

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



December 2022

&

January 2023

WELCOME TO THE ST THOMAS CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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MINISTERS MESSAGE FOR THE MONTH

Dear Friends

In this time of Advent, I am reading the Archbishop of York's recommended Advent Book this year. It is called 'Sleepers Wake' and it is written by Nicholas Holtam, who was a geographer before training for ordination. He spent time as vicar of St Martins-in-the-field before becoming Bishop of Salisbury and becoming the Church of England's lead bishop on the Environmental Working Group until he retired last year.

It is sobering reading about what is an important issue for us now, all of us, particularly those of us who have children, grandchildren and those who care about the future of all we know and love. Its reminding me of the challenges the world faces and the need to act. So now is the time for reflection and good reflection should always lead to action.

An illustration used in the book that really spoke to me was about how frogs end up being boiled in pots of water that they could jump out of because the change is so gradual that they fail to notice the rising temperature. The analogy I guess is fairly obvious, that we often fail to notice what is going on because the changes are so slow; particularly with climate change, until the process has reached a tipping point. It's fairly clear that in certain parts of the world this tipping point has already been reached. But we still have opportunities to make a difference, to respond in ways that value the world that we share and the people who share it with us alongside all the other life forms too.

Advent is a time to reflect on the light coming into the darkness of our world as we look to the hope of Christmas,

God with us bringing life and renewal into our troubled world. Jesus came to lift oppression from downtrodden people, to set captives free, to bring sight to the blind and proclaim hope into a world that sometimes seems hopeless.

So, the time now is to see that hope, to look for that hope, that peace. It's a challenge in a world that has many dark and oppressive regimes and of course sometimes into that hope, action has to be taken, there are times for action, times to stand with the oppressed, to stand with the downtrodden, to bring relief; because in place of darkness we are the ones who can bring light, who can bring hope. Often, we find hope in darkness by taking action to support people around us – this is the great mystery of giving – that we are blessed as we give, and we often feel miserable if we hoard things to ourselves.

Later on, in December as we draw Advent to a close, I wish you all a very blessed Christmas, an opportunity to share with family and friends or be a blessing to someone else by your generosity or be blessed by receiving the generosity of someone around you.

