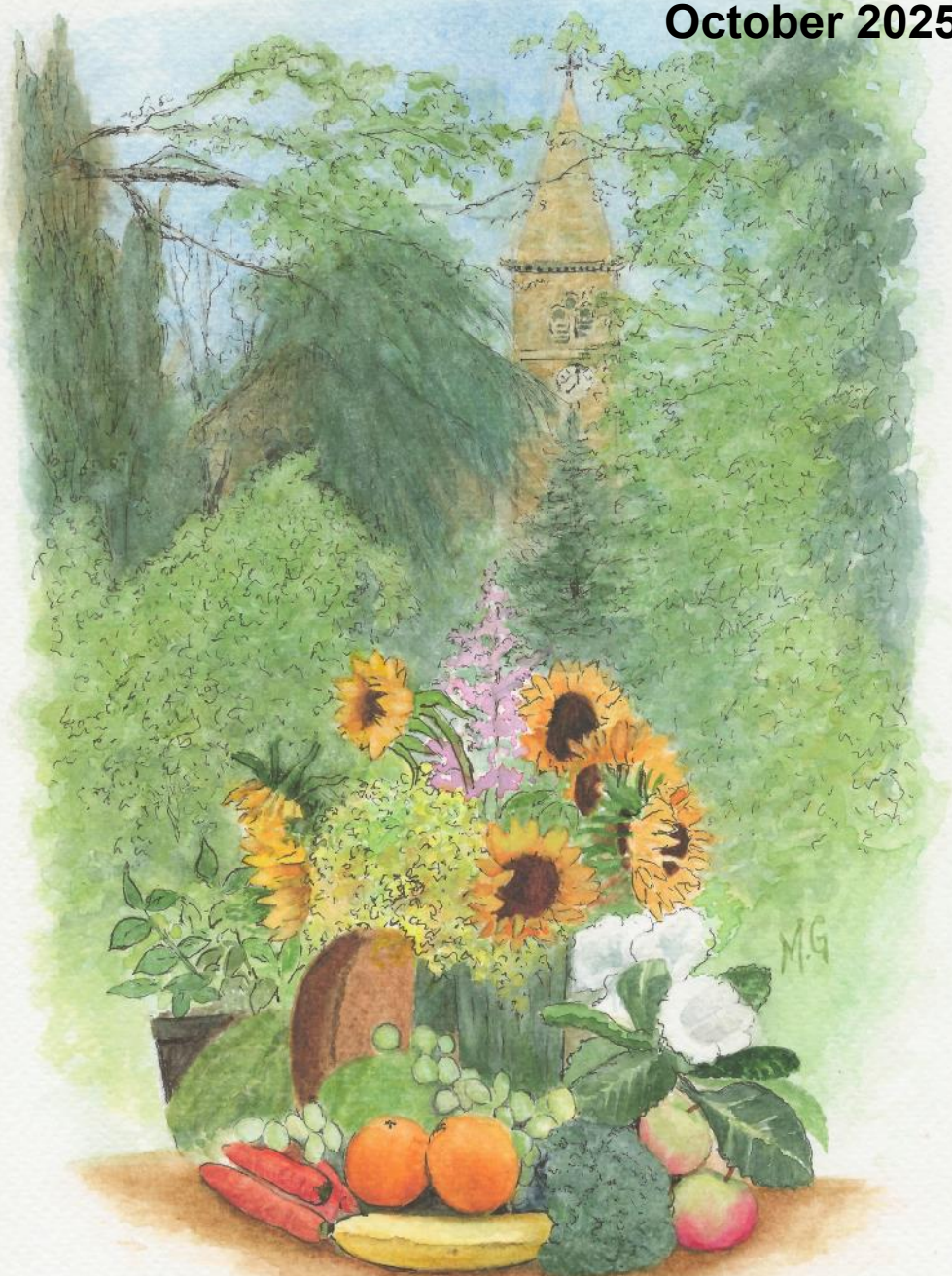


October 2025



St Thomas' Church

**High Lane
Parish Magazine**

50p

St Thomas is a living church in the community of High Lane where everyone is welcome and our mission is to share the love of Christ with all.

Worship with us

Join us for worship in the Anglican tradition.

We are worshipping together in church but you can still be a part of our services by phone. Please see the calendar in the centre pages for details.

Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals

Please direct any enquiries about Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals to Rev'd Lynn using the office phone number 01663635222 or email vicarstthomashighlane@gmail.com

Pastoral Care Team

Life can be challenging and we all need support. If you would like to talk or receive a visit, please contact Robert Taylor above who can put you in touch with someone from the Pastoral Care Team.

We are Silver Award Eco Church



Digital Donations

To make a donation to support our ongoing ministry and mission here please scan this QR code and you will be directed to the 'Give A Little' donation page. In these tough financial times, we are especially grateful for your support.



Rev'd Lynn writes...



'take note of this: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak'
James 1:19

On our first day of travel in France this summer, we were well and truly confronted with the unexpected. Driving at a speed of 80mph (legal on French motorways) we experienced a tyre blow out – a rear tyre was completely destroyed as we swerved perilously across the lane, Mick expertly brought us to a standstill on the hard shoulder without hitting the barrier! There then ensued three hours of being superbly attended to by the French emergency and breakdown services. Neither of us were hurt but it is true to say that we were both considerably shocked.

We eventually arrived safely at the home of our friends with a great sense of relief that our trauma was behind us. Over the next hour or so there was much laughter, reminiscing and a glass or two of wine to be had. All this time I was happily playing ball with a lively Sussex Spaniel called Millie.

