst raising money for church funds to support the running costs of the church.

I hope that you will join us in church for our Sundays services at 11am and our coffee and chat each Friday and our Friday lunches on the first Friday of every month.

God bless.

Liz

Rev Liz Hull

JULY CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 7th – 8th Sunday after Trinity

11:00 am Holy Communion

Preaching : Steve Hull

Reader : First reading : Tracy E
 Genesis 15 v 1 - 6

Gospel : Tracey M
Luke 12 v 32 - 40

Prayers : Tracey E

Sidesperson : Ralph Martin
 Peter Martin

Tea Rota : Phyllis Christian
 Sandra Peters

Sunday 14th – 9th Sunday after Trinity

11:00 am Holy Communion

Preaching : Steve Hull

Reader : First reading : Lilian
Jeremiah 23 v 23 - 29

Gospel : Philip
Luke 12 v 49 - 56

Intercessions : Rev Liz Hull

Sidesperson : Peter Clague
Pam Beedan

Tea Rota : Louise Faragher
Joan Aitken

Sunday 21st – 10th Sunday after Trinity

11:00 am Holy Communion

Preaching : Canon Rev Philip Frear

Reader : First reading : Michael
 Isaiah 58 v 9b – End

 Gospel : Gladys
 Luke 13 v 10 - 17

Intercessions : Tracy E

Sidesperson : Jenny Copparelli
 Edward Littlewood

Tea Rota : Lorna Martin
 Pat Walmsley

Sunday 28th – 11th Sunday after Trinity

11:00 am Holy Communion

Preaching : Rev Liz Hull

Reader : First Reading : Peter M
 Psalm 112

 Gospel : Steve
 Luke 14 v 1, 7 - 14

Intercessions : Steve Hull

Sidesperson : Tracey Martin
 TBC

Tea Rota : The Gentlemen

FRIDAY COFFEE MORNING ROTA

Jacqy Frear Pat Walmsley	5 th August
Edwin Creer Michael Farnworth	12 th August
June McDowell Lorna Martin	19 th August
Barbara Gibbon Viola Ferris	26 th August

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

FRIDAY FLOWER ROTA

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.

Pat Walmsley	5 th August
Jacqy Frear	12 th August
Joan Aitken	19 th August
Marissa Forrester	26 th August

2023 FLOWER ROTA

We will shortly be putting a blank 2023 flower rota at the back of Church. If you would like to put your name down to provide altar flowers then write it in the Friday slot that best suits you. They can be done in memory of a loved one if you wish or for your family or simply because you want to.

Some people currently on the rota may still wish to remain on it next year but are not regular worshippers for one reason or another so if you know of anyone in this situation, please ask them if they would like to continue and if so, put their name down for them.

PCC MEETING

PCC meeting held on Tuesday 26th July

A review of the 150th anniversary week highlighted some good points and some areas we could improve on. The old school scholars night was poorly attended and there was some confusion about the Sunday opening. But it was highlighted that a number of people had come in and several remarked that they had no idea the inside of the Church was so nice. All agreed that there was a good variety of things on offer during the week, between the displays, the greenery, concert, school reunion, Friday lunch, current school service

Finances are alright, we wanted to bring to the attention of the congregation that our monthly standing orders (the bills we have to pay to keep open) amount to :

Shared Mission	£ 2,941.91
Manx Petroleum	£ 300.00
Manx Utilities	£ 130.00
Ecclesiastical Insurance	£ 263.86

Total **£ 3,635.77**

We are looking to create a health and safety policy for when children are about. For example it would cover having two adults in the vestry before church service to make sure that the children are safe.

Attendance at Sunday services have been down recently. This is due to post covid from TT week which restricted the core congregation members turning up. But we need to make sure that as a Church our welcome is really good because there have been some new congregation members along with visitors attending the services which was really pleasing to see.

There are a couple of baptisms coming up, they will be part of the communion service so if more people come forward to baptize their children then the Communion service will be adapted to suit.

We had a good discussion around youth work in the Church. It was proposed that we run Sunday schools up to twice per month. In addition to family services during term time but not in August or January one during the 3rd week Communion and 5th on relevant months. It is getting increasingly difficult to have one during term-time on each Sunday as the age differences between the children is wide. So catering for them all is testing. Rev Liz said that youth work is a very valuable ministry and we need to do our best to keep it going

Our Church Wardens ran through the findings when walking through the Church looking at what needed doing before we could open up and leave the Church un-attended for anyone wanting to come in and look around. We are aware that if this is to go ahead in the longer term that we would need to find people to open up and lock up.

So a we looked at initially opening on days that we currently had regular activities on. The PCC agreed that currently we could open up on Monday 2 – 4 pm as the craft group were in the building. As well as Friday 10:30am – 12:00pm (later when lunches are on). These were the current dates that people are in the building and therefore we wouldn't need to rely on anyone to make a specific journey to open/close the doors.

