



St. Thomas' Moorside

November 2019

£1



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Vicar's Letter



Dear Brothers and Sisters

You may know that our young people made cards for Fr Richard to say congratulations on his ordination to the priesthood. Well, very kindly they made cards for me too. I was very touched and was particularly impressed with the picture of me in my cassock with my unruly grey hair. I'm not sure about the huge black rings around my eyes but as for the rest of me, I think it's great!

One of the cards said, 'You are the heart of the church' on the front. This was really lovely to read, but it did get me thinking about whether it's actually true. I am the vicar, the parish priest, and often the public face of the church. And of course, I love St Thomas and all the people here, but 'the heart of the church'? Probably not, because you/we are all the heart of the church. Wherever you are, whatever you're doing you are the heart of the church in that place and situation. You may not wear the clerical collar and albs and chasubles like me or Richard or Angela, but we are all as important as each other in showing God's love, God's heart if you like, to the world around us. We are the image of Christ (icons) to all the people we meet, and we all have our own story about Jesus to tell.

When did you last tell a friend about Jesus? Why you follow him or why you come to church? You are in God's heart and God is in your heart.

We are all 'The Heart Of The Church'

Rev'd Denise



Large Print Copies of the Parish Magazine

If you'd like to receive a large print copy of this magazine, please tell us in church, or let the person who delivers your copy know, and we will do our best to provide one for you.

Thanks, Revd Denise



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DIARY

Sun 3rd Nov	6.30pm	All Souls - Service for Departed Loved Ones
Tues 5th Nov	7pm	St Barnabas Service and Prayer Vigil for Protection of the Church on Bonfire Night
Fri 8th Nov	10.30am	Visit to the Community of the Resurrection at Mirfield Leave Church at 10.30am
Mon 11th Nov	7pm	PCC Meeting
Tues 12th Nov	7pm	Prayer Vigil at St Barnabas, Clarksfield
	7.30pm	STYLE meeting in Choir Vestry
Sat 16th Nov	11am-3pm	STYLE Exclusive Christmas Fair
	Tbc	Bavarian Oompah Night in Church Hall Explorers Fundraising Event
Sun 17th Nov	10.30am	Confirmation Service with Bishop Mark
Mon 18 th Nov	7.30pm	Moorside & District Historical Society See page 19
Sat 30th Nov	10.15	Advent Retreat at St Barnabas, Clarksfield See page 19
Sat 30th Nov	tbc	Traditional Christmas Fair
Tues 3 rd Dec	7.30pm	STYLE meeting

WEEKLY SERVICES

Wednesday 6pm

Confirmation classes in the choir vestry

Wednesday Worship

7pm

Sunday Services

8.30am Said Communion

10.30am Parish Communion



The second Sunday of the month is usually church parade, apart from August and January. Please check with the group leaders if in doubt.

Dates for your dairy: FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Mon 9th December Carol Singing at St George's Care Home at 2pm

Sat 14th Dec Christingle Making and Christmas Crafts at 10.30am in the Church Hall

Sun 15th Dec Christingle Service at 3pm

Sun 22nd Dec Carols by Candlelight Service at 6.30pm

Tues 24th Dec Midnight Mass at 11.30pm

Weds 25th Dec Christmas Eucharist at 10.30

Weds 25th Dec Community Christmas Lunch at 3pm

Sunday 19th Jan 3pm - East Oldham Methodist Church - Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

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Wardens Letter

As we enter November you may notice the scaffolding is still up both outside and in the baptistery. We were hoping that the works would have been completed in October but the bad weather has resulted in a delay. We hope that works will be completed by the end of the month although there is a good chance that it will still be there for our **Confirmation Service on the 17th**. Those being confirmed on that day are well prepared and eager so will not be phased by the scaffolding being there. The service as always will be followed by a faith lunch.

We could not have afforded for the works to be completed without the support from English Heritage. This funding has allowed us to make a payment of £30,000 recently towards the total cost. A condition of the grants is that we open church a certain number of hours during the year. We completed this in September although the open Church for Saturdays will be returning next year.

After his ordination in September we have been enjoying services from our very own Fr Dashwood and look forward to many more in the future.



The October harvest service was a great success and we were happy to donate all offerings to the Oldham Foodbank and the Booth Centre in Manchester. Thank you to all who made an offering as it will always be gratefully received and not only at harvest time. Cont.../



November also brings the All Souls service on **Sunday 3rd November at 6.30pm**, remembering loved ones who have passed, and our **Service of Remembrance on Sunday 10th at 10.30am** both of which are always poignant. Our "There but not there" figures will also be welcomed back.