The fun and laughter ended abruptly, however, when Millie, urging me to throw the ball again, launched her 20kg weight at the back of my legs. One claw scraped my left thigh, and I cried out to her, but not nearly enough or so much as when her other paw, and more specifically very long claws, embedded themselves and gouged an inch wide hole in my right calf. What can only be described as a bloodbath ensued and it was eventually decided that A&E was the only option.

Our friends, thankfully, speak excellent French, however, according to usual hospital practice, I was placed in an inner waiting room away from Mick and our friends. Not a soul back there spoke English and the notices on the white walls were mainly old and Covid related. I had no signal on my mobile and for almost 3 hours was left staring at the white walls waiting for my name to be called and praying that whoever called it spoke some English.

At long last 'Madame Boyle' was announced in such a way I hardly recognised it, and I was taken into a treatment room. Great, thought I – getting through the system at last. The doctor arrived after around twenty minutes and, thankfully, did speak some English. However, after an initial assessment, he disappeared, leaving me alone in another plain white room for a further hour.

During that time, my phone picked up signal and I was able to answer Mick's many messages: Where was I?, Had I been seen?, What were they saying? How long might I be...?

I then heard voices on the corridor – English voices! I popped my head out and found a young boy with a cut on his head accompanied by his family. It was such a relief to exchange stories with people who understood after being left on my own for so long. Eventually, medics arrived to attend to us both and I was reunited with Mick and our friends.

Continued overleaf
c

The thing I have reflected upon since this experience, is just how lonely I felt in that waiting room and treatment room, and how wonderful it was to be able to communicate and share what had happened and how I was feeling with somebody else. It was such a relief to be listened to and understood, by somebody who was able to empathise, even to a small degree.

In James' letter 1:19 he reminds us that we should be slow to speak and quick to listen. So many, sadly, do just the opposite, but everyone needs to be heard, and listening is sometimes the greatest gift we can offer to one another.

In listening to one another we create space of healing, for connection, growth and transformation, both for ourselves and for those to whom we give our ear.

In a time when so many feel unseen, unheard and undervalued, when we listen we create space for understanding and grace. And we just might hear the whisper of God's Holy Spirit in what is being said.

And listening to God comes before all, listening and allowing him to guide our witness.

I pray that as a church we will not only be known for the words we speak and share and the actions we take, but also for our listening ears, paying attention to the hurt, the joys and the concerns of others.

May the ears of our hearts be always open and may we always be quicker to listen than to speak.

*God Bless,
Lynn*

Harvest Gifts

Here is a reminder of the gifts that our beneficiaries need:

Tinned Meat and Stews
Rice Puddings
Tinned Tomatoes
Soap
Snacks (Individually Packed Chocolate Bars,
Cereal Bars, Breadsticks, Crisps)
Packets Of Biscuits
Rice (500g Bags)
Tinned Soup
Tinned Baked Beans
Sanitary Towels
Shampoo
Toothpaste
UHT Milk



Parish ACTIVITIES

St Thomas' Church Tree Tots is held on Monday mornings during term time. 9.30am to 11.30am

We look forward to welcoming you.

A group of bumps, babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their parents or carers. Tea, coffee, play, a chance to chat and make new friends
Suggested donation £2 per family



Messy Church



**Saturday 11th October at 3.30pm
in the Church Hall**

Lots of crafts, a story, and a lovely meal together at the end.

If you are planning to come along, please confirm your attendance by contacting
Carole Clulow 0798 436 2662



Knit and Stitch Group



**The Knitters and Stitchers meet in the church hall on
Saturdays at 2 pm - 4 pm**

No knitting the second Saturday of the month (Messy Church)

**If anyone has any RED OR WHITE wool only to donate, the Knitters and
Stitcher's would be very grateful.**

Please leave in the church porch. Many thanks.

Knitting will resume for our Christmas project on 18th October.

Why not come along to our friendly and social group — the patterns are easy
and there is always lots of cake!

Contact Alison for any questions

07897489792 or 01663766033



Messy Church needs your help!

We would welcome more volunteers to help on the second Saturday of each month.

Could you help us to guide children in doing simple crafts, colouring, storytelling and help to prepare and serve a meal to all the children

Contact
Carole Clulow or Helen Williams
to learn more

Wanted—donations of bottle bags

We need bottle bags for the Bottle Tombola at the Christmas Fair, ideally bright colours!

The bags can be left in the church porch or put in the Tombola bottle box in the church hall.

Thank you!



Repair Shop Coffee Morning Saturday 25th October 10am - 12 noon

**In St Thomas' Church Hall
Buxton Road,
High Lane, SK6 8DX**



Another of our popular Coffee Mornings and the opportunity to bring along your broken or damaged items for repair or sharpening.

We would appreciate donations to Church Funds for repairs. Thanks.



Even if you don't have anything to repair, come along for a coffee and a chat!

Parish NEWS

Anniversary of Baptism

2nd Luke James LaPolla
Millie and Albert Gittons

Anniversary of Baptism

Apologies to Aella Reign Timson
whose first Anniversary of Baptism
should have appeared last month.

Ashes Burial

21st September Eileen Harold



Congratulations to Rev'd Lynn Boyle—our new Vicar!

St Thomas' Church was packed to witness the Licensing of our new Vicar. Bishop Sam conducted the ceremony, at which Rev'd Lynn's husband Mick was also made Reader.

Rev'd Lynn, who is part-time, can be contacted as shown on the back page of the magazine.



The Nicene Creed: The Person of the Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

This month we are considering what the Nicene Creed says about the Holy Spirit.

'We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life': The original version of the Nicene Creed ended simply *'We believe in the Holy Spirit.'* However, the phrase *'the Lord, the giver of life'* was added to counter the teachings of Macedonius (Bishop of Constantinople), who viewed the Holy Spirit as a creation of the Son. The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity who shapes us, according to Christ's image, through His fruit and gifts: *'the Spirit gives life...we are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.'* (2 Corinthians 3:6,18).

