# St. Thomas' Moorside December 2019/January 2020 £1

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#### Vicar's Letter

#### Dear Brothers and Sisters



Can you believe it's almost Christmas again? Easter feels as though it was yesterday and Summer... Well what happened to that? Advent and Christmas seem to come around sooner and sooner every year.

For many of us Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year; full of excitement and anticipation, family reunions, presents and fabulous food. For others it can be a very lonely time, especially for those who've lost loved ones and are now alone or far from close family. As the Church we, I hope, can help and reach out to those people. Do you know anyone who'll be alone on Christmas Day? If so, invite them to our Christmas Communion and then to our Family Christmas Meal. Everyone is welcome in church and everyone is welcome to the meal. I have to say a huge 'Thank you' to Angela Bilbruck and her family for providing the meal. It was fabulous last year and will be again this year.

We should feel confident about inviting friends, family and neighbours to church at any time of year. An invitation is a great way of beginning a conversation about Jesus, but perhaps it's easier to say, 'Why not come to church?' at this time of year; everyone loves to sing carols and everyone loves the stories in Luke and Matthew about the birth of Jesus. This time of year is even named after Jesus, CHRIST-mas (not Xmas, please!)

I've already mentioned our Christmas morning Communion and the meal in the afternoon; we also have a Christingle Service, Candlelit Carol service and Midnight Mass that you could invite people to. This year we are, again, posting Christmas cards through people's doors with Christmas greetings and a list of our Christmas activities and services. This is the time of year to make sure the good news of Jesus is heard by as many people as possible.

It's the time of year when we can join the angels and say to all those we know, 'I am bringing good news of great joy: to you is born a Saviour, who is the Messiah. Glory to God in heaven and peace to God's people on earth.' Will you join me in spreading the Gospel?

Wishing you joy and peace this Advent, Christmas and New Year.

Yours with prayers and blessings,

Rev'd Deníse



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DIARY		
Sat 30th Nov	10.15am	Advent Retreat at St Barnabas, Clarksfield
	11am	Traditional Christmas Fair
Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	7.30pm	STYLE meeting
Mon 9th Dec	2pm	Carol Singing at St George's Care Home
Sat 14th Dec	10.30am	Christingle Making and Christmas Crafts in
		Church Hall
Sun 15th Dec	3pm	Christingle Service
Sun 22nd Dec	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight Service
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Weds 25th	10.30am	Christmas Eucharist
Dec	3pm	Community Christmas Lunch

#### WEEKLY SERVICES

Wednesday Worship7pmNo Wednesday Worship on 25th December and 1st January

#### Sunday Services

8.30am Said Communion 10.30am Parish Communion

The second Sunday of the month is usually church parade, apart from August and January. Please check with the group leaders if in doubt.

#### Dates for your dairy: FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday 19th Jan** 3pm - East Oldham Methodist Church - Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Please note there is no December meeting for the Moorside and District Historical Society. Next meeting is **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January** 2020 at the cricket club.

Large Print Copies of the Parish Magazine

If you'd like to receive a large print copy of this magazine please tell us in church, or let the person who delivers your copy know, and we will do our best to provide one for you. the

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Well another successful year of STYLE fundraising draws to a close. Looking back over the year we have attended many fairs as well as events in the church hall such as the Clothes Party and Rock 'n' Roll Bingo.

Over the last couple of months we hosted the Exclusive Christmas Fair where local businesses held stalls in the church hall selling their produce and again it has been another successful event. On 23rd November Sarah Edwards and Corinne Ogden held a chocolate tombola at the Christmas fair at Sholver Community Centre which was a wonderful success

STYLE are having a post-Christmas party this year when we will be singing along to Bohemian Rhapsody at Oldham Coliseum at the end of January. Many of the STYLE ladies have beautiful singing voices which will be evident singing away to Queen songs!

The first STYLE meeting of 2020 will be on **Tuesday 7th January** at 7:30 in the choir vestry at the back of church. This is a really good time for new members to join as we plan the activities for the forthcoming year, so we encourage any people who want to be involved in fundraising as well as making friends to come along that first Tuesday and have some real fun.

