

Palm Sunday – Arrival of the Servant King (Luke19:28-38)



Welcome to St Thomas's Church, working with other local churches, with a care and love for the whole community. Please say hello and we'd love you to stay for refreshments in our hall.

You are welcome to use one of the blue church bibles; page numbers for the readings will be given out & will be on the screen too.

Usual Sunday Service times:

8.30am Communion + 10.00am Family Service + 11.30am Informal Service

Wednesday: 9.45am Communion

Morning Prayers: 9.15am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

Collect Prayer This Week:

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory. Amen

Sunday 8.30am & 10am	Sunday 11:30 am	Wednesday 9:45am
Zechariah 9.9-10 (p955)	Luke 19v28-38 (p1054)	Hebrews 12.1-3 (p1210)
Luke 19v28-38 (p1054)		John 13.21-27 (p1082)

Let us Pray: Please use this prayer list in your private prayers as we also use them in church. If you would like to be added to the prayer list, or for items of 'thanks', please let Rev's David or Ruth know.

The sick, including: Sarah Newbound, Jennifer Tavendale, Ben, Rex & Wendy Molyneux, Andrew Bachini.

Cycle of those needing ongoing prayer: Bob Gunn, Peter Pullan, Shweta, Marilyn Wheeler

Those who are grieving for: Helena Cloonan, Jean Molyneux, Geoffrey Kime, Gail

We give thanks: Send us some items of thanks, so we can rejoice together.....

Deborah Bachini: Our family gives thanks for the safe return of my nephew David, and his comrades, from their recent tour of duty in Oman.

Jane Mathew: When I think of the many hard situations I have been through in my life I simply don't know what I would have done without my faith to get me through. Also, I would to thank God for the four special days my son Barry and I had together in Milan, we got back yesterday, he treated me to celebrate my birthday. And very thankful for getting us there and back in safety.

Stella Marshall: I would like to say thanks for God's patience as He waited for me to listen to him and thanks that I was elected to the PCC. Also thanks that He helped David and Ruth guide me to where I felt ready to be on the PCC.

Easter Services Easter and Holy Week is coming!. Join us and invite friends and family:

Mon of Holy Week
Tue of Holy Week
Wed of Holy Week
Maundy Thursday
Good Friday

7:30pm Holy Week Service led by Bishop of Bedford at StTs
 7:30pm As above, but at St Anne's Church, Crawley Green Road, Luton LU2 0QN
 7:30pm As above, but at St Andrew's Church, Church Road, Slip End LU1 4BJ
7:30pm Last Supper Communion
9am Walk of Witness - start at St Francis Church
You can join the walk at Ramridge Baptist, Sacred Heart, St Thomas's, or at the finish at St Christopher's Round Green.
11:15am United Service at St Christopher's
1:30pm 'Around the Cross' (at StTs)
8:15pm Easter Light Service
5:54am Sunrise Service - Meet at StTs 5:40am
9:30am Easter Breakfast
10:30am Easter Combined Communion

Easter Eve
Easter Day

Upcoming Church News:

Church AGM Update, New PCC and Churchwarden News: We held a successful meeting on Sunday 7th April. If you weren't able to attend please ask about it, and we will aim to circulate some draft minutes as soon as possible. Steve Dolby has now stepped down as churchwarden – many thanks Steve for all you have done for us over the years. Ian Marshall was re-elected and now is our sole churchwarden – please be gentle with him! We are planning to form a small leadership group to help lead the church, and one of its roles will be to assist Ian and the clergy, as well as spearheading our future growth and plans. We say thanks to Tony Holmes, Louise Winter and John Barr who have

come the end of their term on the Church Council (PCC). We re-elected Neil Rolls (our Treasurer) and elected new members John Kingham, Stella Marshall, Stewart Leary, Karen Ritchie, Julie Bailey and John Pinnock. Please pray for them, and also our existing members: Deborah Bachini, Linda Clitheroe, Rosemary Stipta, David Newbound, John Alexander, Ruth Barr and David Alexander, and also our Deanery Synod reps (who also are thereby members of the PCC): Steve Dolby and Christine Younger. Please do chat to any PCC members if you have any comments, ideas and feedback on church life and activities. We want to represent you, and also seek guidance from God to lead the church into growth.

News from the Bishop: “We are pleased to announce that the Reverend Ruth Barr, Assistant Curate at St Thomas, Stopsley, has been appointed as Team Vicar within the Bishops Hatfield Team Ministry, with special responsibility for St Mary’s, North Mymms. This is subject to the completion of the usual legal formalities after which further information will be announced. Meanwhile please remember Ruth, John and their family in your prayers as they prepare for their move.”

