

Thurstonland Parish News



January—February
2025

A PASTORAL MESSAGE FOR THE NEW YEAR FROM REV NICK HEATION VICAR OF ST DAVID'S CHURCH HOLMBRIDGE

NEW YEAR 2025

So, we have come to the end of another year. The media has been filled with commentaries on the year that will soon be consigned to history, and speculative predictions on what lies ahead.

For me new year is always a reflective time; a time for taking stock of what I am doing with my life, with the time that God has given me.

Human beings have always marked time by significant events. The real question is not whether we will mark time, but how we will do so. What events and what messages are we proclaiming in the calendaring of time?

For the Christian, time is not meant to become a tyrant ruling over us. Rather, it's intended to be a teacher, instructing and presenting us with opportunity and invitations to walk the way of Jesus.

Rather than being dreaded as an enemy, it's to be cultivated as a friend. Its role and reach is a part of the redemptive loving plan of God. In the Incarnation, the Eternal Word became flesh; breaking into time to transform it from within.

The Lord who created time, now gives us time as a gift.

By entering into time He removed the curse it held over all men and women by defeating death.

In Him, time now becomes a field of choice where we can grow as Jesus' followers, experience fully human life and find real freedom.

We can begin to participate in God's loving plan to recreate the entire cosmos in and through Jesus Christ.

Time is the road along which this loving plan of redemption proceeds in our individual lives and in the history of this world. We are invited to participate in this loving plan by living our lives close to God, following the way of Jesus in the church and on our frontlines day by day.

So, how do we view time?

Is it a tyrant ruling over us? Or, is it a tutor, teaching us the way to live our lives in this world so that they open into eternity?

Christians proclaim a linear timeline in history. There is a beginning and an end, a fulfilment, which is a new beginning. Time is actually heading somewhere. That is as true of the history of the world as it is our own personal histories.

Do we live this way?

Christians mark time by the great events of the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are moving toward His loving return. As John recorded in the last book of the Bible; Revelation, our use of time is meant to bear good fruit. We will bear good fruitif we have an intimate relationship with the One who both gives and governs time.

So, time is the opportunity for the Christian to bear fruit that lasts. So how will we, how will you use the time God is giving you in the year ahead?

How will you deepen and sustain your relationship with him? How can enjoy closer fellowship with our church family? How can you bear good fruit for him in your daily life?

Will I find a way (or ways) of finding regular time for God in my life?

Will I make myself open to Him teaching me new things?

Dare I see time, even daily, ordinary work and family life as an opportunity to serve Him and be a part of his ongoing healing work in the world?

With love in Christ

Nick

**HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL
AT ST THOMAS'**



VILLAGE DIARY January 2025

Weds 1 Jan 2025	Happy New Year! Bank Holiday	
Thurs 2 Jan	Coffee Morning	10.30am – 12 noon
Sun 5 Jan	Epiphany Family Service	10am
Mon 6 Jan	New School Term starts	
Weds 8 Jan	WI meeting @SVH	2pm-4pm
Thurs 9 Jan	Community Cards Group	2pm-4pm
Sun 12 Jan	Joint Service of Holy Communion with Bishop Smitha @ Christ Church, New Mill	11am
Sun 19 Jan	Family Holy Communion Service	9.30am
Thurs 23 Jan	Community Cards Group Choir Practice	2pm-4pm 7.30pm-9pm
Sun 26 Jan	Joint Service of Holy Communion with Christ Church, New Mill	10am Venue TBC
Weds 29 Jan	Mothers Union Meeting	7.30pm
Weds 30 Jan	Please note no Choir Practice	
Fri 31 Jan	Please note- no Community Lunch	

VILLAGE DIARY February 2025

Sun 2 Feb	Family Service	10am
Thurs 6 Feb	Coffee Morning Choir Practice	10.30am- 12noon 7.30pm-9pm
Sun 9 Feb	BCP Holy Communion Ser- vice	9.30am
Weds 12 Feb	WI meeting @SVH	2pm-4pm
Thurs 13 Feb	Community Cards Group Choir Practice	2pm-4pm 7.30pm-9pm
Fri 14 Feb	School break up for half term	
Sun 16 Feb	Family Holy Communion Service	9.30am
Thurs 20 Feb	Choir Practice	7.30pm-9pm
Sun 23 Feb	Joint Service of Holy Com- munion with Christ Church New Mill @ St T's	10am
Mon 24 Feb	School re-opens after half term	
Weds 26 Feb	Mothers Union Meeting	7.30pm
Thurs 27 Feb	Community Cards Group Choir Practice	2pm-4pm 7.30pm-9pm
Fri 28 Feb	Community Lunch (booking essential)	12 noon

N.B. Service times and venues may change due to being in Interregnum

Thurstonland Community Choir News

The Choir had a slightly stumbling start to its Christmas activities with the cancellation of our performance at the New Mill Christmas Market. Given that our members are of various ages and locations, and given the amount of snow that had fallen overnight, it was deemed too unsafe to ask people to travel.