From STYLE we wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

#### <u>Christmas Quiz</u>

Please keep an eye open for our Christmas Quiz. It will soon be available in Church. It only costs £1.00 and all proceeds go to Church. You have plenty of time into January to complete it. Good Luck! **Donald and Millicent**.

#### **Stationery Required! Can you help?**



On December 9<sup>th</sup> Zelda's son, Nathan, is going on a tour of duty to South Sudan, a very deprived area of the world where children in particular face hunger, disease, violence and displacement. Nathan is hoping to take a supply of stationery with him, such as colouring pens and pencils, in an effort to bring a little light into these children's lives. If you please could donate one small item and pass this to Zelda or any of the STYLE ladies by the first week in December then Nathan would be incredibly grateful. Thank you.

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#### Family Christmas Lunch

St. Thomas' Church Hall, Glebe Lane

#### 3pm 25<sup>th</sup> December

We would cordially like to invite you to share lunch with us and celebrate Christmas.

This will be a traditional meal of Turkey and all the trimmings. (Vegan option will be available and any allergy concerns notified will be accommodated).

If you are interested in attending or would like to recommend someone please email <u>readerAngela@stthomasmoorside.org</u> or add the name of the person to the list in church.

#### With love Angela, Jodíe and family x





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**Bowls:** Mens & Ladies, all-age and veterans' teams in various local Crown Green Bowls Leagues

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#### **Treasurer's Letter**

Thank you for all your financial giving this year, it is greatly appreciated.

I am pleased to advise that we paid another  $\pounds$ 5,000 against our Parish Share in October, bringing the total to  $\pounds$ 15,000. The outstanding amount to be paid by the end of December is  $\pounds$ 20,000.

#### HOW YOU CAN HELP US TO RAISE FUNDS?



In October we received £32 for recycling used inkjet printer cartridges. Please keep them coming.

As we go into a new year, if you pay tax, please consider if you are willing to gift aid your donations to St Thomas Church. This would enable us to claim the tax back and increase church fnds. Please speak to me or David Swain for more information.

**Charity** A cheque has been sent to 4 Louis, for half of the monies donated by friends and families during a recent baptism. This is a UK charity that supports anyone affected by miscarriage, stillbirth and the death of a baby or child. The remainder was donated to St. Thomas' Church. All donations are very gratefully received by Church and the various charities who send us letters of appreciation.

**Many thanks** for the donations of bottles and chocolates. At the time of writing, they are all ready for the Christmas fair.

As well as supporting our church, we also reached out into the community - locally, nationally and internationally. This year we supported the following charities:

Andy's Man Club, Halifax, Bishop's Ordination Fund, Booth Street Centre for the homeless, Breakthrough Breast Cancer, British Deaf Society, British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK, Children's Society, Christian Aid, Cruse Bereavement, Diabetes UK One Million Step Challenge, Dr. Kershaw's Hospice, Fairtrade, Little Princess Trust, 4 Louis, Macmillan Cancer Support, Maggie's Oldham, Mesothelioma UK Charitable Trust, Oldham Foodbank, Oldham Mountain Rescue, The Royal British Legion, Spoons Neonatal Care, The Children's Society, Toilet Twinning (Tearfund), World Owl Centre, 24<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree to the USA 2019, Xtreme Explorers African Adventure 2020

Corínne







#### **Churchwardens letter December 2019**



As we write this a month in advance of the magazine publication the scaffolding is still erected both inside and outside of the Church, but the hopes are that this will be down before this magazine hits the streets.

Last month we had our Confirmation service and it was good to welcome Bishop Mark back to conduct the service and bring his own style to this special day. The celebrations were concluded with a faith lunch. We are very lucky that we are so well supported. So many good people help to make these events a success by preparing and serving food, also helping to set the room up and the tidying away and cleaning up afterwards which is ALWAYS when the most laughs seem to happen.

