

Sunday 4th February 2024

Presentation of Christ

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
Processional	158	362
Before the Gospel	118	44
Offertory	520	500
During Communion	65	280
	87	
Candlemass Hymn		<i>See overleaf</i>
Final	321	408

The Week Ahead & Information

Fr David is away from Monday-Saturday this week

- Today** after church 200 Club draw in St Thomas' Hall
11.15 Holy Baptism of Penelope at St Thomas'
3.30 Holy Communion (BCP) at St Thomas'
- Mon-Fri** 9am Morning Prayer on St Thomas' Facebook page
- Monday** 8.45 Tea, Toast & Tots at St James'
1-3 Year 6 visit to church at St James'
- Tuesday** 9.30 Thomas' Tots at St Thomas' Hall
10am Eucharist at St James'
- Wednesday** 1.30 Over 50s Social Group at St Thomas' Refectory
- Thursday** 10am Eucharist at St Thomas'
- Friday** 2-4pm Tots Coffee morning set-up in St Thomas' Hall
please note that contributions can be dropped off during this time
- Saturday** 10.30 Thomas' Tots Coffee Morning at St Thomas' Hall
-12.30

Next Sunday – 11th February– Sunday next before Lent

- 8am Eucharist at *St Thomas'*
- 9.15 Parish Eucharist at *St Thomas'*
- 10.45 Parish Eucharist at *St James'*

Thank you!

Thanks to all who supported our Churches Together event last Saturday. A really good turnout and fun couple of hours. Watch out for the next one! St James' Children's Society and Christingle boxes have now been counted. Christingle donations amounted to £65.03 and the year-round House Boxes raised £210.60. If you would like a year-round box, please speak to Marjorie Charnley.

Thomas' Tots Coffee & Cake Saturday 10th February 10.30am- 12.30pm

Cakes, preserves, knitted items, cards, pre-loved, toys, books, and clothes for sale. Raffle. Children's craft activities. Adults £3 children free. All welcome!

Fundraising

St James' group will meet on Sunday 11th February after church for lunch at 12.30 at *The Hapton Inn* (Accrington Road, Hapton BB11 5QL)– to talk and plan.

Ash Wednesday / Palms

Please return last year's palms to church over the next two Sundays for burning and making ash for the Ash Wednesday services (St Thomas' 10am; St James' 7pm).

Lent Groups

Tuesdays from 20th February, 7pm at St James'.

Wednesdays from 21st February, 2pm at 438 Holcombe Road (Maggi's), for 5 sessions. We will be following the diocesan course on Exodus which Bishop Philip has put together. Please put the dates in your diaries and make an effort to come along.

Messy Lent Saturday 16th March, 2-4pm, St Thomas' Church Hall

This is our next event especially for families. Please share the date and invite people to come. The team have been planning and are working hard to make it another great success. Any further offers of support to Fr Simon.

Tree Planting at Clough Edge Farm 17th & 22nd February, 10-3

This is part of the massive project to plant 16,000 trees for Rossendale Forest. The first two planting sessions of 2024 will be taking place at Clough

Edge Farm, off Reeds Lane, Crawshaw Grange, BB4 8PR, where the aim is to plant 850 trees.

Members of St Thomas' Eco Group are going. Please speak to one of them if you'd like to join in.

Recycling at St Thomas'

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

Eco Tips January (Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips 2024 Calendar)

Make 'enjoying nature' your priority. From bird watching to writing about or drawing something that inspires you in nature, growing your own fruit or vegetables, or exploring an area of outstanding natural beauty in the UK, be sure to fall in love with nature in a new way this coming year and allow it to lead your thoughts towards God our Creator. Further ideas can be found at arocha.org.uk/ideas-to-enjoy-nature/

Home Insurance

If you're due to renew yours, please consider switching to Ecclesiastical, our church insurers...

Help raise money for your church with Trust130.

The way it works is simple. For every new home insurance policy taken out with Ecclesiastical, the UK's most trusted home insurance providers, we'll donate £130 to an Anglican church or cathedral of the policy holder's choice. For more information, please contact our team today on **0800 7830 130**.

Weekly Prayer List for the sick

Please contact one of the clergy to include a name on the weekly prayer list.

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

For your prayers

Sarah, Charley, Rachel, Quentin, John, Mother Mo, Sophie, Jean, Lizzie, Margaret, Adrienne, Kathleen, Vivienne, Alicia, Arnold, Edna

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.*

Candlemass Hymn

When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day
the dark is behind us, and spring's on the way.

*A glory dawns in every dark place,
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.*

The kings have departed, the shepherds have gone,
the child and his parents are left on their own.

They go to the temple, obeying the law,
and offer two pigeons, the gift of the poor.

But Anna and Simeon recognize there
the Christ-child who came at the turn of the year.

The old who have suffered and waited so long
see hope for the world as they welcome the young.

They gaze at God's wonderful answer to prayer,
the joy of the Jews and the Gentiles' desire.

The light is increasing and spring's in the air.
Look back with thanksgiving! Look forward with awe!

They see before Mary a heart-piercing grief,
but trust is complete at the end of their life.

For Mary will follow, with tears in her eyes,
her Saviour and Son to the foot of the cross.

O Spirit of God, with like courage inspire
your everyday saints who face up to despair.

They pass through temptation, through failure, through death.
When darkness descends, they plod onward in faith.

Like Anna, like Simeon, may they have trust,
the eyes to see Jesus, and peace at the last.

The candles invite us to praise and to pray
when Christmas greets Easter on Candlemas Day.