Easter Breakfast. Don’t forget to put your name down on the sign-up sheet in the porch if you want to come to Breakfast on Easter Day so that we can cater for you.

Lent Lunch: Last Wednesday of Lent April 17. A sign-up sheet is in the porch or contact David Newbound.

Church Office. There some changes in the Office. After 18 years Linda Clitheroe is retiring from the Office and we said thank you at the AGM. Thanks Linda for all you have done for us all. Deborah Bachini is increasing her hours to cover – please continue to pray for her. The Office is generally open weekday mornings 10am-Noon, Monday to Thursday, but will be taking a break in the week after Easter.

Thank-you to those who have given cash to Ruth for the Luton Foodbank in aid of the fundraising Colour Run that Donna Alexander did a couple of weeks ago: an extra £65 which was Gift Aided for an extra £16.25. They are still desperately short of tinned fruit, tinned veg, long-life fruit juice & long-life milk.

Receiving emails? We now are sending out weekly news by email. Let us know if you would like to receive these.

Join us on WhatsApp. We have a WhatsApp group for the Church – please join us. We also now have a new group to sell items to raise funds for St Thomas's, or to be given away to bless others. If you have a smart phone, for either Group, please give your mobile number to the office (01582- 729194) or speak to David, Ruth or Linda Clitheroe.

No Morning Prayers in church from 18th April till 29th April. But before then and afterwards, why not join us if you are available. It’s a great way to pray together and focus on what God wants for our lives. Don’t be scared – come along!

Thanks for the Gifts and Flowers. Ruth and John Barr, Steve and Anne Dolby, Linda, Jane and David Alexander would all like to say thank you for the wonderful ‘thank you’ gifts and flowers presented at the AGM last Sunday. They are much appreciated.

Inspirational Quote: “Nothing is far from God.” *Monica of Hippo*

Regular Diary Dates (some provisional)

1 st Wed	12:30pm Parish Lunch - Hall
1 st Sat	10 –12 noon Coffee Morning - Hall
Mon	1.00pm – 4pm Craftanoon - Hall
Tues	7.15 – 8:30pm Christianity Explored - Hall
Thurs	10am Scrabble Club – Hall
Thurs	2pm – 4pm Tent Project – Hall
Thurs	8pm Homegroup. Marshall’s Home

Upcoming Diary Dates

Mon 15 Apr	7:30pm Holy Week Service led by Bishop
Wed 17 Apr	11.15am Burial of Ashes Pat Devlin
Thur 18 Apr	7:30pm Maundy Thurs Service
Fri 19 April	9am, 11:15am, 1:30pm Good Friday Services
Sun 21 Apr	5:54am, 10:30am Easter Day Services
Wed 24 Apr	11:30am Funeral Jean Molyneux in Church
Thurs 2 May	Ladies Homegroup Restarts
Thurs 2 May	Local Elections in the Church Hall
Sat 4 May	10am Coffee Morning
Thur 23 May	Possible Euro Elections in the Church Hall!!!
Nov 16	LYCIG Grow Your Church Day – put in diary

CONTACT US:

Address: 585a Hitchin Rd, Stopsley, Luton LU2 7UL

Reg Charity No 1175152

Parish Office: 01582 729194; office@stopsleyparish.org.uk Generally open weekday mornings, 10-Noon, Mon – Thurs.


Vicar: Rev David Alexander 01582 721911 or 07796 334300, vicar@stopsleyparish.org.uk

Curate: Rev Ruth Barr 07447 458526 curate@stopsleyparish.org.uk

Director of Pastoral Care: David Newbound 07885 605977 david.newbound@btinternet.com

Parish Nurse (from May 12th): Debbie Newbound. To make an appointment phone 07879073060 (number does not go live until May 12th)

Churchwarden: Ian Marshall 07968131997 ian.marshall125@gmail.com

Webpage: www.stopsleyparish.org.uk  Twitter: @stopsleyvicar

 Facebook: Stopsley-Parish-Church

We have a trained **Counsellor**, based at St Thomas’s., by appointment. Please contact Parish office on 01582-729194.

Safeguarding concerns, please contact Judi Kingham 01582-619432 or Linda Clitheroe 01582-729194.

Loop Please switch your hearing aid to ‘T.’ If you need the service sheet made larger, please let us know.

Photos/videos are sometimes taken in services please let us know if you would rather not be in any church publicity

Please join the **Parish Giving Scheme** and **Electoral Roll**. **Bank Account:** Sort Code 20-53-97 Acct. 10792063