We saw the STYLE Exclusive Fair and the St. Thomas' Traditional Fair where Santa will have made an early appearance.

We are now fast approaching Christmas. There are still lots of exciting things happening around every corner. Some events include Midnight Mass (starting 11.30pm) on Christmas Eve, the Christmas morning service at 10.30am and, after last years' success, a Christmas Day lunch in the hall at 3pm. All these dates and more are in our new 2019 Christmas cards.

Christmas is also a very sad time for some people, as people may have lost family members and friends during the year or be reminded that they are no longer here when celebrations happen. We remember you all in our prayers and hope that your memories bring you some comfort.



**Thank you** to all those who have helped us this year. We really would not be able to do all that we do without those that offer help and support.

A final ask; sometimes you may be given a gift that you are unable to make use of. If you find yourself in that position and feel that we as a Church may be able to make use of it either in a practical sense or as a prize for a raffle, tombola, etc, then if you are comfortable donating it then we will be happy to accept it.

símon and sam





Wishing all our friends at St. Thomas a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year, from Margaret Mulhall and family



Ho, ho The STYLE ladies would like to wish all friends and supporters a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Aunty Mo wishes all her friends a Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.

 $\checkmark$  Joy to the the World! the Lord is come  $\checkmark$ . Corinne, Gary and Emily wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. We also remember our departed loved ones and those recently bereaved; we keep them in our thoughts and hearts.

Christmas Greetings. Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2020 to everybody at St. Thomas'. From Maureen and family.

Donald and Millicent wish everyone at St. Thomas a Happy Christmas and a peaceful, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Adam, Julia, Jacob and Ben send their very best wishes to everyone at St. Thomas' this Christmastime.

Rob, Bev and Matthew Durrrans wish everyone at St. Thomas' a very happy Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Merry Christmas to all our friends. Love Zel, Darren and boys x

Chris and Ken Mayes would like to wish Revd. Denise, Fr. Richard, Hannah and all the parishioners at St. Thomas' a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year.

Lynn Weston would like to wish all her friends reading this magazine a very Happy Christmas and New Year full of peace and contentment.





Eunice and Alan Sarsfield and Family would like to wish everyone at St Thomas', Holy Trinity and St Barnabas, a Peaceful/Happy Christmas and New Year



#### Wishing Revd Denise, Fr Richard and family and everyone else a very happy Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year. Joan, Colin and family.

We wish you all a peaceful Christmas, happy New Year and a prosperous 2020. Simon and Sam

# As part of my drive for Eco Church I am sending this greeting instead of cards this year and donating the money I would have spent to charity. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

As you look out on Christmas Eve and all is calm and still, recall the star that shone so bright to the shepherds on the hill. It led them to the stable where the blessed Christ child lay, they knelt beside his parents and they all began to pray. The prayers they said are true today just as they were back thenmay there be peace upon the Earth and goodwill to all men. And now these prayers are being sent to you and those you love, that Christmas is surrounded by God's blessings from above. May the lord bring you peace and Joy this Christmas

With Love Angela, Tony and family XXX



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Sunday School continues to be very busy practising for the nativity on 22nd December in 10:30am service. It is one of SUNDAY SCHOOL our smaller nativities as several children now attend Wednesday Worship and so no longer attend Sunday

school. However, the members who still attend are absolute stars and I would advise you to watch out for them on TV in the future as there are some real characters as you will see in our Nativity!

After the Nativity there will be no Sunday School until 5th January 2020 when we return back to our normal routine. Any child who chose to step out of Sunday school due to Nativity rehearsals are more than welcome back again. Any new young people wishing to start (age 4+) please do come along in the New Year and speak with a member of the Sunday School team who will be happy to welcome you to our group.

It's important to remind all parents that as well as a register being taken in Sunday school parents must also sign their children in at the back of church at the end of service.

From the Sunday school leaders and all the children we wish everybody a very happy Christmas and a really fun 2020.