That cancellation meant that we hadn't been able to perform the song that we'd used as the theme for our Christmas tree in church, a jazzy version of Frank Sinatra's "Let it snow, let it snow!". We therefore decided that we'd sing it at the end of the Carol service in church, which went down well with the congregation! Indeed the whole Carol service was lovely with a beautiful solo verse to start "Once in royal David's city" sung by Dawn Leeming. We also included a couple of rather lovely carols for ladies in 3 parts, the Ukrainian "Carol of the bells" and Benjamin Britten's "Balulalow" from his Ceremony of Carols.

Our final engagement was leading the Carol singing around Thurstonland with our friends HD9 Community Brass. As most of you will know we were looking to collect donations in aid of the Forget Ne Not Children's Hospice and engaged some of our younger villagers to help collect donations from village houses. I'm sure you'll agree that our collectors:- Fabien and Pablo Selka, Guy and Annabel Bailey, and Hettie Langrick were extremely diligent but courteous in their collecting. We had a good number of villagers come on the walk and everyone seemed appreciative of the warm mince pies brought out to the green and provided by the generous Choir members.

We are especially grateful and proud of the efforts of our village to support this excellent cause and we can now report that on the night our final total of donations was a magnificent £521.30. Thank you all so much!



Contd...

Having finished up at the Rose and Crown, we were generously given a large pan of soup to warm us all up and, after repaying their kindness by buying some drinks, we finished our Christmas for 2024 very happily. Since it started 12 years ago, the Community Choir, with the support of Thurstonland villagers, has raised over £21,000 for local charities, a sum we can all be proud of.

The Choir is now on holiday and will resume rehearsals on Jan 23rd by which time we hope we may be past most of the coldest days!

A MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Dear All

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is conscious that the historical events leading to the recent resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury have raised concerns, which we share.

We would like to reassure you that the safeguarding of all people associated with the day-to-day operation of St Thomas' lies at our core.

The PCC attend regular courses and have safeguarding policies and procedures in place, which are regularly reviewed and updated. I am the dedicated safeguarding officer, Kate Gaunt, and am trained to identify and respond to any concerns.

We all have a duty of care and we encourage you to report any concerns or suspicions of abuse or neglect to our safeguarding officer or the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. Your voice matters and we are committed to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.

Sincerely,

Kate Gaunt, Safeguarding Officer, St Thomas' Church, Thurstonland

COMMUNITY LUNCHEES, COFFEE MORNINGS & FESTIVE AFTERNOON TEAS

The coffee mornings continue to be held on the first Thursday in the month – our thanks go to all who host them. When the School calendar permits, we welcome some of the older school children who act as waiters for us. They really enjoy the experience and we hope that we can continue with this practice in the New Year. The next dates for the coffee mornings are Thursday 2nd January and Thursday 6th February 2025.

The Community Lunches are also thriving. The November lunch was very popular and was followed in December by our Festive afternoon Tea. 28 people gathered in the church room, were greeted with a glass of sherry and were then entertained by the school children who sang Christmas songs for them. This was followed by the tea - provided and served by our trusty team of lunch club ladies to whom we are all very grateful for their generosity. The afternoon ended with small gifts being distributed. There were 2 people unable to attend and so their teas were delivered to them. There is no charge for this event as it is supported by profits made at the Community lunches and the generosity of the team. However, we asked if those attended could bring something to be donated to the Welcome Centre. I am pleased to report that their gifts were delivered to the Welcome Centre in time for Christmas. Our thanks go to all who donated.

Unfortunately, because of holiday and family commitments, there will be no lunch in January. The February lunch will be held on Friday 28th February 2025 – ring or email me to book a place.

Happy New Year!

Best wishes. Janet

(Tel 663124 or text 07710588275 email – mrswilts@yahoo.co.uk)

COMMUNITY CARDS

The Community Cards Group who make all our used greetings cards into new ones and sell them to raise funds for the Welcome Centre, continue to meet in the church room on the afternoons of the 2nd & 4th Thursday in the month starting again in February. They always have a good selection of greetings cards available to purchase in the church room. Please remember that used greetings cards can be left in the box in the church porch for re-cycling. However, they would like to remind you that they cannot re-cycle any Christmas Cards this year as they do not make new Christmas cards anymore.

CHRISTMAS TREE DISPLAY AND TREE LIGHTING SERVICE

The Christmas trees inside and outside the church were lit during a lovely service on Advent Sunday, 1st December, which was led by Ailsa. The first Advent candle was lit on the wreath. We are grateful to Irene Miller for making the wreath, to Richard for providing the outside tree, to Lynda, Jo and Sue who once again decorated the church windows and to all the Community Groups who displayed the trees inside the church.



CHRISTMAS MARKET

We are once more grateful to Richard at the Rose & Crown, for letting us use one of the pods on the day of the Market, 23rd November. Our Bottle stall, sale of jigsaws (which were kindly donated by Jacqui Duns) and Hamper Raffle raised just over £400 for church funds, despite the best efforts of Storm Bert to drown or blow us all, away! Thanks to all who supported this event and those who donated bottles and items for the Christmas Hamper, your support is much appreciated. Please see below the results of the hamper raffle and congratulations to Helena & Charlie Day for winning it!