We have also been doing all the behind the scenes things which allow us to perform our wardens duties and have

- Compiled the data for school forms which were returned last month. A reminder that parents/legal guardians are responsible for ensuring that they sign the register as it is only available that week. Also that at least one local school asks for data over a 5 year period.
- Along with Denise, chosen the winning Christmas card design from Sunday School - watch this space☺. We are also looking towards Advent and following from last years "Follow the Star" we are considering an advent star for the tower.
- Completed the attendance survey and sent off the income survey forms. These are vital to ensure that our Parish Share is accurately calculated.

In between all of that Sam has also completed her wardens training and Safeguarding training.

As you can gather the life of a warden is never dull. We are extremely lucky as a Church that we are able to have services on Wednesday as well as two on a Sunday. We know that we are well supported and are trying to make sure that we can support you all. One way is with notices. We would like to make more effective use of the magazine/Facebook and notice boards in the Church to pass information on. There are several ideas currently mulling round, if you have an idea please come and talk to us.

Although our badges say "Here to help" we are also Happy to help!

Simon and Sam

STYLE

By the time you read this STYLE will have held another successful Clothes party. Thank you to everyone who supports our events year after year and enjoys their night at the clothes party. We are planning another clothes party in June or July 2020 as many of us will be busy during exam period in May. We also ran a bake off after October Church parade, alongside the pop-up market which the Explorer Scouts were running to raise money for the trip to Kenya. I know it will have been a success!

STYLE will be attending Christmas fairs over the coming months so please keep checking the Church and STYLE Facebook pages for more details.

As we approach the end of the year we look forward in preparation for the coming year. Many STYLE ladies have been members since we formed in 2011 but are having to step down due to other commitments. We are looking for new members to make friends and help to raise as much money as possible for our much loved church as well as local charities

If you have any questions or want to bring a friend along, even someone who doesn't attend church (all are welcome), please do speak with any STYLE member or come along to the choir vestry on the first Tuesday in every month at 7:30.



This is a quick report as we are busy rehearsing for our nativity play. I am not going to give too much away but there are some absolutely fabulous roles. All our children are complete superstars and there may even be the return of the cheeky star who likes to pop up in the nativity now and then!

We are not accepting new children into Sunday School at this point whilst we are rehearsing; however in the New Year if your child is four years or older and would like to join Sunday School just come along to the church hall at 10:25 on a Sunday, speak with one of the Sunday school leaders, complete a registration form and that's it! If your child is anxious about joining, parents are welcome to stay for a couple of weeks to help them settle in.

Any questions please do not hesitate to contact any of the Sunday school leaders. Thank you.

Sunday School Leaders

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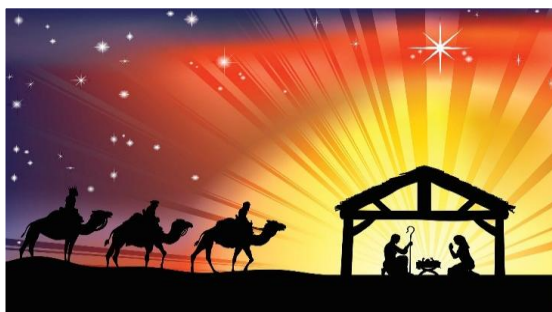
3pm 25th December

We would cordially like to invite you to
share lunch with us and celebrate
Christmas.

This will be a traditional meal of Turkey and all
the trimmings. (Vegan option will be available
and any allergy concerns notified will be
accommodated).

If you are interested in attending or would like to
recommend someone please email
readerAngela@stthomasmoorside.org or add the
name of the person to the list in church.

With love
Angela, Jodie and family x





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Fancy joining a team?

Cricket: Men's and Juniors (Boys and Girls) aged 6-14. We have also started a Women's Cricket Section aged 14+

Bowls: Mens & Ladies, all-age and veterans' teams in various local Crown Green Bowls Leagues

Fancy joining the Club?

Moorside CBC is a members' sports & social club and every member is a Sporting member (playing or non-playing). Want to join? Simply walk in any evening after 6.00pm (or 4.00pm Saturdays & Sundays) and ask the bar staff for a membership form.

Registered Charity Number: 1153119

Treasurer's Letter

Thank you for your financial giving to date. I'm delighted to confirm that donations amounting to £5,394.50 were given during our **Gift Weekend** in September. Many thanks for your gifts and to the following groups - Church Hall Committee, the Ladies Group and STYLE.