'who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified': In the late 6th century the Latin churches added the phrase *'and the Son'* (the Filioque Clause), which was rejected by the Orthodox Churches. Augustine described the Spirit as *'love proceeding'* from the Father and the Son, so we can know God: *'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, He will testify about me.'* (John 15:26).

The Creed is clear that the Holy Spirit is due equal status and worship with the Father and the Son, as a distinct divine person: *'May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.'* (2 Corinthians 13:14).

'He has spoken through the Prophets': Why does the Creed include this activity of the Spirit? It is not just referring to the Old Testament prophets, but the whole of Scripture. He has inspired Scripture, so that we have God's word communicated by human writers: *'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness'* (2 Timothy 3:16). When we read the Bible, the Spirit enables us to hear what God is saying to us. In what areas of life have you felt the Holy Spirit at work in you?

Webinar: Free Mental Health Webinar *Details from Stockport Mind*

Prioritise your wellbeing! To raise awareness of Mental Health Awareness Day, join Tameside, Oldham, Glossop and Stockport Mind for a FREE Mental Health webinar.

Whether you're looking for practical tools to manage stress, curious about mindfulness, or simply want to feel more connected - this session is designed to support you.

Thursday 9 October at 1pm, online via Teams.

There's no charge, To attend, register through Eventbrite: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/free-mental-health-awareness-webinar-tickets-1656928992219

What's the Big Idea? – An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: Galatians

Paul's letter to the Galatians has been described as the '*Magna Carta of Christian Liberty*', because it emphasises the freedom that we have through faith in Jesus Christ. Paul vigorously defends the truth that people are justified (*'made right with God'*) by faith in Jesus Christ alone. Our standing with God is not determined by what we do, but by dependence on what Christ has done.

It is generally believed that Paul wrote this letter in 48/9AD to the churches in the southern area of Galatia, which he planted on his first missionary journey. It was written before the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15), making it the earliest of Paul's letters.

Paul is dealing with Jewish-Christians (or Judaizers) who were advocating ceremonial practices of the Jewish law, including circumcision, in addition to faith in Christ as the means of salvation. They were undermining Paul's authority as an apostle, by asserting that his gospel didn't agree with the apostles in Jerusalem. In response, Paul defends his apostolic authority and presents the true gospel, by emphasising the unique importance of Christ and His cross in salvation. He argues that *'a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ'* (2:16). He appeals especially to the examples of Abraham (3:6-9) and Hagar and Sarah (4:21-31), who stand in contrast as being a 'slave' under the law and 'free' in Christ.

'It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.' (5:1). We are justified through faith alone and it is by faith alone that we live out our new life in the freedom of the Spirit.

Wives Group F

Our Congratulations to Rev. Lynn. R

As Autumn steals in, keep a look out for chocolate bargains for our Colour of Christmas Tombola. (please check the sell by dates). I

6th October Service & Fellowship. E

13th October What's my Line? with Alison Morgan. N

20th October Home Brew - Whist. D

27th October Intro to Cut glass crafts/Stained glass with Andy Bennet . S

Our meetings start at 2pm in the Church Hall H

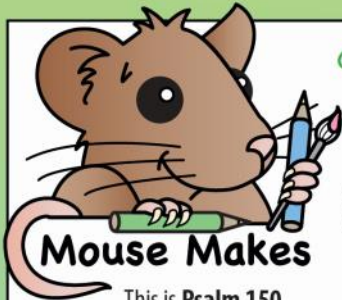
Come and join our friendly group. I

With best wishes P

Karen & Lesley

▪ TALKS ▪ QUIZZES ▪ MEALS OUT ▪ ANNUAL DAY OUT ▪





Mouse Makes

This is Psalm 150,
a song of praise to God,
it tells us why and how
to worship God.
*How do you praise and
worship God?*

Praise God in His Temple,
Praise Him in His mighty heavens.
Praise Him for His acts of power,
Praise Him for his surpassing greatness.

Praise Him
with the sounding trumpet,
Praise Him
with the harp and lyre,
Praise Him
with tambourine and dancing,
Praise Him
with the clash of cymbals,
Praise Him
with the resounding cymbals.
Let everything that has breath
PRAISE THE LORD!

P	K	G	C	Y	M	B	A	L	S	A
O	L	R	H	E	A	V	E	N	S	B
W	T	E	M	P	L	E	T	U	A	R
E	T	A	M	B	O	U	R	I	N	E
R	H	T	L	U	T	E	U	A	C	A
D	A	N	C	I	N	G	M	P	T	T
R	R	E	P	I	P	E	P	R	U	H
U	P	S	F	L	U	T	E	A	A	H
M	D	S	G	O	D	E	T	I	R	O
S	T	S	T	R	I	N	G	S	Y	R
O	Y	L	E	D	L	Y	R	E	Y	N

PRAISE • GOD • TEMPLE • HEAVENS • SANCTUARY • POWER • GREATNESS
TRUMPET • HORN • PIPE • FLUTE • HARP • LYRE • LUTE • STRINGS
TAMBOURINE • DANCING • CYMBALS • DRUMS • BREATH • LORD

Saint of the Month

17th October – Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch

Of the 54 Roman emperors who ruled AD 30 to 311, only about a dozen made the effort to persecute Christians. One of these was the Emperor Trajan, who ruled AD 98 to 117, though he was half-hearted about it. He decreed that Christians, although guilty of “anti-state behaviour”, were not to be hunted out for arrest, unless they were “very obvious” about their faith, and unless they refused to reject Christ when asked.

