

## **Bulletin for St Thomas' & St Mary Magdalene's – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October – Trinity 20**

Dear Friends,

I've always felt sorry for the rich young man in this Sunday's Gospel Mark 10 : 17 – 31. He is obviously a good and faithful believer: he keeps all the commandments and has done from his youth, but Jesus perceives that his weakness is his wealth. "You lack one thing." Jesus tells him. "Go, sell what you own and give the money to the poor and follow Me." The young man goes away weeping, "for he had many possessions." There are several lessons to be learnt from this story. First, money can be a blessing and a curse: Paul says, "the love of money is the root of all evil." (I Timothy 6 : 10) and certainly desire for it has dire consequences for relationships with other people and with God. Think of the number of families who fall out when a will is read! With Thanksgiving Sunday on 27<sup>th</sup> October you will receive a letter today asking you to review your giving to the church. For some this will be a bone of contention but our plea has always been the Biblical injunction to give generously from the heart and only what you can afford: God loves a cheerful giver! The second lesson to be learnt is that the things that get in the way of the Kingdom are many and numerous, not just money. Often we hear about people struggling in life – sometimes the breakthrough is to stop focussing on yourself and look outwards to the needs of others and the value found in community. What things in your life are stopping you from following Jesus? Perhaps in the next week ask yourself the question, "What would Jesus do?" You may be surprised how liberating it is to, 'let go and let God.'

Yours as always, Michael.

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October : Trinity XX**

8.00am	Holy Communion at St Thomas'
9.30am	Family Communion at St. Mary Magdalene's
12.30pm	Baptism of Ella
10.45am	Family Communion with Sunday School at St. Thomas'
5.00pm	United Service at Methodist Church

### **Notices**

Monday-Friday	9.15am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
Monday	1-2.30pm	Praise and Play at St. Thomas'
Tuesday	2pm	Brampton Lodge Songs of Praise
	3.30pm	Confirmation Class at St. Thomas' School
Wednesday	9-11am	Little Sunbeams at St. Mary Magdalene's
Thursday	10am	Midweek Communion at St. Thomas'
	7.30pm	Deanery Synod at St. Matthew's Stretton
Friday	2.15pm	St. Thomas' School Harvest at St. Thomas' Church
Saturday	8.15am	Breakfast with the Bible at St Mary Magdalene's
	10am	Parish Hundred Club at St. Mary Magdalene's
	2-4pm	Monica's 'At Home'

### **Prayer Focus**

- Forgiveness for the times when like the rich young man, we find it hard to let go and follow Jesus in our lives. Help us to leave self behind and live for God and our neighbours.
- The horror, cruelty, inhumanity of war in our world: Israel, Lebanon, Gaza, Syria, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Russia, Congo. For the work of Christian Aid and other aid agencies in these areas.
- Thanksgiving for the Harvest Festival last week and for the generosity of so many to the Foodbank. For the work of the Trussell Trust and Warrington Foodbank.
- As the budget looms and food and fuel prices go up, we pray for wise government to provide for those in need.
- Those in the caring professions and charity sector looking after people in their times of illness and distress.
- The terrible human cost of trafficking migrants: that ways may be found to save lives and find homes for all.
- For all the schools in our parishes: Bridgewater; Broomfields; Cobbs; St. Monica's; Stockton Heath Primary and St. Thomas' : may all our children be safe.
- Comfort for all who are sick and in need of healing – our prayers surround them with love:- Suyra, Paul, Ken, Syd, Kirsty, Katy, Debbie, Mark, Rachel, John, Hazel, Pat, Joan, Kara, Ivy, Ferenc, Mark & Alisha.
- May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace and rise in glory.  
Give comfort to those remembering anniversaries at this time.

### **Thanksgiving Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October**

You will be receiving a letter asking you to review your giving to the Churches next year. Please take some time to prayerfully consider your response, and return your pledge form the week after Thanksgiving Sunday, on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

### **Next Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October : St. Luke**

8.00am	Holy Communion at St Thomas'
9.30am	Family Communion at St. Mary Magdalene's
10.45am	Family Communion with Sunday School at St. Thomas'
5.00pm	Evening Prayer at St Mary Magdalene's

### **YOUTH EVENTS**

**Free fun lunch** 22 October at St Thomas' Church 12 noon to 2pm. Please book by texting Sue on 07736375951 as usual.  
**'Seeing is believing'** Friday 25 October 5.30 – 7.30 pm at St. Mary Magdalene's for young people aged 5 and above. How did David slay Goliath? Illustrating the connection of science with the Bible. Scientific experiments will be demonstrated and then there will be the opportunity to take part in them. Jacket potatoes and fillings will be provided. Please text Sue 07736375951 to book to facilitate catering arrangements.

