

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



February 2022

WELCOME TO THE ST THOMAS CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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MINISTERS MESSAGE FOR THE MONTH

As I write the article for the first church Newsletter of 2022, its my first chance to wish everyone a happy new year! It has been a slow start to the year with activities temporarily on hold in January as a precaution against Covid.

Mentally I think we like to start new things and especially new years with bursts of enthusiasm like those crazy people who rush into the sea on New Year's Day. But we have not been able to rush enthusiastically into the new year with our usual activities and it reminds of the passage in Ecclesiastes3:1-8

‘To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.’

When we look at the natural world around us it is dormant, plants are waiting for the weather to improve although the first signs of Spring are visible in the buds on the trees and the green shoots of bulbs coming up amongst the leaf litter on the ground. And perhaps we need to learn to be patient with the limitations that meet us whether practical or physical trusting that warmer weather and opportunities to meet and share fellowship together will be with us again.

We can trust that things will pick up again and that this period of dormancy is in the natural order of things, but that God is with us through all the seasons of our lives, in the sadness and the joy, in the business and the resting, in health and in periods of ill health, and finally welcomes us home in the fullness of time.

But before that we have much to be getting on with our first Friday lunch to look forward to on the 4th of February and our brunch before our family service on the first Sunday in February (the 6th of Feb) as well as all our other activities.

I hope that you will be joining us as we gather in church over the next few Sundays to draw close to God, to pray, to sing together and be uplifted by the fellowship we share together in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God bless.

Liz

Rev Liz Hull

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday February 6th – Fourth Sunday before Lent

11:00 am Family service

Preaching : Rev Liz Hull

Reader : First reading : Maybe dramatized
Isaiah 6 v 1 - 8

Gospel : Maybe dramatized
Luke 5 v 11

Prayers : All age prayers

Sidesperson : Children of St Thomas

Tea Rota : Phyllis Christian
Sandra Peters

Sunday 13th – Third Sunday before Lent

11:00 am Holy Communion

Preaching : Steve Hull

Reader : First reading : Michael Faragher
 Psalm 1

 Gospel : Philip Frear
 Luke 6 v 17 – 26

Intercessions : Philip Frear

Sidesperson : Tracey Martin
 JohnWalmsley

Tea Rota : Louise Faragher
 Joan Aitken

Sunday 20th – Second Sunday before Lent

11:00 am Holy Communion

Preaching : Rev Liz Hull

Reader : First reading : Gladys Matlapeng
Psalm 65

Gospel : Steve Hull
Luke 8 v 22 - 25

Intercessions : Steve Hull

Sidesperson : Jenny Copparelli
Edward Littlewood

Tea Rota : Lorna Martin
Pat Walmsley

Sunday 27th - Sunday before Lent

11:00 am Holy Communion

Preaching : Rev Liz Hull

Reader : First reading : Sandra Peters
 Psalm 99

 Gospel : Tracey Erskine
 Luke 9 v 28 - 36

Intercessions : Steve Hull

Sidesperson : Peter Clague
 Pam Beedan

Tea Rota : The Gentlemen

If anyone cannot make their allotted date, please
arrange cover

FRIDAY COFFEE MORNING ROTA

Jacqy Frear Pat Walmsley	4 th February
Edwin Creer Michael Farnworth	11 th February
June McDowell Lorna Martin	18 th February
Barbara Gibbon Viola Ferris	25 th February

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.

Karen Walker	4 th February
Betty Tinker	11 th February
Mary Wilkinson	18 th February
PRE-LENT	25 th February

Agenda PCC meeting Tuesday 25th January 2022

Opening Prayer

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of Meeting on 23rd November 2021
3. Update on Action Points not already included on this agenda
4. Correspondence
5. Finance
6. Fabric
7. Vicar's Report
8. Safeguarding
Discussion : Who needs to undertake latest training? Available courses and dates. Safer recruiting.
9. Review of Christmas activities 2021
Discussion : Services, Christingle/School Carol Service, Invitations, Attendance figures, Suggestions for next year.
Proposal : That Christingle Candle collection boxes, in aid of the Children's Society, be distributed during Advent 2022.
10. Church Groups - Cancellations
Discussion: Review current situation
11. Fair Trade Stall
Discussion : Who's responsible for it? Is it losing money? Who keeps account of its finances? What's its future?
12. Fundraising and Charitable Giving
Discussion : Thoughts on fundraising events for 2022 and charities which may benefit.
Proposal : That PCC identifies which local charity should receive monies raised at Lent Lunches in 2022. Suggested Recipient - Douglas Coal Fund.
Proposal : That 'self-denial' Lent Giving Boxes be given out for congregation to fill with loose change. When

collected in can the funds raised be added to the Lent Lunch funds.