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# **R.M.A NEWS**

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#### A Song for Advent by Gail Randall

About eighteen months ago a friend of mine came across an in the Church article Times which she thought might interest me. It told of a society about to compile an anthology of sacred choral music written by women and asking composers to submit works to be considered for publication. That particular edition of the Church Times was already a couple of months old so I assumed I would have missed the deadline but sent an email to find out if that was the case. That was in September 2018 and having received no reply, I decided to forget about it. Quite out of the blue I was contacted in December and told that short-listing would take place in January, so I could still make a submission. For the last five years I have had my music performed at the annual London Festival of Contemporary Church Music and so I submitted a couple of pieces composed for five part choir which have been performed at that Festival.

Once again I decided it was probably best to forget about it, knowing they would receive many submissions from professional composers. However, on Maundy Thursday (2019) I received the news that one of my pieces had been accepted for publication: а setting of the George Herbert 'The Call.' This poem was composed during the year I attended the diocese Foundations for Ministry course and I consider it to be one of my most inspired compositions. At the time of writing I am looking forward to 17<sup>th</sup> November which the launch will see of the anthology at Selwyn College, Cambridge including a reception, evensong, dinner and concert.



George Herbert (1593 – 1633) was an academic and also a clergyman. I believe his poem captures the spirit of Advent.

#### <u>The Call</u>

Come, my way, my Truth, my life:

Such a Way, as gives us breath: Such a truth, as ends all strife: Such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:

Such a Light, as shows a feast:

Such a Feast, as mends in length:

Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:

Such a Joy, as none can move: Such a Love, as none can part: Such a Heart, as joys in love

#### The News Quiz for 2019

How well did you read the News this year? Try this quiz and find out...

**1.** What is a Gillet jaune?

**2.** The famous fashion designer Karl Lagerfield died this year leaving his £150 million fortune to Choupette. Who or what is Choupette?

**3.** In March an aeroplane left London City airport flight with number BA3271 to Düsseldorf. Where did it land?

**4**. Volodymyr Oleksandrovych Zelensky won the Ukrainian Presidential election in April. What was his job before the election?

**5.** There was a serious fire at Notre Dame in April. Who wrote a book in 1831 about the cathedral and to draw attention to the restoration it then needed?

**6.** What is Pteridomania? The Victorians had it.

**7.** Blackpool Tower celebrated its 125th anniversary in May 2019. What landmark inspired it?

**8**. Which former member of the cabinet was named after a battleship?

9. Which country has coins nicknamed loonie and toonie?

**10.** Politicians talked about red lines. What was the thin red line?

**11.** What would you use a French press to make?

**12.** In July we were told to look out for a "Painted Lady Summer". What is that?

**13**. What were male members of the RAF allowed to grow this year that that they have never previously been allowed?

**14.** What were seasiders were advised to stare at to stop them stealing chips and bothering them?

**15.** Which person has the following titles in other languages? (All one person) Leading Star; The Son of the Big Boss; The Sun Looks at Him in a Good Way; and The Helper of the Cows (literally he whom the cows love so much they call for him when they are in times of distress)

**16.** Which territory did Donald Trump say he was interested in buying for the US?

17. Where would you find a small copper and an Essex skipper?18. What did Goldsmiths, University of London, ban the sale of to try to fight global warming?

Answers on Page 25



#### Eco Church update

When you read this, I would have stopped fundraising to twin our church toilets. We have almost reached my target of £420 to twin all 7 toilets in church and the church hall and I'm hoping that I will be able to raise those funds in this last week before International toilet day. I'm sure we will and so I'd like to thank you all now for your support.

