

# Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024

## The Epiphany

**Welcome** to everyone in church today and to those joining us on online for our services. Please join us for refreshments after the service in the Church Hall. Please place your offering in the plate at the back of church before the service begins or use the QR code on each pew or use the card machine.

### Hymns

	St Thomas	St James
<b>Processional</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Before the Gospel</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Offertory</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>During Communion</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>28</b>
	<b>14</b>	
<b>Final</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>52</b>

### The Week Ahead & Information

- Today** 200 Club draw following the service at St Thomas'
- Mon-Fri** 9am Morning Prayer on St Thomas' Facebook page  
Electrical work all week in St James' Hall and tower – limited access
- Tuesday** 9.30 Thomas' Tots at St Thomas' Hall  
10am Eucharist at St James'  
11am Clergy Deanery Chapter meeting at St James'  
2pm Mothers' Union at St Thomas' Refectory  
7pm Inclusive Church meeting at St James'
- Wednesday** 7pm St James' Standing Committee
- Thursday** 10am Eucharist at St Thomas'
- Friday** 10.30 Funeral for Maureen Johnson RIP at St James'
- Next Sunday – 14<sup>th</sup> January – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany**  
8am Eucharist at St Thomas'  
9.15 Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'  
10.45 Parish Eucharist at St James'  
12.30 Parish Epiphany Lunch at St Thomas' Hall

### Christingle Collection

Children's Society Collection boxes welcomed back to church this week and next. *Thank you.*

## **Mothers' Union at St Thomas'**

There's a meeting this Tuesday at 2pm in the Refectory. It will be the AGM and Prayer Partner Exchange (cards only). It's also time to renew subscriptions –

## **Weekly Prayer List for the sick**

Our prayer list will be 'cleared' from 21<sup>st</sup> January. If you would like someone to be included, or re-included, please use a slip at the back of church and hand it to one of the clergy.

## **Ecumenical date for the diary Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 2-4pm**

Christians from Haslingden and Helmshore churches are getting together at Haslingden Community Link. There'll be interaction, conversation, refreshments, singing, prayer, worship and exploration about what it means for us to live in love rather than difference. EVERYONE is invited! More details to follow but please put the date in your new diaries and calendars.

If you are an instrumentalist, or have one at home, please let Fr David know – they're needed for this event!

## **Walsingham Pilgrimage 26-28<sup>th</sup> April 2024 LAST CALL!**

We have some places remaining on this year's pilgrimage. Please contact Julie Davis (07931 744354) if you'd like to go, or for more information.

## **Fairtrade latest**

Last 3 Sundays before the stall closes on 22<sup>nd</sup> January after 14 years of trading. HUGE thanks to Hazel who has worked so hard to keep the stall running and ensuring producers are paid a fair price for their work and goods.

## **Fundraising**

We've had only 2 volunteers for supporting our fundraising plans for this year. To help meet running costs and the expenses of maintenance and repair, we need to make a serious effort and work together. If you can help by being part of the planning group (not necessarily doing all the work!), please let Fr David know.

## Halo Food Pantry

Last chance to get involved today!

The **Halo Food Pantry** will be going live towards the end of January. This will help people access support and guidance from different agencies and give them access to an online grocery shop. We now need a few volunteers to help people order online and have a chat. There's a training session on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1-3, at the Community Link. Please speak to Fr David or Fr Simon to volunteer.

## Recycling at St Thomas'

Please continue to deposit used printer cartridges and blister packs from tablets and pills at the back of church.

## 200 Club

Subscription renewals were due on 1st January. Any problems, questions, or issues, please contact Tricia, 07949 140108.

## Volunteer Time

*Thank you to everyone who has stepped up so far. Here are the last roles to fill ...*

- St James' – Parish Safeguarding Officer – to work with clergy and PCC to help ensure we keep everyone safe
- St James' – leaders for Monday Tea, Toast & Tots to help ensure people are welcomed and safe at our drop-in event each week in turn time, working on a rota
- St James' – someone to launder the altar linens **FILLED!**
- St Thomas' – Refectory –someone to prepare a *dish of the day* once or twice a month. All ingredients provided! **A BIT MORE FILLED!**

## Prayers

Please let Fr David know of anyone who should be included on our weekly prayer list. (frdavidstephenson@gmail.com, 07539 264279)

***Please also let us know when someone is unwell or goes in to hospital.***

## For your prayers

For the sick: Charley, Lizzie, Rachael, Quentin, John, Frances, Sheila, Emma, Steven, Neil, Sophie, Sarah, Lindsay, Kathleen, Cynthia, Jean, Margaret, Christine, Lola, Arnold, Alicia, Jacqueline, Vivienne, Edna, Brian, Emma, Mother Mo, Fr Croft

For all who have died in the past week and all whose anniversaries fall in the coming week. *Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.*

## EPIPHANY CHALK

Today is The Epiphany. Traditionally, chalk is blessed on this day. Someone from each household is invited to take a piece of chalk home with them to bless their homes with at the beginning of the new year.

On the door lintel, door post, or somewhere near the front door, a *formula* is inscribed showing the date (2024) and the initials of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior, Balthasaar) which initials also stand for *Christus Mansionem Bendicat*(Christ bless this house).

**20 + C + M + B + 24**

As you prepare to mark the front door or porch, say the following:

*The Three Wise Men, Casper, Melchior and Balthasar, followed the star of God's Son who became human 2,024 years ago. May Christ bless our home and be with us throughout the New Year. Amen.*

Then, as you make the marks, offer the following prayer:

*Visit, O Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love. Grant that we may show your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you. Guide, comfort and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.*