Proposal : That dates for Summer Concert Programme be agreed and fixed in the calendar.

13. Subcommittees

Proposal : Update on progress made by each of the PCC's subcommittees.

Discussion : How each of these activities is to be managed / organized in the future.

14. Publicity

Discussion : Ideas as to how best to publicize church events and activities.

Proposal : That consideration be given to the creation of an A4 3 fold leaflet about St. Thomas' which can be put in local hotels, Sea Terminal, Library, etc.

15. Vacancies for Secretary, PCC members and opportunity to shadow Treasurer before taking over in 2023

Discussion : Have we made any progress? If not, what is our plan for addressing the problem?

16. Communication between PCC and Congregation

Discussion : Update on any feedback following the publication of the PCC summary from the previous meeting.

17. Re-ordering of St Thomas Church.

Discussion : Update on discussion with the DAC.

Proposal : Ascertain further views on the plans so far. Arrange another meeting with Niall to develop a plan which we can take to other interested parties eg planning, arts council etc.

18. Car Parking

Discussion : Update on Quing Parking

Proposal : That Quing be permitted to continue renting the 2 parking spaces at the same rate and under the same terms and conditions as previously agreed.

19. Dates of next PCC meeting.

20. Any Other Business.

Closing Prayer

Summary of the P.C.C. Meeting held

Tuesday 25th January 2022.

Following opening prayers the minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed. Matters arising from the minutes dealt with.

CORRESPONDANCE. A letter was received from Edwin indicating that he is stepping down from the PCC after many years of faithful service to the PCC. The PCC would like to put on record their thanks for his time and dedication to the Church over the years.

FINANCE. The annual accounts were laid before the PCC for approval and will be made available to the congregation at the annual meeting in April once they have been checked by the Church auditors. In summary, St Thomas met its financial obligations for the year and everyone should be very proud of their efforts.

FABRIC. The Church wardens are looking to replace the cast iron air vents on the outside of the Church. Replacing these is part of the quinquennial survey. They are also working with Rev Liz to firm up plans for the proposed mural to go on the pebble dashed wall outside. The fire doors need staining to blend in with the surrounds, if anyone fancies helping out, please let us know.

SAFEGUARDING. The DBS police checks will now take place every 3 years not 5 and as such, some people will need to renew them. But we will let you know if its you in plenty of time. The renewal can be using a paper form or online. The advantage on online is that future renewals can be done at the press of a button.

NEW SERVICES. Rev Liz is going to run a morning prayer service on Friday mornings at 11:00am. This will tie in nicely

with Lent lunches by allowing people to join in a short service and then have something to eat afterwards.

REVIEW CHRISTMAS SERVICES. The PCC looked at the services and decided that in general all were well run and attended. But there were some things that can be improved on or changed for next year. The Christingle service was a bit rushed so will work with the school to try and get a little more time. The postcard invitations will be stopped as the main problem was delivering them and gauging how beneficial they are. Instead we will look for the likes of putting an advert in the paper or posters outside Church, local shops, schools, hotels and businesses.

ECO CHURCH. The Sunday school will soon be handing out jam jars to collect money for an eco charity. The idea is to put 'fines' in the jar for example 10p if you pick the papers up by bus, 20p for using a car, 50p for using a plane. Eco projects could be used throughout the Church during the year.

CHURCH GROUPS & MEETINGS. We have now been given the go-ahead to serve refreshments again. So the PCC has decided to follow the government guidelines and start all of the Church groups from 31st January.