Moving forward with our Eco church bid, I've recently updated the survey that needs to be completed. There are 5 categories that need to be addressed and we cannot apply for status until we reach a level in all of them. Here is where we are at currently;-

ne are ac carreny,					
Worship	93/110	Gold			
Buildings	33/445				
Land	25/155				
Community and Global	70/230	Bronze			
anu Giobai					
Lifestyle	58/160	Bronze			

As you can see, we have some way to go with the buildings and land but there are plans for this in the coming year. These include a gardening day, planting insect friendly plants, introducing bug houses and bird boxes, changing the light bulbs to more energy efficient, swapping to green energy suppliers, etc. One of the other things I'd like us to consider over the coming months is how get to church. we Unfortunately, I have no choice drive coming from but to Derbyshire, but I do ring the family en route and see if they would like a lift to reduce the carbon footprint of my journey. Car sharing is something we could all consider or walking together. Would any of you consider cycling to church? And would a bike rack be of use? Please let me know.

I do hope you've noticed my invite to Christmas lunch on page 9. I am planning on doing my best to use local, organic produce, Animal friendly and Fair trade (LOAF). Is this something you could consider? I've started wrapping mv presents and Christmas the brown paper idea I mentioned in last months' magazine is auite effective. I've also sourced some patterned paper IKEA which doesn't from contain plastic and I'm making paper, plastic -free Christmas Crackers at our Messy Church morning on **Saturday** 14<sup>th</sup> December at 10:30am where also we are making Christingles for our service the next day. Why not come along and join us?

Best Wishes Angela



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#### Parish Registers



#### **Baptisms**

Evie Elizabeth Burns Aria Jade Marissa Wardle Wyatt Neal Anthony Wardle

We pray that all who have been baptised will continue to grow in faith.

#### Holy Matrimony

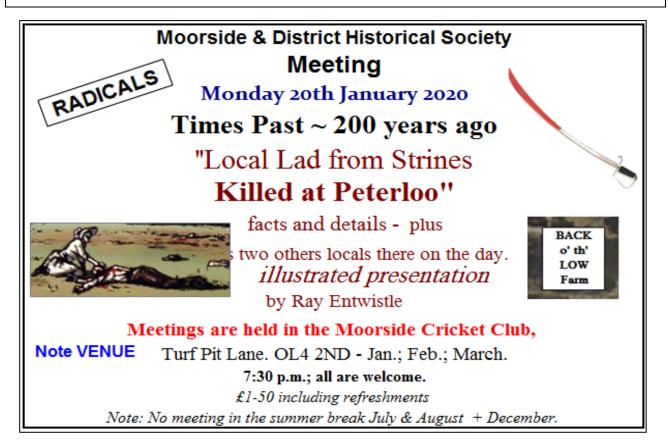
Kirsty Griffin and David Fletcher

We pray for Kirsty and David and their married life together

#### **Funerals**

#### None

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#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the family and friends of Robert Holroyd and Joan Ogden for providing donations in memory of their departed loved ones.

Nicola Sarsfield

Norman Barrass

Black Boxes :- Please keep on returning them. Every penny counts!!

Chris and Ken Mayes

#### 100 Club winners for October:-

1st prize	£30	No.90	Kevin Frankland
2nd prize	£20	No.12	Emily O' Neill
3rd prize	£10	No.67	Harrison Bott

Flower rota :- No flowers during advent

#### **Quiz Answers**

**1**: A Gillet jaune is the yellow reflective vest French drivers have to carry by law in their cars. It became associated with protest.

- **2:** Choupette is a cat, a very rich cat.
- **3**: It landed in Edinburgh by mistake.
- **4**: He was a comedian.
- 5: The Hunchback of Notre-Dame by Victor Hugo
- **6**.: Love of ferns.
- **7**.: Eiffel Tower in Paris.
- **8**. Penny Mordaunt named after the Arethusa-class cruiser HMS Penelope

**9**: Canada. The loonie is the type of bird featured on the dollar coin. Toonie refers to the two-dollar coin.

**10**: The Thin Red Line refers to an episode in the Battle of Balaklava during the Crimean War. Around 500 men of the 93rd (Sutherland Highlanders), aided by a small force of 100 walking wounded, 40 detached Guardsmen, and supported by a substantial force of Turkish infantrymen, led by Sir Colin Campbell, fired at the Russian cavalry.