God bless.
Liz
Rev Liz Hull

Sunday 4th – St Barbara Day service

11:00 am St Barbara's Day

Preaching : Rev Liz Hull

Reader : Royal Artillery Association

Prayers : Rev Liz Hull

Sidesperson : Volunteers from the congregation

Tea Rota : St Thomas Church

Sunday 11th – Advent 3

11:00 am Holy Communion

Preaching : Steve Hull

Reader : First reading : Mandy
 Isaiah 35 v 1 - 10

 Gospel : Tracey M
 Matthew 11 v 2 - 11

Intercessions : Rev Liz Hull

Sidesperson : Peter Martin
 Tracey Martin

Tea Rota : Louise Faragher
 Joan Aitken

Sunday 18th – Advent 4

11:00 am Holy Communion

Preaching : Rev Liz Hull

Reader : First reading : Tracy E
Isaiah 7 v 10 - 16

 Gospel : Gladys
Matthew 1 v 18 - end

Intercessions : Tracy Erskine

Sidesperson : Jenny Copparelli
Edward Littlewood

Tea Rota : Lorna Martin
Pat Walmsley

Sunday 25th – Christmas Day service

10:30 am Holy Communion

Preaching : Rev Liz Hull

Reader : First Reading : Karen
Isaiah 7 v 10 - 16

Gospel : Peter M
Luke 2 v 1 - 20

Intercessions : Steve Hull

Sidesperson : Volunteers from the congregation

Tea Rota : N/A

Sunday 1st – New Years Day service

11:00 am Family service

Preaching : Canon Rev Philip Frear

Reader : First reading : Sandra
Numbers 6 v 22 - end

Gospel : Mike
Luke 2 v 15 - 21

Prayers : Canon Rev Philip Frear

Sidesperson : Volunteers from the congregation

Tea Rota : Phyllis Christian
Sandra Peters

Sunday 8th – Epiphany 1

11:00 am Holy Communion

Preaching : Steve Hull

Reader : First reading : Edwin
 Isaiah 60 v 1 - 6

 Gospel : Peter C
 Matthew 2 v 1 - 12

Intercessions : Rev Liz Hull

Sidesperson : Peter Clague
 Pam Beedan

Tea Rota : Louise Faragher
 Joan Aitken

Sunday 15th – Epiphany 2

11:00 am Holy Communion

Preaching : Rev Liz Hull

Reader : First reading : Mandy
Isaiah 49 v 1 - 7

Gospel : Marissa
John 1 v 29 - 42

Intercessions : Tracy E

Sidesperson : Jenny Copparelli
Edward Littlewood

Tea Rota : Lorna Martin
Pat Walmsley

Sunday 22nd – Epiphany 3

11:00 am Holy Communion

Preaching : Rev Liz Hull

Reader : First Reading : Ruhamah
Isaiah 9 v 1 - 4

Gospel : Steve
Matthew 4 v 12 - 23

Intercessions : Steve Hull

Sidesperson : Ralph Martin
Peter Martin

Tea Rota : The Gentlemen

Sunday 29th – Epiphany 4

11:00 am Holy Communion

Preaching : Rev Liz Hull

Reader : First Reading : Karen
 1 Kings 17 v 8 - 16

Gospel : Philip
John 2 v 1 - 11

Intercessions : Steve Hull

Sidesperson : Tracey Martin
 TBC

Tea Rota : Lorna Martin
 Pat Walmsley

FRIDAY COFFEE & FLOWER ROTA
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December

Friday	Tea / Coffee	Flowers
4 th	Jacqy Frear Pat Walmsley	Louise Faragher
11 th	Edwin Creer Michael Farnworth	Tracey Martin
18 th	June McDowell Lorna Martin	Irene Shimmin
23 rd	Barbara Gibbon Viola Ferris	Moira Bucknall
30 th	Joan Aitken Louise Faragher	Phyllis Christian

January

Friday	Tea / Coffee	Flowers
6 th	Jacqy Frear Pat Walmsley	Val Whaley
13 th	Edwin Creer Michael Farnworth	Hazel Maggee
20 th	June McDowell Lorna Martin	Maureen Smith
27 th	Barbara Gibbon Viola Ferris	Karen Walker

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.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this years Christmas Fayre such a success. We raised a little over an astonishing £2,759.03 for Church funds.

So if you helped set up, baked, cleaned up, sold, bought, served, greeted, knitted, wrapped and anything else that needs doing we thank you all.

INVOICES AND EXPENSES

Our Treasurer Pam, has asked that if anyone has any invoices or expenses that need to be paid, could they please let either herself, Mike or Peter have them so that they can be settled before the year end accounts are done on 31st December.

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Normally meet the first Tuesday in each month from October to May at 7:15pm for 7:30pm.

6 th December	Mr John Walmsley Memories of India
10 th January	Rev Liz Hull “Memories of Childhood in India”
7 th February	To be announced
7 th March	Mrs Jane Kelly “Civil Service”
4 th April 2023	Mr Peter Clague “More Travels”
May, June or July	AGM and outing to be arranged

For more information, please ask Edwin.

PCC SECRETARY

The PCC are looking for a PCC Secretary.

We meet once every two months, with a standing committee two weeks prior to that. We estimate that this will only take around 15 hours of time every two months.

What we are looking for is someone who can write the agendas, take and write up the minutes.

- Produce the Standing committee agenda.
- Attend the standing committee to take minutes which feed into the PCC agenda.
- Produce the minutes of the standing committee and PCC Agenda.
- Attend the PCC meeting to take the minutes of the meeting and record all resolutions passed.
- Produce minutes for the meeting and circulate to the members of the PCC.