### **Men's Society**

A group to focus on support for men by men in the modern world. That every man in the church is empowered to follow Jesus' example to be the best man, partner, father, grandparent, uncle, employer or co-worker that they can be. Membership - anyone who considers themselves a man.

Format, social with tea and coffee and biscuits. Contemporary discussion. Open time for feedback and support.

Our first meeting will take place on **Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30 to 9.00pm** at Jeremy's home – see flyers in Churches.

### **Thank you Monica**

In appreciation of Monica and all that she has contributed to our churches you are invited to her home on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October from 2-4 pm. (Contact Michael, Ruth, Margaret or Lynn for details.)

She came to St Thomas' and St Mary Magdalene's over 25 years ago as a Pastoral Worker, introducing the Prayer Pyramid - in telephone mode - among other things, and organising pilgrimages to the Holy Land and Cyprus with her husband John and annual weekends to Prom Praise in London. During this time she trained and worked as a Reader and later was accepted for Ordination as Priest. She has been especially valued for her love and kindness, listening and helping many parishioners through difficult times. Thank you, Monica.

**Parish Youth work** - The Youth Action Group (YAG) are planning to establish a weekly after school club / safe space at St Mary Magdalene's commencing in January 2025, probably Tuesdays, 3pm to 5.30pm. This will be aimed at Secondary School young people. However, it is totally dependent upon sufficient volunteers. The aim is to have 4/5 teams of 3 people to be present on a rota basis, each person having a monthly commitment. Currently we have 7 volunteers from YAG and require 12-15. Can you help? If so, please contact Sue. Please pray about this important initiative.

### **Prayer list on Bulletin**

As a Parish our prayer list for the sick is very important. However, since the bulletin now goes on the website we have rightly not included surnames, but this has led to a bit of confusion. Can all requests for prayer be made using the "Prayer request cards" in future – names will be left on for up to a month unless we are told otherwise.

### **Thank you for the Harvest**

Foodbank benefitted from the huge amount of food given : thank you! Many thanks also to the FRASM team who organised the Harvest Supper where a good time was had by all!

**Macmillan Coffee morning** final total without Gift Aid is £1232.16. A cheque has been sent for £1132.16 and there was a donation via the QR code of £100. Huge thanks to all who supported this event, and gave so generously.

### **Advance Notice**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> November – Commemoration Service – remember with love those who have died – lists in Church very soon
- 23<sup>rd</sup> November – Christmas Fair at St. Thomas' Church and Hall – see below
- 30<sup>th</sup> November – Musical Soirée at St Thomas' with Ian and Keiko – more details soon

**Christmas Fair Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November** We will be joining with our Church School. Please put this date in your diary, we will need volunteers to man the stalls for an hour or so and lists will be available in both churches at the end of October. Please can you help support this event by donating cakes, new items, new/nearly new toys, tombola prizes, wine / spirits, bottles of soft drinks? These can be brought into church from 4<sup>th</sup> November.

### **CONTACTS**

**Website** [www.stthomas-stocktonheath.org.uk](http://www.stthomas-stocktonheath.org.uk)

**Parish Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/stthomasandmarymagdalenes>

**Parish Instagram** [https://www.instagram.com/stthomas\\_\\_stmarymagdalene?igsh=MTBtN2NwbjBqdXNseQ==](https://www.instagram.com/stthomas__stmarymagdalene?igsh=MTBtN2NwbjBqdXNseQ==)

**Church channel on YouTube** [www.youtube.com/channel/UCpsYBGYSbFuulUITYYxICQw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpsYBGYSbFuulUITYYxICQw)

**Parish Office phone** 214709 **Email** [office@stthomas-stocktonheath.org.uk](mailto:office@stthomas-stocktonheath.org.uk)