- **11**.: Coffee
- **12**.: Lots of butterflies
- **13**. Beards
- 14.: Seagulls. (Please do not try this at home. It probably does not work!)
- **15**. HRH Prince Charles
- **16**.: Greenland. It was not for sale.
- **17**.: They are butterflies. You might find them in a churchyard
- **18**.: Beef







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#### **Dec/Jan READINGS & ROTAS**

DATE			<b>1</b> <sup>st</sup>	Reading		2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading		Go	Gospel	
-	Sunday 1st Dec			Isaiah 2. 1-5;		Romans 13. 11-end			Matthew 24. 36-44	
-	th Decemb nday of Adv			Isaiah 11. 1-10		Romans 15. 4-13		-	Matthew 3. 1-12	
	5th Decem ay of Adver			Isaiah 35. 1-10		James 5. 7-10			Matthew 11. 2-11	
-	2nd Decem day of Adve			Isaiah 7. 10-16		Romans 1. 1-7			Matthew 1. 18-end	
-	<b>9th Decem</b> ay of Christr			Isaiah 63. 7-9		Hebrews 2. 10-end		-	Matthew 2. 13-end	
Sunday 51 Epiphany	Sunday 5th January Epiphany		Isaiah 60. 1-6;		Ephesians 3. 1-12			Matthew 2. 1-12		
Sunday 12th January The Baptism of Christ		Isaiah 42. 1-9		Acts 10. 34-43			Matthew 3. 13-end			
Sunday 19th January Second Sunday of Epiphany		Isaiah 49. 1-7		1 Corinthians 1. 1-9			John 1. 29-42			
Sunday 26th January Third Sunday of Epiphany		Isaiah 9. 1-4		1 Corinthians 1. 10-18			Matthew 4. 12-23			
Sunday 2nd February Candlemas		Malachi 3. 1-5		Hebrews 2. 14-end		-	Luke 2. 22-40			
Date	Sides	Reade	rs	Prayers	rs Cleaners		ALTAR		EUCHARIST	
Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	Jodie & Margaret	Gail & Peter	Angela		Helen & Lucy		Cameron & Ben R		Richard & Cathy	
Dec 8 <sup>th</sup>	Chris & Ken	Susan	Eunice			Kathy,Karen Came & Chris & Emi			Parade	
Dec 15 <sup>th</sup>	Susan & Debra	Oliver a Wai	& Lynn		Susan, Bev & Diane		Cameron & George W		Richard & Lindsey	
Dec 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Joan T & Bev	Millicer & Linds	it Sey Sam A		Louise & Eunice		Cameron & Ben R		Richard & Gail	
Dec 29 <sup>th</sup>	Cathy & Lindsey	Susan Eunice	&	Oliver	Lou Eur	ise & lice	Camero & Ben R		Richard & Debra	

At the time of writing the rota for 2020 is in the course of being prepared. Once complete we will leave copies at the back of church and will email those concerned. Please keep checking for details but please speak to a warden if in any doubt.



Don't forget to register for Easy Fundraising when doing your Christmas shopping and bargain hunting in the January sales!

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#### WEEKLY EVENTS

Monday	Handbell Group	10.30am – 12pm	Choir Vestry	
	Rainbows	6.30pm -7.30pm		
	Brownies	6.45pm - 8pm	Church Hall	
	Bell Ringers	7.30pm - 8.30pm	Bell Tower	
	Guides	7.30pm – 9pm	Church Hall	
Tuesday	Beavers	6.30pm -7.30pm	Church Hall	
	Cubs	7.00pm - 8.30pm		
	Scouts	8.00pm - 9.30pm		
	Explorers	8.30pm-9.30/10pm		
Wednesday	Youth Group for 3 <sup>rd</sup> Age	1.30 – 3pm	Church Hall Lounge	
	Wednesday Worship	7pm	Church	
Thursday	Choir	6.30pm – 8pm	Choir Vestry	
Sunday	Parish Communion	8.30am/10.30am	Church	
	Sunday School/Sunday Youth	10.25am	Church Hall	

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