Rev Liz and Steve talked about having boards up in the Church when it is open telling the history of the

Church which is far more interesting than some churches they visited recently on holiday. So this is something that we will actively look into. During the recent opening week, we had a number of yearbooks and history pamphlets or small booklets on various parts of the Church on display. If there's anyone who would be willing to type these into a laptop/PC so that they were held electronically would be fantastic and would allow us to do much more to tie in with the boards and our website.

There will be a meeting on 2nd August between the Church committee, architect, MNH and planning department to discuss the changes to the Church. We will keep everyone informed of this exciting project as things progress. One thing you can do for us though is to come up with a suitable name for the project as it is currently referred to as many different things and is sometimes confusing.

Mike and Rev Liz reported on a well being day they attended recently which proved very beneficial. It was not just based around clergy well being, but also the well being of every member of the Church and to please be aware of their workloads. The PCC will adopt a policy statement regarding well being in Church, so please look out for it posted about.

We have an opportunity to acquire some additional hymn books to compliment the ones we currently use. The idea is to remove all of the additional pieces of

paper you get on a regular Sunday service. So some Sundays we will use the new hymn books (which contain all of the hymns in our existing hymn books) and some days our current ones. Please don't be upset about this change, it is simply to remove the need to hand out additional pieces of paper for the hymns not in Common Praise or Mission Praise. They will still be the same familiar tunes we love and hymns we know.

After much discussion, we decided to start afresh with the flower rota. So between now and the end of the year, a new rota for 2023 will be put at the back of Church for you all to take a Friday for flowers, if you wish. There are currently a number of vacant slots in the flower rota so we thought it best to start again and give everyone a chance to offer to purchase altar flowers if they want to.

WHAT'S ON AT ST THOMAS' IN AUGUST 2022	
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Monday 1 st	2.00pm Craft Group
Wednesday 3 rd	7:30pm Summer concert Crosby Silver Band
Friday 5 th	10.30am Coffee and chat 12:00pm Light lunch
Sunday 7 th	9:30am Brunch 11:00am Holy communion
Monday 8 th	2.00pm Craft Group
Wednesday 10 th	7:30pm Summer concert Simon Fletcher, Gareth Moore & Jenny Derbyshire
Friday 12 th	10.30am Coffee and chat
Sunday 14 th	11:00am Holy communion
Monday 15 th	2.00pm Craft Group
Wednesday 17 th	7:30pm Summer concert Women in Song
Friday 19 th	10.30am Coffee and chat
Sunday 21 st	11:00am Holy communion
Monday 22 nd	2.00pm Craft Group
Wednesday 24 th	7:30pm Summer concert Lon Dhoo Male Voice Choir

Friday 26 th	10.30am Coffee and chat
Sunday 28 th	11:00am Holy communion
Monday 29 th	2.00pm Craft Group
Wednesday 31 st	7:30pm Summer concert Shenanigans Group

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

EVENTS FOR THE YEAR

We have pulled together all of the known planned events this year to try and let you plan ahead. Whilst this is our ‘best guess’ at times and dates, please check nearer the time to confirm and as ever, the details will be published in both the monthly newsletter and weekly service sheet.

These events are only the tip of the iceberg for the fellowship, fun and frivolity we have at St Thomas for you to come along and join in with:

- Craft group – Mondays 2:00pm
- Guides / Brownies – Wednesday’s
- Mens Fellowship – First Tuesday of the month evening
- Mothers Union – First Tuesday of the month daytime
- Coffee mornings – Fridays 10:30am

Finally how could we forget our spectacular Sunday services at 11:00am and the all important festive services throughout the year all led by our very own Rev Liz Hull. A chance to unwind and spend some time with God.

September

Friday 2nd (12:00pm – 1:30pm) – Light lunch

Saturday 3rd – Organ recital and buffet lunch

Wednesday 7th (7:30pm) – Summer concert

Wednesday 14th (7:30pm) – Summer concert

October

Sunday 2nd – Heritage open day

Friday 7th (12:00pm – 1:30pm) – Light lunch

Saturday 8th – Harvest quiz & supper

Sunday 9th – Heritage open day

Thursday 20th – Manx concert brass & evening supper

November

Friday 4th (12:00pm – 1:30pm) – Light lunch

Sunday 13th – Remembrance Sunday

Saturday 19th (2:00pm – 4:00pm) – Christmas Fayre

December

Friday 2nd (12:00pm – 1:30pm) – Light lunch

Sunday 4th – St Barbara's day Royal Artillery service

Friday 16th – Christingle

Sunday 18th – Carols by Candlelight

Saturday 24th – Crib service

? - STAR service

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
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Organist

Bogumil Tomasz Godlewski

P.C.C Secretary

Vacant

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Please can ALL contributors to the magazine ensure articles are sent in no later than the 20th 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