Instead of sending lots of Christmas cards to church members, please consider a **Christmas greeting** in the December/January magazine for a minimum donation of £5. Please give your greetings to Julia (editor), the Churchwardens, me, Rev Denise or Fr Richard to pass on to Julia. They will need to be submitted by 8th December to be included in the magazine.

We give thanks for a legacy we received recently from an individual who had passed away but remembered us in their will. We are extremely grateful for this but sad at the circumstances in which it came to us. If you are considering making or changing a will, please consider leaving a legacy to St Thomas Church with or without stipulations as to how it should be spent.

Charity

Cheques have been sent to Dr Kershaw's Hospice, for half of the monies donated during recent baptisms. The remainder was donated to St Thomas Church. All donations are very gratefully received by Church and the various charities who send us letters of appreciation.

David Swain, our Gift Aid Officer, will be preparing free will offering envelopes for 2020. If you pay tax you can gift aid your weekly offerings which would enable us to claim the tax back and increase church funds. If you would like to do this, please ask me or David for a form to complete.



Our traditional Christmas Fair will be held on **Saturday, 30th November 2019**. I'm requesting donations of bottles for the bottle tombola. Please could you bring the bottles into Church for me or let me know if you want me to collect them. Also, donations of chocolates would be most welcome for the chocolate tombola. Many thanks.

Corinne





St Thomas' Explorer Scouts "Life Changing Adventure" **AFRICA 2020**

Opportunities to do something outstanding do not occur often, but in August 2020 some of our Explorer Scouts will be flying out to Africa (Nakuru) in the great scouting tradition of "Helping other people".

Our teenagers will be helping to build two new school classrooms in a very deprived area of Nakuru in Kenya. The local charity school is the only provision for education, health care, clean water and provides the only meal these children will receive each day.

In the communities where our Explorers will be working, the cost of an education is out of reach for most, so schools have been set up by locals to give children the chance of a better future. The efforts of St Thomas' young people will enable the school to take another 40 children off the streets of Nakuru.

The Explorers are travelling with "African Adventures", a specialist company supporting these schools in Kenya by organising volunteering trips for young people to give real worthwhile help in a sustainable manner.

Our teenagers will not just be doing building work but will also be teaching, specifically helping with primary level maths and English. In Kenya a child who can speak some English has much greater prospects than those who can only speak Swahili, so just having St Thomas' teenagers befriend them and speak to them in English is in itself a great encouragement. Many teachers at the school are only part-qualified or, in some cases, volunteers so the Explorers will find that their Maths skills may in fact be better than some of the staff. Students in the school are set by ability, not age, meaning it is not uncommon to be in a class of five-year-olds, for example, to have older children in the same lesson.

Another volunteering area will be sports development and coaching. Because of the heat in Kenya, most PE lessons take place early in the morning or after school. The children are always very enthusiastic when it comes to getting involved with sports so our volunteers will not be short of willing participants! Despite the nation's profound success at

long-distance running, football is Kenya's first sport, so keen football fans will be right at home! However, the schoolchildren love to experience a variety of sports so our Explorers will have the flexibility to coach the sports they are most comfortable with. The Explorers will work alongside teachers to deliver games and sessions. Qualifications are not necessary for this role; motivation and a can-do attitude will suffice!

Getting there is all part of the journey for our Explorers and each is tasked with using their entrepreneurial skills to raise £2000. This fundraising is not only to pay for their flights and accommodation but also to purchase building materials and school resources (paper, pencils, rulers etc.) which will make a huge difference to our project school. In the process our teenagers will learn valuable skills such as money management, fundraising, planning and critical thinking.

Over the next eight months our Explorers will undertake practical training in plastering, brick-laying, carpentry and even Swahili. They will be running fundraising events and preparing for their adventure. I hope you will support them.

16th November	Bavarian "Oompah" Band Night (Church Hall)
Nov/Dec	Grand Christmas Draw
7th March	Comedy Night (Saddleworth Comedy Club)
4th April	80s Night with Live Music (church Hall)

The Explorers are also doing a sponsored "Abseil" down the church tower to raise funds for Africa 2020 but also to celebrate the re-opening of our fantastic church tower. The date will be released as soon as the scaffolding has been removed. If anyone from the congregation or church groups is feeling brave and would like to take the opportunity of abseiling at this event, then please contact Ian Temple-Heald (Explorers) who can make the arrangements in return for a donation to the Africa 2020 fund.