One such Christian was Ignatius, the second Bishop of Antioch, a leading city of Syria. He was arrested in Antioch during a persecution of the Antioch church and sentenced to be sent to Rome to be devoured by wild beasts in the arena there. Soon Ignatius was put in chains, along with a number of others, and escorted by a unit of Roman soldiers to Troas on the Aegean coast, for embarkation to Rome. It was a long and arduous journey through Asia Minor, and the soldiers stopped off at various cities along the way.

This gave Ignatius time to write a series of seven remarkable letters to various churches along the way. And as news of his arrest and journey to Rome spread, the prominent Christians in each city flocked out to meet him as he arrived.

Ignatius’ letters reveal him to be passionate for church unity. He encouraged constant community worship and frequent celebration of the Eucharist. He was especially eager to stress the authority of the New Testament, and to oppose the docetists, who held that Christ’s sufferings and death were apparent but not real. But above all, the letters reveal Ignatius as completely devoted to Christ.

He was keen to receive martyrdom and stressed that on no account was anyone to attempt to prevent his death. For him, martyrdom was the ultimate imitation of Christ, and a gift from God. Although we have no account of his martyrdom, it is widely assumed that Ignatius got his wish, and died upon the completion of his journey to Rome.

Millions are still available to help Listed Places of Worship

Almost three-quarters of the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme funding remains available for the 2025-26 period.

With seven months still to go in which applications can be made, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) says that – of the £23 million available — £5,498,850 has been used to date, and there is currently £591,237 worth of claims in progress.

The 2025-26 scheme will close on 31 March 2026, or once the £23-million cap has been reached, whichever is earlier. According to Church House, at least 38 churches and cathedrals are undertaking initiatives at an estimated cost of more than £2 million.

Church-run bereavement course having ‘profound and wide-reaching impact’

A church-run bereavement course is having a “profound and wide-reaching impact on adults of all ages,” according to a recent independent evaluation.

The Bereavement Journey, run by the Christian charity AtaLoss, is “addressing a national need for bereavement support”, and is “ideal for the significant majority — 85-90 per cent — of bereaved people who do not require or will not benefit from a clinical intervention”.

AtaLoss was founded in 2016 by the Revd Yvonne Tulloch, a former Canon for Mission at Coventry Cathedral, whose husband died suddenly in 2008. She says: “We are a society where people have grown up not expecting death and where we have lost the art of support.”

The course is made up of seven sessions of films and peer-group discussion. It is currently being run by churches in more than 400 communities across the UK.

The Friend at Midnight

As we remember St Luke this month (his Feast Day is 18th October), let’s note that one of the major themes in his gospel is prayer. Jesus tells the *Parable of the Friend at Midnight* (Luke 11:5-8) in the context of teaching His disciples to pray (1).

Pray Shamelessly:

In the parable a man approaches his friend at midnight and asking: *‘Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’* (5-6). Despite the hour, the rules of hospitality mean that this is not an unreasonable request. Jesus says, *‘though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of the man’s boldness he will rise and give him whatever he needs’* (8). Jesus is telling us to approach our heavenly Father in *‘shameless boldness’* with our needs. As adopted children we should have no hesitancy in coming to talk with our Father. It is not God who is reluctant to answer, but we to ask. Do we pray with shameless boldness?

Pray Persistently:

Like children we should be persistent in our requests: *‘Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.’* (9). All three verbs indicate a continual habit: *‘Keep on asking...seeking...knocking’*. We will not be content simply to ask once and then move on. Jesus tells us to bring our prayers to God persistently. Do we give up too easily in prayer?

Pray Expectantly:

‘For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.’ (10). Are we expectant in our prayers, believing that God delights in meeting our requests? Why not begin this adventure of prayer today!

The Poppy Appeal – could you help by giving some time this autumn?

The 2025 Poppy Appeal will be launched this month. The Poppy is a powerful symbol worn by people right across the UK to commemorate the sacrifices of our Armed Forces and to show support to those still serving today.

The Royal British Legion was first set up to help those returning from the First World War. Over a century on, they're still helping today's Service people, veterans, and their families coping with bereavement, living with disability or finding employment. However, the Poppy Appeal would not be able to continue without the dedication of the teams of volunteers. Each town and village has their own Poppy Appeal Organiser – also a volunteer – who runs these teams, arranges for cover, drops off and collects the boxes. The Poppy Appeal is always grateful for the work of these dedicated people, but the volunteers say they are proud to be selling Poppies to show support for those who sacrificed their lives for us.

If you want to volunteer, or if you would like a visit from a local volunteer who can speak to your community/church group, please go to:

www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer.

Celebrating Luncheon Club

An Afternoon Tea was a perfect way to celebrate Luncheon Club's 30 plus years of service to the High Lane Community. Originally set up to provide company for individuals who eat alone, Luncheon Club is as enjoyed and appreciated today more than ever!



The Team Leaders Sandra, Don, Helen, Stuart and Pauline work hard with two teams of volunteers who support them - Carol, Pam, Maureen, Lindsey, Anne and Sylvia. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for their tireless efforts in making Luncheon Club a beloved institution in High Lane.



The Afternoon Tea celebration on Thursday 21st August 2025 was an opportunity to say thank you for the love and care they have all shared with our community over the years.



Every member of the team received a gift from Malcom Bennett (Church Warden) as a token of appreciation.

Have you seen this insect?

Asian hornet, *Vespa velutina*



What is it?

A highly aggressive predator of native insects that poses a significant threat to honey bees and other pollinators. Originally from Asia, in 2004 this invasive non-native species was accidentally introduced to France where it has spread rapidly and into neighbouring countries. Since 2016 a number of sightings have been recorded in the UK.



Slightly smaller than the native European hornet. May be confused with other species, shown below in actual size for comparison.



