

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



November 2022

WELCOME TO THE ST THOMAS CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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MINISTERS MESSAGE FOR THE MONTH

Dear friends

Over this last month of October I've realised that I have been at St Thomas' for a whole year now and so I've seen a whole year of services and events here now. And the year has flown by.

It's been wonderful getting to know you all; all of the many different people who come to St Thomas' Church as well as meeting the many visitors who come and join us from time to time. I've also had the privilege of taking home communion to a few members of the congregation who are no longer finding it easy to get into church anymore. If you know of anyone who would like me to do this for them please do let me know.

We have had a busy year celebrating 150 years of continuous worship at St Thomas' Church on St Thomas' Day in July as well as an excellently supported Summer Concert Season and I have to say grateful thanks to all the performers who came and entertained us as well as the many people who came and watched the concerts and of course remembering the hospitality and glorious food available to everyone to enjoy.

In that time right before I even started, the PCC was discussing plans to redesign some aspects of the

church building to allow for the church to be rented out by different organisations and generate income to help with church finances. We are still in the process of exploring what might be the best overall plans having consulted with Niall McGarrigle, an architect and the DAC informally. The PCC were given a clear mandate by the DAC to look at the whole picture of the church rather than approaching this piecemeal. The PCC does see this as a phased project where some work would be done initially and the whole project carried out as a series of phased activities.

We want to give everyone in the church a chance to join in the conversation and so we are planning to hold a church meeting on Saturday 12th November at 11am where the church wardens will present the PCCs ideas for consultation. We hope that you will be able to come along.

As I look forward, I'm thinking about our services in November beginning with our family service on the 6th of November and then followed by the Remembrance Day service before we celebrate Christ the King and then begin Advent all in this next month of November. I look forward to seeing you at whichever services you come along to as well as our coffee and chats on Friday.

God bless.

Liz

Rev Liz Hull

Sunday 6th –3rd before Advent

11:00 am Family safeguarding service

Preaching : Rev Liz Hull

Reader : May be dramatized

Prayers : All age

Sidesperson : Pat Walmsley
 John Walmsley

Tea Rota : Phyllis Christian
 Sandra Peters

Sunday 13th – Remembrance Service

10:00 am Remembrance Service

Preaching : Venerable Irene Cowell

Reader : Remembrance readings

Intercessions : Rev Liz Hull

Sidesperson : St Thomas Church

Tea Rota : St Thomas Church

Sunday 20th –

11:00 am Holy Communion

Preaching : Rev Liz Hull

Reader : First reading : Sandra
 Jeremiah 23 v 1 - 6

 Gospel : Marissa
 Luke 23 v 33 - 43

Intercessions : Steve Hull

Sidesperson : Jenny Copparelli
 Edward Littlewood

Tea Rota : Lorna Martin
 Pat Walmsley

Sunday 27th –

11:00 am Holy Communion

Preaching : Rev Liz Hull

Reader : First Reading : Lillian
Romans 13 v 11 - end

 Gospel : Philip
Matthew 24 v 36 - 44

Intercessions : Tracey Erskine

Sidesperson : Peter Clague
Pam Beedan

Tea Rota : The Gentlemen

FRIDAY COFFEE & FLOWER ROTA

Friday	Tea / Coffee	Flowers
4 th	Jacqy Frear Pat Walmsley	June McDowell
11 th	Edwin Creer Michael Farnworth	Remembrance Service
18 th	June McDowell Lorna Martin	Remembrance Service
25 th	Barbara Gibbon Viola Ferris	Jon Aitken in memory of Joan Curphey

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

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.

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.

CHURCH RENOVATION PLANS

Rev Liz, the Church Wardens and the PCC would like to invite you all to come along to St Thomas Church on Saturday 12th November at 11:00am where we can share with you the plans that have been drawn up for discussion about the changes we would like to make within the Church to make the space more flexible and welcoming.

We welcome your views and input into the plans and to hear what you think or would like to see considered.



This years Christmas Fayre will be held on:

Saturday 19th November

2:00pm – 4:00pm

St Thomas Church

All are welcome. Please come along and support us or even better help us out. Any support at all that you can give will be most welcome.

Sunday school will be replaced with **FEASTT Families Enjoying A Special Time Together**. This will run on the third Sunday of the month from 10:00 – 12:00 and compliment the family service on the first Sunday of the following month. Tea and coffee will be served in Church on those Sundays.

5th Douglas Guides have moved from St Thomas Church to newer more suitable premises at Masham Court. The younger age Rainbows continue to use St Thomas vestry for their meetings.

The new cast iron air vents have arrived and the Wardens are in discussion with a builder to get these fitted, along with other works that need doing.

Notices for faculty have been put up to cover the re-location of the Communion table, dishwasher and re-rendering of the East gable wall. It is expected that a further one will be up soon for the placing of noticeboards in Church walk for the bookshop and Church. If you would like any further information please ask.

The clock has recently been serviced and chimes away as good as it every did.

Rev Liz noted that she had been part of the St Thomas family for a year now and had enjoyed every minute.

But we can not rest on our laurels and there are big plans ahead that we must face up to as a family.

Hospitality continues apace and we have the Christmas Fayre due this month followed by the regular Christmas services and events in December. As ever we are always very grateful for any help and support that we receive. So if you feel that you can help an event, please let us know.

Plans for the flower tower took a step forward with a visit from the Laxey Mines Research Group who have volunteered to help install the tower in May 2023. Talks continue and a dialogue has opened with the DAC to ensure they are kept in the loop for approval.

We are discussing with Quing (now called New View) a new formal lease to replace the original one that was signed.

We are also discussing the new plans we have for St Thomas church with the aim to present something to the congregation to get their much valued input.

WHAT'S ON AT ST THOMAS' IN NOVEMBER 2022

Friday 4 th	10.30am Coffee and chat 12:00pm Light lunch
Sunday 6 th	9:30am Brunch 11:00am Family Service
Monday 7 th	2.00pm Craft Group
Friday 11 th	10.30am Coffee and chat
Saturday 12 th	10:00am Remembrance rehearsal 11:00am Church plans discussion
Sunday 13 th	11:00am Holy communion
Monday 14 th	2.00pm Craft Group
Friday 18 th	10.30am Coffee and chat
Saturday 19 th	2:00pm Christmas Fayre
Sunday 20 th	11:00am Holy communion
Monday 21 st	2.00pm Craft Group
Friday 25 th	10.30am Coffee and chat
Sunday 27 th	11:00am Holy communion
Monday 28 th	2.00pm Craft 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

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.

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
Tel 622080/478076

Organist

Bogumil Tomasz Godlewski

P.C.C Secretary

Vacant

Treasurer

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Safeguarding Officer

Pam Beedan – Tel 851026

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