If anyone would like to donate to this cause and make a real difference to the lives of these young children of Nakuru, then we have a "Fund It" page for donations https://www.gofundme.com/f/explorers-scouts-trip-to-kenya?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=p_cp+sharesheet&fbclid=IwAR14rZRCO2mTtd6estnPrf7f5g1K3ojtMdTR9ztNkzPfPy6A602xjswuK50

Finally, our teenagers will return from their adventure understanding the small, but very important, impact they can have on the world, and have an increased appreciation and awareness of life in other countries. They will undoubtedly return with a great sense of gratitude for all that they have in their lives back home in Moorside.



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Brendan – 07887 536301

Eco Church Update

At this time, we have raised enough funds to support twinning 4 of our Toilets and I am hopeful that we will make the target of 7 by International Toilet Day on 19th November. Please remember to spend a penny or two when you visit any of the toilets in Church or Church Hall.

I have contacted B&Q who will provide us with some plants for our church grounds and there have been bids placed for grants so we can obtain some gardening equipment. The recycling is increasing and I will be sending off the first of the Bread bag parcels this week. There are lots of crisp packets arriving every week and other boxes are beginning to fill. I want to thank you all for making these changes in your lifestyle.

At home I've been trying out eco-friendly cleaning products and also changing how I buy these. Firstly, I tried changing my hand wash to a bar of soap. However, as I work with lots of small children who love digging and exploring outdoors, I found they become grubby and unattractive quickly! I now have refillable hand wash containers and have sourced some pretty bottles. I now use soap nuts for my laundry. I was sceptical and wasn't sure if they would actually work but I've been using them for over a month now and am very impressed. Whites are still white, tough stains are removed, (though I have an eco-friendly stain remover on hand for the ground in dirt); you can also add essential oils if you require a fragranced wash. I've changed all my dishwasher products and household cleaners and have been very impressed.

Energy wise I have a smart meter in front of the TV so we can see our usage all the time. I already used a green supplier and had energy efficient light bulbs, but I am changing this for the latest even more efficient bulbs as they require replacing. Likewise, the lighting in church is slowly being changed to more efficient bulbs.

Thinking ahead to Christmas, I am looking for environmentally friendly gifts including stocking fillers. One of these will be the crocheted cosmetic pads that some of our congregation have been making. They are lovely, and will be on sale at our Christmas fair. To wrap them I will use up what wrapping I have stored in the attic but after that I'm thinking plain brown paper which I can decorate and tie up with candy striped string.

If you have any suggestions for an Eco-Friendly Christmas, please let me know and we can include them in the next magazine.

Best wishes

Angela X

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2 Piece Suite (2 seater & 1 chair)	£70	£40
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Moorside & District Historical Society
Meeting

Monday 18th November 2019

"Reflections of a Moorside Lad"

illustrated presentation
Note NEW VENUE by Ray Entwistle

Meetings are held in the Moorside Cricket Club, Turf Pit Lane. OL4 2ND

7:30 p.m.; all are welcome.

£1-50 including refreshments & Bar.

Note: No meeting in the summer break July & August + December.

Churches Together in East Oldham

Advent retreat

Saturday 30 November

10:15 am — 12:30 pm at St Barnabas' Church

Concludes with a simple Eucharist

All are welcome

As Corinne mentioned in the Treasurers letter you are invited to send your Christmas Greetings to be published in the December edition of the magazine for a suggested donation of £5.

Please pass your greeting and donation to Julia, Simon, Sam or Corinne by 8th December. It saves lots of waste paper, money and ensures you don't miss anybody out! Thank you.

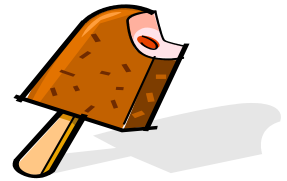
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GOOD NEWS



An article appeared in the Oldham Times newspaper about stage 8 of the Tour of Britain cycle race which came through Oldham and Saddleworth from Tameside before then heading out to Rochdale on Saturday, 21st September. Little Owl Farm on Grains Road created a giant piece of "land art" showing the race's distinctive bicycle logo to act as a marker for any drone or helicopter tracking the race route. Well done Cindy and John.

After Richard's first Eucharist service the day after his Ordination, he gave a personal blessing to anyone who stayed behind; there was a long line of people. Thank you Fr Richard and God bless you.



The Offertory Sentences that were stated in the Celebration of Holy Communion According to the Book of Common Prayer Service booklet used at Fr Richard's first Eucharist service following his Ordination were:

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Lay not up for yourselves treasure upon the earth; where the rust and moth doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven; where neither rust nor moth doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal.

Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, even so do unto them; for this is the Law and the Prophets.

To do good and to distribute forget not; for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Give alms of thy goods, and never turn thy face from any poor man; and then the face of the Lord shall not be turned from thee.

Blessed be the man that provideth for the sick and needy; the Lord shall deliver him in the time of trouble.

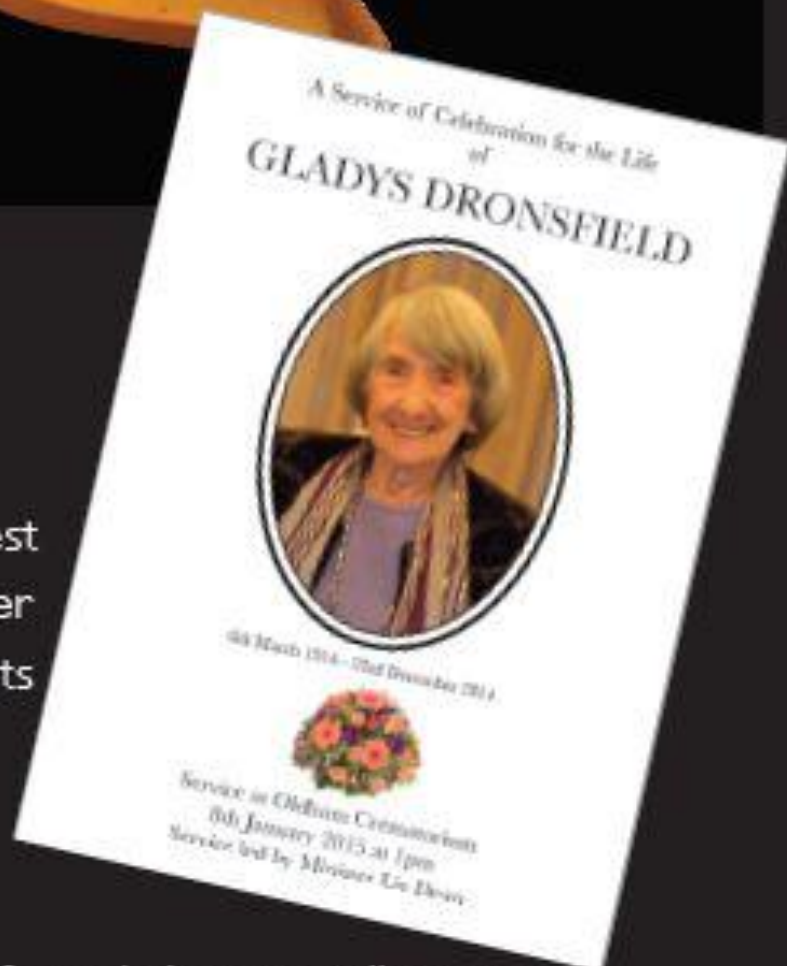
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Parish Registers



Baptisms

Adalynn Grace Keyworth-Dransfield

We pray that all who have been baptised will continue to grow in faith and love of Jesus.

Holy Matrimony

None

We pray for couples who will be married in the coming weeks and months.

Funerals

Joan Ogden
Ellen Graham

We pray for the souls of the faithful departed and all who mourn

People voted for their favourite hymns of 2019 in September.

The top 10 were revealed on the BBC Songs of Praise and were sung beautifully; if you missed this, try to watch it on catch up if you can. Counting down, they are:

10. I The Lord Of Sea and Sky
9. Be Still For The Presence Of The Lord
8. Amazing Grace
7. Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer
6. I Vow To Thee My Country
5. Abide With Me
4. Dear Lord and Father Of Mankind
3. In Christ Alone
2. How Great Thou Art
1. Jerusalem

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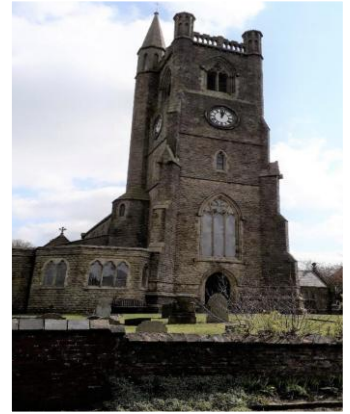
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Black Boxes :- *Please keep on returning them.
Every penny counts!!*

Corinne Ogden

100 Club winners for September:-

1st Prize	£30	No.26	Marjorie Shore
2nd Prize	£20	No.76	Sandra Davies
3rd Priz.	£10	No.31	Nicola