Asian hornet



European hornet



Median wasp



Hornet mimic
hoverfly



Woodwasp

Where might I see it?

May be seen on flowering plants, around beehives, around rotting / fermenting fruit and protein, and at street markets attracted by sweet fruit and fish stalls. Active February to November across England and Wales.

This insect stings,
do not disturb an
active nest.

Please report sightings immediately with a photo:

- with the iPhone and Android recording app: **Asian Hornet Watch**
- online at: nonnativespecies.org/asianhornet
- by email: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

Find out
more and
report a
sighting:



For more information on invasive non-native species visit: nonnativespecies.org



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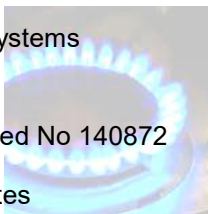
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For out of hours emergencies leave a voicemail,



Calendar for October 2025

Services will be held in St Thomas' Church unless otherwise indicated.
Please do not attend if you have any Covid-19 symptoms.

St Thomas' Church is trying hard to reach all our parishioners using a variety of methods. Do join in our worship in person or by telephone
Church is open each day for Private Prayer.



Wednesday 1st	9.30am	Holy Communion
Thursday 2nd	9.00pm	Telephone Compline
Saturday 4th	10.00am	Knit and Stitch Group Coffee Morning

Sunday 5th

Harvest Festival

	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Parish Communion
Monday 6th	9.30am	Tree Tots Group
	2.00pm	Wives Group
Wednesday 8th	9.30am	Holy Communion
Thursday 9th	12 noon	Luncheon Club
	9.00pm	Telephone Compline
Saturday 11th	3.30pm	Messy Church



Sunday 12th

Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Parish Communion
Monday 13th	9.30am	Tree Tots Group
	2.00pm	Wives Group
Wednesday 15th	9.30am	Holy Communion
Thursday 16th	7.00pm	Fabric Committee meeting
	9.00pm	Telephone Compline
Saturday 18th	2.00pm	Knit and Stitch Group

Sunday 19th

Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Parish Communion
Monday 20th	9.30am	Tree Tots Group
	2.00pm	Wives Group
Wednesday 22nd	9.30am	Holy Communion
Thursday 23rd	12 noon	Luncheon Club
	9.00pm	Telephone Compline
Friday 24th	10.00am	Finance Committee meeting
Saturday 25th	10.00am	Repair Shop Coffee Morning
	2.00pm	Knit and Stitch Group

Sunday 26th

Monday 27th
Wednesday 29th
Thursday 30th

Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.30am Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Communion
6.00pm Evensong
2.00pm Wives Group
9.30am Holy Communion
9.00pm Telephone Compline

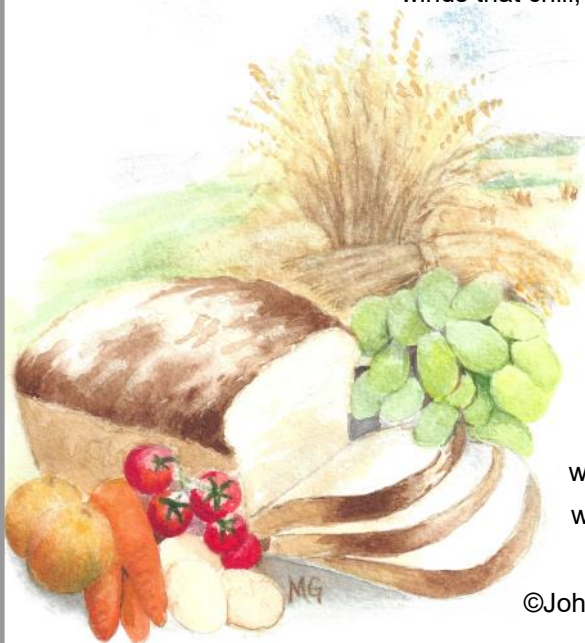
An Autumn Prayer

We see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves,
shortening days, misty mornings, autumn glow.

We sense its passing in rain that dampens,
winds that chill, Harvest's bounty placed on show.

Creator God, who brings forth
both green shoot and hoar frost,
sunrise and sunset,
we bring our thanks
for seeds that have grown,
harvests gathered,
storehouses filled,
mouths fed.

And, as your good earth rests
through winter's cold embrace,
we look forward to its re-awakening
when kissed by Spring's first touch.



©John Birch www.faithandworship.com

Community NEWS

High Lane Residents Association

The 2025 AGM is on 2nd October and we are truly into autumn with the rich pattern of colours in our parks and other open spaces around the village.

We will shortly be planting a large number of bluebell bulbs in Hartley Woods, which we hope will enhance the other spring bulbs that are already planted.

We recently had to complete a form for Stockport Council on Biodiversity in our parks. This included measuring areas left to wild, thinking of areas that could be left 'wild' and counting our bird and bat boxes. We have 11 bird boxes and 0 bat boxes all in Hartley Woods and one bird box in the main High Lane Park. If anyone knows of any others around the village please let me know.

At the September meeting we had a member of Cheshire beekeeping talking to us about the Asian Hornet. Sightings of this hornet, that can destroy our natural pollinators, have been sighted as near as Runcorn. We have all been asked to look out for them and report them. Details are on posters around the village.

We are always looking for new members for the committee and also any volunteers to join in with the wonderful work our teams of litter pickers and gardeners do. Please do join in, no experience is necessary and everybody's views are valued.

Membership of the HLRA is open to all residents of High Lane. It is cost free, although we do ask for small subscriptions which enable us to keep the village looking appealing.

We have regular communication with and are consulted by the local authority and other relevant authorities on matters of local concern.

Next meeting is Thursday 6th November at 8pm. Please see posters for venue.