LENT LUNCHESES. These will be starting very shortly and we have agreed that the monies raised will go to the Douglas Coal Fund.

SUB-COMMITTEES. The new sub-committees will start up in February. These are not designed to replace the PCC but to compliment it. We will be starting with a Fund raising, Re-ordering and Standing committees. You will be hearing more about these as time goes on.

REFURBISHMENT / RE-ORDERING PLANS. The DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) met at St Thomas recently to discuss the plans that are available at the back of Church. They were broadly in favour of our proposals but would like to see some more work on commitments from prospective users of the new community space. If anyone has any comments to make, please make your thoughts known whether you are in favour or not, we won't be offended if you don't like what you see. But it is only together that we can truly build a sustainable long term future for our Church.

MENS FELLOWSHIP

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

1 st February	Mrs Jane Kelly “Civil Defence”
1 st March	Rev Jo Dudley “From Policewoman to Priest”
5 th April	Mr Peter Clague “Further Travels”
3 rd May	Mrs Elaine Christian “Little things mean a lot”

AGM and outing to be arranged for June or July 2022

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH

This is a 5 week course designed to help us to listen, understand and engage with issues of identity, relationships and human sexuality.

It is being held in Bohemian Café at 7 – 9pm on February 2nd 9th 16th 23rd and March 2nd. At the end of the course, feedback can be provided online.



1st Friday Lunch



Come along and enjoy a hearty lunch, make new friends and meet old friends! Lunch is from 12.00pm to 1.30pm and consists of a main course, a mouth-watering selection of puddings followed by tea or coffee. The suggested donation is £7 but pay what can afford. We look forward to seeing you there

Working Party

This group meets from 8.30am to 10.00am on the 1st Saturday of each month. You don't need any particular skills, just come along and we'll find you a suitable job! By doing the little jobs ourselves

we keep the maintenance costs down. There's always plenty of laughter –
it makes the chores easier!



Lent Lunches

**ADVANCE NOTICE - Lent Lunches
begin on Friday 4th March from
12.00pm-1.30pm**

Lent Prayer Time

Rev. Liz will be holding a Lent Prayer Time each Friday in Lent at 11.00am for approximately half an hour. The service will take place in the side chapel. Do try and come along if you can!



FASHION SHOW

FRIDAY 25th FEBRUARY AT 7.00PM

Tickets £10 including a buffet supper. Raffle. All profits to the Christian Aid Afghanistan Emergency Appeal.

Compère: Krissy Sutcliffe

The Young people of Adventurers have been exploring how less privileged children in the world live. Along with their friends they will be showing clothes they have bought from Charity Shops and an



outfit of their own that they will then donate to charity.

Please support them in this venture. Thank you!

Brunch



Brunch takes place on the first Sunday of the month from 9.30am to 10.45am. We have a large selection of goodies; fruit juice, yoghurts, fresh fruit, cereals, toast, jam, marmalade and a selection of breads and pastries plus, of course, sausage baps!

Don't miss it! Why breakfast alone when you can meet here with friends. For mum and dad, no preparation, no washing up; what could be better? There is no charge but donations are welcome.

WHAT'S ON AT ST THOMAS' IN FEBRUARY 2022

Tuesday 1 st	7:30pm Mens Fellowship “Civil Defence” by Mrs Jane Kelly
Friday 4 th	10.30am Coffee and chat 12.00pm Friday Lunch.
Saturday 5 th	8:30am Working Party 10:30am Re-ordering sub-committee at St Thomas
Sunday 6 th	9:30am Brunch 11.00am Family service
Monday 7 th	2.00pm Craft Group
Tuesday 8 th	2:00pm Mothers Union Rev Liz “Reflections on Lent”
Friday 11 th	10.30am Coffee and chat
Sunday 13 th	11.00am Holy Communion
Monday 14 th	2.00pm Craft Group
Friday 18 th	10.30am Coffee and chat
Sunday 20 th	11.00am Holy Communion
Monday 21 st	2.00pm Craft Group
Friday 25 th	10:30am Coffee and chat 7:00pm Fashion Show by the Adventurers – tickets £10

Sunday 27th

11.00am Holy Communion

Monday 28th

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

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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