FLOWER ROTA

*Please add your name to the rota sheet at the back of church if you wish
to dedicate flowers for any available weeks.*

10th November- Eunice in memory of Mum and Dad Normanton

17th November – Chris' Birthday

24th November – Lynn to remember sister Heather's birthday

1st December onwards- no flowers during advent

Peace

**On the eleventh day of the eleventh month
The guns had ceased and peace had come,
Another war with so much loss
As brave men fought and victories won.**

**We honour those who gave their lives
And took up arms against the foe,
Not knowing if they would return
But faithful to the call to go.**

**Battles rage throughout the earth,
It seems that wars will never cease
Until the day that Christ returns –
And only then there will be peace.**

**The Prince of Peace, Emmanuel
Will come to end this world of strife
And as He brings His Kingdom in
He'll usher in eternal life.**

By Megan Carter



KIRKHAM

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WILLS

We can advise you on the most suitable ways of distributing your estate, and how to do this in the most appropriate manner legally to ensure your wishes are carried out as expected.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

A lasting power of attorney, also known as an LPA, is a legal document that lets you appoint one or more people (known as attorneys) to help you make decisions, or make decisions on your behalf.

PROBATE

If a Will has been left, a grant of probate is commonly required, which allows the executor to take the authority to deal with the deceased persons assets to distribute them as set out in the will.

For further information please call on 0161 393 2299 or call into our office.

FIND US AT: 74 Rochdale Road, Royton, Oldham, OL2 6QJ

ALL TOGETHER BETTER.

kirkham-legal.co.uk

NOVEMBER READINGS & ROTAS

DATE	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading	Gospel
Sunday 3rd November All Saints	Daniel 7. 1-3, 15-18	Ephesians 1. 11-end	Luke 6. 201-31
Sunday 10th November Remembrance Sunday	Job 19.32-27a;	2 Thessalonians 2.1-5,13-end	Luke 20.27-38
Sunday 17th November Confirmation Service	Malachi 4.1-2a	2 Thessalonians 3.6-13	Luke 2. 5-19
Sunday 24th November Christ the King	Jeremiah 23.1-6	Colossians 1.11-20	Luke 23.33-43
Sunday 1st December First Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 2.1-5;	Romans 13.11-end	Matthew 24.36-44

Date	Sides	Readers	Prayers	Cleaners	ALTAR	EUCCHARIST
Nov 3rd	Susan & Debra	Oliver & Wai	Eunice	Louise and Eunice	Cameron & Ben R	Richard & Millicent
Nov 10th	Joan T & Adam	Emily	Sam A	Susan, Bev & Diane	Cameron & Ben R	Parade
Nov 17th	Zelda & Bev	Sam A & Elaine	Lynn	Louise & Eunice	Cameron & Emily	Richard & John
Nov 24th	Cathy C & Lindsey	Millicent & Lindsey	Gail	Lynn & Elaine	Cameron & George W	Richard & Cathy
Dec 1st	Jodie & Margaret	Gail & Peter	Angela	Helen & Lucy	Cameron & Ben R	Richard & Emily



As our minds turn towards Christmas and shopping please, please register for Easy Fundraising. It's just a couple of clicks to register and select St. Thomas'. After that you simply log in via the Easyfundraising website and select your chosen retailer and every time you shop online you will be raising money for St. Thomas Church. It doesn't take any effort and doesn't cost you extra so you have nothing to lose and St. Thomas' has a few extra pennies to gain!

Thank you.



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CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS	Sarah Edwards	st.thomas.moorside@gmail.com	07852 524300

WEEKLY EVENTS

Monday	Handbell Group	10.30am - 12pm	Choir Vestry
	Rainbows	6.30pm - 7.30pm	Church Hall
	Brownies	6.45pm - 8pm	
	Bell Ringers	7.30pm - 8.30pm	Bell Tower
	Guides	7.30pm - 9pm	Church Hall
Tuesday	Beavers	6.30pm - 7.30pm	Church Hall
	Cubs	7.00pm - 8.30pm	
	Scouts	8.00pm - 9.30pm	
	Explorers	8.30pm - 9.30/10pm	
Wednesday	Youth Group for 3 rd Age	1.30 - 3pm	Church Hall Lounge
	Wednesday Worship	7pm	Church
Thursday	Choir	6.30pm - 8pm	Choir Vestry
Sunday	Parish Communion	8.30am/10.30am	Church
	Sunday School/Sunday Youth	10.25am	Church Hall