Caroline Smith
Vice chair – High Lane Residents Association



Monday Coffee Morning

Don't forget the lovely weekly coffee mornings held each Monday in the Village Hall, next to High Lane Park. There is always someone to chat to, tea and coffee and biscuits and friendly team behind the event.
10am to noon.
You will be made most welcome!

CAMEOS

Wednesday 1st October

At Windlehurst Church. Doors open at 1.45pm for prompt start at 2pm.
A warm welcome to all, a good sing and homemade refreshments.

Disley & Lyme Horticultural Society

The Disley & Lyme Horticultural Society have enjoyed a busy schedule to the end of the summer.

Our 118th Annual Show was a massive success: The sun shone on the show field all day, the Marquee benches were filled with flowers, fruit and vegetables and wine and the Badminton Hall was overflowing with baked goods, jams and preserves, also a wall posted with photographs and Arts & Crafts.

With 41 stalls and exhibitors on the field it made for a busy day. The children were kept entertained at the Sunlight Workshop and the bouncy castle, with free milkshakes on hand from Jackson's Dairy, the police car was a major attraction with helmets and buttons to press, and the food stalls kept everyone fed and watered, even offering a glass of prosecco and beer. Something for everyone! You can see all of the results and trophy winners on our website, and we hope you collected your trophies at our coffee morning on Saturday 27th September at St. Thomas' Church.

If you enjoyed the show, have you thought about volunteering? We're looking for a new generation of volunteers to invest in future-proofing an established 118 year old Summer Show to continue serving its community. With over 1200 people attending the show in 2025, we need help with setting up and taking down the exhibition spaces, managing the entrance gate, administration for the competitions, and many other tasks! Please email enquiries@disleylymehs.com to express your interest.

We also hosted a great trip to the RHS Bridgewater in Salford on Saturday 20th September. A coach full of people made the journey over for the day, enjoyed the variety of the different gardens and also the Cyclamen Society Show. Keep an eye on our website www.disleylymehs.com as we announce new events for next year.



HIGH LANE VILLAGE WI

Our Women's Institute group meets at High Lane Village Hall on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm.

Wednesday 1st October: Simon Dunn, Chocolatier

Wednesday 5th November: Annual Meeting

However, as we have proved to be so popular this year, we have had to take the decision to cap our membership at 70, due to restrictions of size in the Village Hall. We shall still be very happy to welcome any ladies to come along and give us a try. Your first visit is free and you can try us twice more, at a cost of £5 per visit. We have a special speaker at most of our meetings or some in-house entertainment, followed by tea/coffee and cake. If you would then like to join us, we would add your name to our waiting list.

You can follow us on our Facebook page: **High Lane Village WI**, where you will find a month by month list of our future activities!

If you should require any further details please contact Jean Pye on: (01663) 635595 or contact us at hivwi1@gmail.com

Plastic bags

This year marks ten years since England introduced the 5p charge for single-use plastic carrier bags. The charge has had a dramatic effect – with a reduction of 98% in sales.

In 2014, 7.6 billion single-use plastic bags were sold in the UK. By 2023, 133 million single-use bags had been sold in the major supermarkets. The average person in the UK now buys only about two single-use plastic bags per year.

Send your love with these flowers

A flower used by Victorians when they wanted to send a 'hidden message' of love is making a big comeback.

It is the aster. It's popularity in bouquets has quadrupled in two years. Sales at Tesco alone have soared by nearly 350 per cent.

And no wonder: asters are vivid, fast-growing British flowers with a good vase life. They come in blue, purple, pink, dark pink, red and white – all with a bright yellow centre. They originally came from Japan and are related to dahlias and chrysanthemums.



The Victorians believed that asters symbolised love, patience, wisdom, elegance and grace. That made asters a sure winner for bearing discreet messages of affection. More than five million were grown in the UK this year, so there must be a lot of love about!



"Good news on the lottery-funding for The West Wall Project, Vicar—three of our numbers came up for £25!"

Smile Lines

Sign on a door in Istanbul: American dentist – 2nd floor. Teeth extracted by a new Methodist.

Asked to name one of the Ten Commandments, one little girl replied: "Do not admit adultery."

During a youth service, the minister asked if anyone could tell her who God is. One youngster waved a hand, and ventured: "Isn't God the man who saves the King?"

When you get to the point where you really understand your computer, it's probably obsolete.

The brave Desmond Doss of Hacksaw Ridge

Eighty years ago, on 12th October 1945, US Army combat medic Desmond Doss became the first conscientious objector in US history to receive a Medal of Honour for heroic actions. He saved the lives of 75 men during the Battle of Okinawa. The film *Hacksaw Ridge* told his story.

Doss was born in Virginia in 1919, and became a strong believer in the Bible, especially the Ten Commandments. As a devout Seventh Day Adventist and conscientious objector, he determined to join the Army after Pearl Harbour – his goal being to save as many lives as possible, and to kill no-one.

He enlisted as a medic and refused to carry a rifle, despite receiving abuse from his fellow soldiers and officers. This diminished when it became clear that he bore no grudges and was the first to help when anyone got into difficulty.

He served in combat on the islands of Guam, Leyte, and Okinawa – but it was the last that was most remarkable, because the fighting took place on the top of a sheer 400ft cliff with booby traps and hidden machine gun nests. Doss refused to retreat with his battalion and kept on returning to the battlefield before lowering injured comrades down the cliff (known as Hacksaw Ridge). He thought he had saved 50 men – praying aloud each time “Lord, please help me get one more”. His comrades thought he had saved 100: the official report split the difference.

Of the 16 million Americans in uniform during World War Two, only 431 received the Congressional Medal of Honour. Before leaving the Army Doss had contracted tuberculosis, and eventually he had to have a lung and five ribs removed. He lived with one lung to the age of 87.