So if you think you can spare the time and want to help the Church out, please ask Rev Liz, Mike or Peter for more details. We are more than happy for you to come along to a meeting before you decide.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Our carols by candlelight service is fun and full of all the traditional favourites we like to sing out loud. Come along and catch up with old friends and meet some new ones. This year, the service will be held on :



Sunday 18th December - 6:30pm

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE



Come and join us celebrate at this festive time, with our traditional Christingle service.

It is a very family friendly service and there's always the chance to try some of the sweets !!!

We are grateful that this year, the service will be held in conjunction with St Thomas school end of term service once again :

Thursday 15th December - 2:00pm

CRIB SERVICE

A great way to soak up the true meaning of Christmas as we walk through the story of Christ's birth.



Friday 24th December
4:00 – Tea, Coffee & Mince pies
5:00 – Service

PCC MEETING

Communication was raised as an issue at the last meeting along with organization for events. Whilst the Christmas Fayre was a financial success, it was felt that it just happened on the day with little organizing beforehand. The PCC will need to look at this issue going into 2023.

The new United Benefice involving St Thomas, St Matthews, St George's and All Saints is due to go ahead from 1st January. Very little is expected to change within the 3 churches but it will lead to closer co-operation between the Parishes from a clergy perspective. If anyone would like to know more, please ask Rev Liz.

We are currently paying around £4,000 per month to cover standing expenses such as shared mission fund, insurance, oil, electricity.

Faculty notices have been placed outside the Church for the communion table move, dishwasher and east gable wall. These will be progressed to the next stage for sign off by the Vicar General and can then be implemented.

We are looking to fill the various vacancies across Church and anyone who is wanting to help out is being asked to please contact the PCC for further information.

Remembrance service feedback will be provided to Douglas Corporation by Rev Liz and the Archdeacon.

Discussion took place regarding the re-development plans and the recent Church meeting to discuss them with the congregation. Whilst not a big turnout at the meeting, we are always happy to take any feedback that people have on the plans.

We have tried to develop a ‘big picture’ about how we want the finished Church to look which can then be broken down into smaller manageable chunks as and when the finances permit. Our next step is to discuss the plans with Manx National Heritage and the Planning Office to garner their early input.

WHAT'S ON AT ST THOMAS' IN DECEMBER 2022
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Friday 2 nd	10.30am Coffee and chat
Saturday 3 rd	8:30am Working party 2:00pm St Barbara's day rehearsal 4:00pm Choir practice for carols
Sunday 4 th	11:00am Royal Artillery St Barbara's Day service
Monday 5 th	2.00pm Craft Group
Tuesday 6 th	7:15pm Fellowship group Mr John Walmsey "Memories of India"
Friday 9 th	10.30am Coffee and chat
Sunday 11 th	11:00am Holy communion
Monday 12 th	2.00pm Craft Group
Thursday 15 th	2:00pm Christingle with St Thomas school
Friday 16 th	10.30am Coffee and chat
Sunday 18 th	11:00am Holy communion 6:30pm Carols by candlelight
Friday 23 rd	4:00pm Tea/Coffee and mince pies 5:00pm Crib service
Sunday 25 th	10:30am Holy communion

WHAT'S ON AT ST THOMAS' IN JANUARY 2023

Sunday 1 st	11:00am Holy communion
Friday 6 th	10.30am Coffee and chat
Sunday 8 th	11:00am Holy communion
Tuesday 10 th	7:15pm Fellowship group Rev Liz Hull “Memories of Childhood in India”
Friday 13 th	10.30am Coffee and chat 12:00pm Light lunch
Sunday 15 th	11:00am Holy communion
Monday 16 th	2.00pm Craft Group
Friday 20 th	10.30am Coffee and chat
Sunday 22 nd	11:00am Holy communion
Monday 23 rd	2.00pm Craft Group
Friday 27 th	10.30am Coffee and chat
Sunday 29 th	11:00am Holy communion

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

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Mrs Tracey Martin
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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