

St Thomas

News

What's on at St Thomas' this week?

- 10.30 am Sunday Worship
- Wednesday Morning Prayer at 9am on Zoom
- Bible Study on Friday at 2pm on Zoom

All links can be found in your emails

If you are not receiving emails from St Thomas' please contact: stthomasfp2@gmail.com

Harvest Thanksgiving— an all-age service on 4th October 2020

Harvest saw St Thomas's celebrate with our largest congregation since lockdown lifted, despite the miserable weather – 60+ of us all safely distanced - including 9 family "bubbles" . We found room by adding in chairs in the side aisle - we are so fortunate to have such a big airy Church.

We heard Jesus tell Peter to "look after his sheep and feed his lambs" - an inspiring harvest message. People were incredibly generous in responding with food donations, toiletries and household items for St John Brownswood Park's food bank. If you were not able to join us, please catch up with the service on [YouTube](#) and support St John's Food Bank <https://www.bankuet.co.uk/stjohns> or

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/sjebp-soupkitchen>

Families are welcome in Church every Sunday, although it remains the case that we cannot offer Sunday School or the creche at the moment.

We are open in church for Holy Communion on Sunday mornings. We have suitable social distancing and other safety measures.

We are confident in our arrangements, please do feel able to attend if you are well.

Annual Parish Meeting (APM)

Please come to St Thomas' Annual Parish Meeting — everybody is welcome.

This important meeting, open to the whole congregation, usually held in April, was postponed for obvious reasons...

Wednesday 21st October, 7pm - on Zoom

Full details including the agenda have been sent in a email (and will be resent this weekend,) but **urgent for now:**

- Please **check** that you are on the electoral roll and, if not, please join. (This was circulated by email).
- Please consider becoming a member of the PCC (Parochial Church Council) – **six** members are needed.
- **Three** members are also needed to join Deanery Synod.
- Please consider standing for election as a churchwarden.

The electoral roll and application forms to join, as well as application forms to join the PCC or are all available on St Thomas's website at:

<https://www.stthomaschurch.co.uk/annual-parish-meeting>

The Annual Report and the minutes of the last meeting are also available through the link above.



St John's soup kitchen and foodbank

Anne Williams, a member of St Thomas's congregation has been helping at the foodbank and soup kitchen. Anne writes:

The church had been running a soup kitchen on Tuesday nights for many years, where guests came in and sat down to eat with the volunteers who also prepared the meals

As the pandemic got underway, it was no longer possible to eat together in the church. Nonetheless the vicar, Rev'd Alice Whalley, promised that no one in her parish would go hungry if she could possibly help it.

On Tuesdays and Sundays we welcome guests with a hot drink (the coffee is freshly brewed), and provide a fresh-cooked vegetarian meal, with pudding (usually homemade), and fresh fruit when we have it. Last autumn, Mthr Alice planted a vegetable garden in the churchyard and we've been harvesting super-fresh kale, courgettes, potatoes, carrots, tomatoes all summer long. If you enjoy baking, bake something for us! Drop it off between 5 and 6 on Tuesday or between 10:30 and 12 on Sunday.

Using their smartphones or a laptop, volunteers take orders for groceries. These are then filled by other volunteers with their own handy smartphones, working in the stock room. We are very grateful for donations as supplies run down very, very quickly – the need is great, and it is growing.

Some of our guests are people with 'No Recourse to Public Funds'. This refers to legislation passed in 2014. In practice, it means that some people who reside in the UK legally, even if they are or were working and paying taxes, are swiftly made destitute by events beyond their control. We see the fear in parents' eyes as they struggle to keep their children nourished and clean and seek a roof, however temporary, over their heads.

We see people with learning disabilities and mental health problems – some of them in their 50s or 60s or older - defeated by a system designed to exclude as many as possible, and to

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Revd Pauline Nashashibi:

email: priest.stthomasfp@gmail.com

Or phone to talk:

Phone 020 7263 8268

Mobile 07530 969 444

punish those in need. One man walks from near Turnpike Lane, on crutches, and back again with his groceries on his back.

Some of our guests were barely earning enough to live on before the pandemic. Now they have to choose between trying to keep a roof over their heads and having enough to eat. They go hungry. And keeping clean is a real struggle. Soap and shower gel, deodorant, toothpaste, laundry soap and washing up liquid are amongst the things Food Bank provides, and always in great demand.

We also provide free clothing on Fridays. Donations welcome – please ensure clothes are clean and in decent condition. Warm clothes are greatly needed now!

We ask no questions, require no referrals. Everyone is welcome and all are treated with respect.

We are very grateful to White Brothers Greengrocers and Al-Bahiya, both on Blackstock Road, for their donations of fruit & veg and fresh bread, week after week, year after year.

St John's, our neighbour across Blackstock Road, is at the corner of Gloucester Drive and Queens Drive.



Give Generously:

If you are able to give at this time, we would be very grateful. Your contribution is very important and helps to continue life here at St Thomas.

<https://tinyurl.com/y9php2pp>

Do you know anyone who doesn't have access to a computer? Please print this newsletter for them if you can. Perhaps they might like to know there is a FREE phone line called Daily Hope, [0800 804 8044](tel:08008048044), offering a collection of well-known hymns, the stories behind the hymns, joining in with Morning or Evening Prayer, or receiving the latest relevant public health advice.