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Medium Sudoku

Solution at the back of the magazine

Incumbents Board

Do stop and admire our new Incumbents Board, situated in the North Aisle.

We are very grateful to the parishioner who has generously funded this board for our church.



Soaring cost of school uniforms

The BBC One's The One Show recently interviewed Children's Society's CEO Mark Russell, on a growing crisis affecting families across the UK: the soaring cost of school uniforms.

Russell reported that a new poll by The Children's Society has found that more than two in five children (44%) have experienced negative consequences due to school uniforms that their parents found to be "unaffordable". Russell said: "That included being placed in detention, isolation, or even excluded from school—simply because their families couldn't afford expensive branded items. And nearly 40% of families said that prices haven't improved, despite efforts to make more second hand items available."

Now The Children's Society is campaigning to cut the costs of school uniform. "We want to see a limit on the number of branded uniform items per school, and for schools to do all they can to reduce costs for parents and carers."

But Russell says: "We here at the Children's Society can't do it alone. We need parents across the country to help us. How? By donating their children's outgrown school uniforms to our Give Hope Shop. (<https://givehope.uk/shop>)

"Every purchase of a school uniform item goes directly to families who need it the most—giving hope when so many are struggling with high cost."

Time to make your Will?

Been putting off writing or updating your Will? Next month the charity Will Aid's 'Make a Will Month' will offer you the opportunity to put your affairs in order, secure your loved one's future and give to charities helping those in need.

Participating solicitors are inviting people to contact them to book appointments for November, when they will prepare basic Wills without charging their normal fee. All that they will ask in return is that clients consider making a voluntary donation to Will Aid. The suggested donation is just £120 for a single Will, or £200 for a pair of mirror Wills.

The money raised is shared by nine UK charities: namely ActionAid, Age UK, British Red Cross, Christian Aid, Crisis, NSPCC, SCIAF (Scotland) and Trocaire (N. Ireland).

As many as half of all UK adults in the UK don't have a Will. They have not made any legally valid provision for what they would like to happen after their death. This can lead to a great deal of stress and uncertainty, as well as financial hardship, for those left behind.

Even if you have a Will, it is important to keep it up to date. Experts recommend routinely reviewing a Will every three to five years, and making a new Will as soon as significant family changes occur.

More details at <https://www.willaid.org.uk/register>. Please book early as solicitors tend to fill their appointments very quickly.

Praying With the Prayers of the Bible: the Prayer for Holy Love

1 Thessalonians 3:12, 13, runs: 'May the Lord ...establish your hearts unblameable in holiness.' Paul's first letter to the Thessalonian church, dating from about 51 AD, is generally regarded as the first book in the New Testament to have been written. That means that this *prayer is the first New Testament prayer to have been composed*.

Paul has already highly commended the genuine spiritual experience and character of these new Christians. He thanked God for their faith, love and hope, 1:3; they were examples to others, 1:7; their faith in God was being widely spoken about, 1:8; and having turned from idolatry they were now serving the true God and expecting Christ's Second Coming, 1:9, 10. It is for these new and enthusiastic believers that Paul now prays.

The prayer asks for two great blessings for these Christians. First that they may abound in love toward each other and to the world, and then that their conduct will be characterised by holy living. What a model prayer this is for Christians in every age! Note Paul's words, 'may the Lord make you increase and abound in love' (v.12). This is not merely asking that these believers will love one another, but that their love will be full and overflowing.

Perhaps Paul is recalling that Jesus said the world would recognise His disciples by their love toward one another (John 13:35). But this love, the essence of Christian experience, is not narrow or parochial. Paul prayed that their love would abound not only to each other but also 'to all men.' What a picture of what His church should be! All of us who claim to be His people should be known by our love for one another and for the world for which He died.

Then comes the second request in the prayer, that their hearts will be 'established unblameable in holiness.' (v.13). The word translated 'established' means to be fixed, to be settled, indicating constant character. In this world no Christian can be faultless, but by His grace and mercy we are called to be blameless. In the prayer Paul brings together the condition of our hearts – overflowing in love, and the quality of our conduct – steadfast in holy living. What a combination of holy love, a reflection of what Jesus was!

One other aspect of this prayer is worth noting. When Paul prays that the love of these Christians will abound to each other, he adds that this is how he feels about them; 'as we do to you' (v.12). Likewise, in 2:10 Paul says the Thessalonians are witnesses of His holy, righteous and blameless conduct among them.

The love and holiness for which Paul prays for these believers can be seen in his own life and work. Surely the most pressing need in all our congregations is that all of us as Christ's disciples will consistently bear witness to His love controlling our hearts and our conduct.

He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it. – *Martin Luther King*

How can you find an NHS dentist?

Advice and Information from Healthwatch Stockport - 8 September 2025

Everyone should be able to get the care and advice they need to keep their teeth healthy. Unfortunately, people across the country have told us they can't get an appointment with an NHS dentist, with some areas being referred to as 'dental deserts' due to the lack of NHS dentists.

How do I find an NHS dentist near me?

Use the NHS website to search for a dentist near you. The site also provides information on which dental practices currently accept new patients, whether they offer urgent appointments, and how others have rated the service.

While this is a good starting point for finding a local dentist, people often tell us that these records are only sometimes kept updated, so you should contact the practice directly for more information. If the records are out of date, you should let the practice know.

You can also visit a dentist outside your local area if it's more convenient. For example, if you prefer to see a dentist near where you work.

Can't find an NHS dentist taking new patients?

People have told us they struggle to find an NHS dentist who is taking on new patients. In February 2024 the Government announced the dental recovery plan, which outlines ways it intends to make it easier for people to get an NHS dental appointment - through extra funding for appointments, bonus schemes for practices taking on new patients and mobile treatment vans.

If you need help finding an NHS dentist taking on new patients, you can speak to your local Healthwatch, who can provide information about local services. However, please note that Healthwatch relies on dental practices to provide up-to-date information.

The team at Healthwatch Stockport regularly contact local dentists to find out if they're taking new NHS patients so please contact us: 0161 974 0753 or by email to info@healthwatchstockport.co.uk

How do I get an emergency NHS dentist appointment?

If you need immediate care for your teeth, you should:

- Ask your regular dentist whether they can offer an emergency appointment.
- Phone NHS 111, who can locate an urgent dental service.
- Visit A&E if you experience severe pain, heavy bleeding, or face, mouth or teeth injuries.

What are the NHS dentistry charges?

Most people pay for dental treatment, but some patients are exempt. A routine examination, which includes diagnosis, advice, a scale and polish and some preventative care if clinically needed, costs £27.40. However, if you require further dental treatment, this will be an additional cost.

Dental practices usually offer both NHS and private dental care. Before you begin your treatment, check whether you are paying for NHS, private treatment, or both. NHS dentists should always:

- Explain which treatments are available on the NHS.
- Explain which treatments are only available privately.
- Ensure you know how much your NHS and private treatments will cost.

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Surge in violent attacks on A&E Nurses

18th October is the feast day of St Luke, who is the patron saint of physicians. So this is a good month to pray for those in the NHS...

A&E nurses face an increasing barrage of punches, kicks and spitting – and having weapons aimed at them. One was even threatened with an acid attack. The violence has been blamed on enforced long waits in A&E departments, corridor care, and chronic staffing problems.

The Royal College of Nursing report that the number of attacks has doubled in five years, from 2093 cases in 2019, to 4054 in 2024.

One senior charge nurse in the East Midlands said: “Even patients you would expect to be placid are becoming irate because of just how long they have to wait. So, you can only imagine the behaviour of those who are already prone to violence.” She herself has been punched in the face by a “drunken six-foot-two bloke.”

A senior sister in an A&E in east London was knocked unconscious after being punched in the head by a patient. “The violence is awful,” she said. “And it’s just constant. Nurses, doctors, receptionists – none of us feels safe.”

Another nurse said: “It’s not going to help with our retention and recruitment if you think you’re going to be clobbered every shift.”

The RCN warns that such attacks lead to both physical and mental scarring, lengthy time off and sometimes staff never returning.

All in the month of October

750 years ago, on 27th Oct 1275 that the city of Amsterdam in the Netherlands is traditionally considered to have been founded.

200 years ago, on 25th Oct 1825 that Johann Strauss II, was born. This Austrian composer is best known for his waltzes, including *The Blue Danube*.

125 years ago, on 20th Oct 1900 that the American aviation pioneers the Wright Brothers made their first untethered glider flight at Kill Devil Hills, in North Carolina.

100 years ago, on 13th Oct 1925 that Margaret Thatcher, Baroness Thatcher, was born. She was the first woman Prime Minister of Britain (1979-90). (Died 2013)

90 years ago, on 12th Oct 1935 that Luciano Pavarotti, Italian operatic tenor, was born. Considered one of the finest tenors of the 20th century, and one of the most commercially successful of all time. (Died 2007)

80 years ago, on 12th Oct 1945 that US Army combat medic Desmond Doss became the first conscientious objector in US history to receive a Medal of Honour for heroic actions.

70 years ago, on 20th Oct 1955 that *The Return of the King*, the third and final part of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, was published.

65 years ago, on 12th Oct 1960 that, at a meeting of the UN General Assembly in New York, the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev is reported to have removed his shoe and pounded his table, in protest at a speech by another delegate.

60 years ago, on 8th Oct 1965 that the Post Office Tower (now the BT Tower) in London was officially opened. It was the tallest building in the UK until 1980.

50 years ago, on 9th Oct 1975 that the IRA detonated a bomb near the Ritz Hotel in Piccadilly. One person was killed and at least 20 injured.

40 years ago, on 1st Oct 1985 that riots broke out in Toxteth in Liverpool and Peckham in London. Five days later (6th Oct) Met Police Constable Keith Blacklock was killed in the Broadwater Farm housing estate riot in Tottenham. He was the first British constable to be killed in a riot since 1833.

Also 40 years, on 26th Oct 1985 that the Australian government returned the ownership of Uluru / Ayers Rock to the local Pitjantjatjara people, on condition that they lease it to the National Parks and Wildlife Agency for 99 years and allow it to be jointly managed.

25 years ago, on 26th Oct 2000 that the BSE Inquiry Report was published in the UK. It concluded that the BSE (Mad Cow Disease) epidemic was caused by the use of infected meat and bone meal in cattle feed.

15 years ago, on 13th Oct 2010 that 33 Chilean miners who had been trapped underground for 69 days following the collapse of the San Jose copper-gold mine were rescued. Around one billion TV viewers around the world watched them being pulled to the surface one-by-one, in a specially designed capsule.

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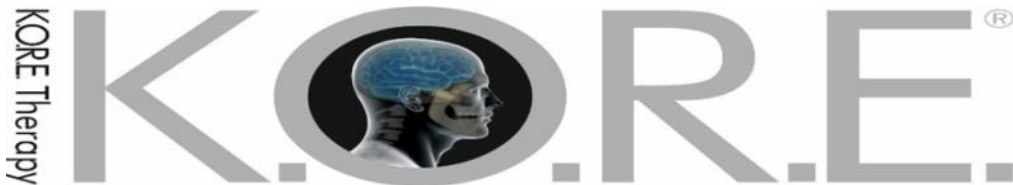
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