SCHOOL NATIVITY

The school once again held their 2 Nativity performances in church. We are grateful for their donation of £89.90 towards the church running costs.

CAROL SERVICE

The Carol Service was held on the morning of 16th December and was well attended. The service was organised by the Community Choir and Rev Peter Ingram presided. Refreshments of tea, coffee, mulled wine and mince pies were served in the church room after the service.

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THURSTONLAND MOTHERS' UNION

meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in St Thomas' Church Room

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Jenni Wohlman writes:

I hope everyone has enjoyed the Christmas festivities. It seems a long time since our last branch meeting in November when we had the chance to practise some Chair Yoga. Katy Martins put us through our paces and it was clear that we all found the experience both beneficial and enjoyable.

We do not have a meeting in December but many of us are involved in the various Christmas activities in the village, not least the ever-popular Christmas Tree display in the church. This year's Mothers' Union contribution represented our organisation's current campaign 'Empower Her Literacy' which aims to raise awareness of women's illiteracy and promote the importance of educating women of all ages.

Our first opportunity to meet in the New Year is at **1 pm on Monday 8th January** when we take part in the International Wave of Prayer. After the prayers we will have a chance to catch up over refreshments.

The next event in January is our Party on **Wednesday 29th at 7.30 pm**. Always a very merry affair, we usually have excellent attendance. I do hope to see everyone that night as, very sadly, it will be my last meeting as Branch Leader. It has been a real privilege and, despite my initial misgivings at taking over after the irreplaceable Barbara Neale stepped down, I have met with nothing but support and friendship, for which I thank you all.

All this means, as you know, that from now on the branch members will decide how you wish to proceed. February is traditionally the meeting where we have an opportunity to share precious memories around a chosen topic and each person brings a relevant article or photograph.

I feel sure the branch will continue to go from strength to strength. You can always call me on 07940 791784, in fact I hope you will keep in touch.. Wishing you every blessing in 2025.



Writing this after Christmas, the sun is shining, the temperature is almost into double figures, and the recent morning mist that has filled the valley below has been 'burnt' off. How different from the winters when the village would be cut off from the outside world by heavy snowfalls. In 2013, 1982, 1963, 1953 and especially 1947, winters were particularly bad for the country and



Haw cliff Lane 1953

especially for this village, as its height above sea level exacerbates the problem. I sometimes wonder if we'll ever see snow again in Thurstonland, and on a broader front, what are the implications of these changes?

Looking back over 2024, the death of the TVA's chairman was a terrible shock for all of us who knew John. He'd volunteered to take on the job when there were shrinking numbers coming to meetings, and several officers and committee members had retired after many years of service, but several more villagers came along to meetings and the association is now in a healthier position. He will be sadly missed.

The last year has seen several people move into the village and add their names to the growing email list that has been so useful in passing on news of events and the expanding website contains details of all village groups and six local walks. Hopefully, all residents received a newsletter in December – thanks to all who helped in its production.

Thanks must go to all who help make the village a friendly community.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR from all at the TVA.

Next Meeting: **7.30pm, Monday, March 3rd at the Cricket Club**

All villagers welcome!



**CHRISTMAS HAMPER DRAW 15 December 2024
PRIZE WINNERS**

Name	Prize
Helen & Charlie Day	Large Hamper
Penny Lunn	Small Hamper
Joy Lane	Large Cath Kidston Gift Set
Richard Wood	Bottle of Baileys
Simon Farrar	Small Cath Kidston Gift Set
Brenda Vale	Molton Brown Gift Cracker
Michelle Ellwood	Rebecca Tracey Candle
Helen Gaunt	Thorntons Chocolates
Brian Herbert	Votive Gift Set
Simon Farrar	Laura Ashley Bath Cream
Win Avey	Gonk Candle Set
John Stewart	Ladies Bracelet
Fiona Noble	Ladies Gloves and Perfume
Joy Sharrock	Cheese platter
Sarah Todd	Miniature ports
Gilly Cummings	Table decoration
Becky (Rose & Crown)	Melter, wax melts & tea lights set
Joan Callan	Box of biscuits
Renee Rowden	No 7 skin care set

CHRISTINGLE

This year the Christingle Service was once again held at 3pm on Christmas Eve. It was a lovely service led by Ailsa who told the story of the Nativity. It was well attended by approximately 40 adults and 11 children. The Posada was returned to church by Lottie and her family and the figures (including the “Wonky Donkey”) were placed in the Nativity scene in church. Our thanks go once more to Lynda & Sue who made the Christingles for us and to Joe who helped to distribute them.



We are extremely grateful to all the retired clergy in the Team who are filling Sean’s shoes in covering our services during the Interregnum, but especially to Ailsa who took both the Christingle Service and the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. Our thanks too to Graham and Angela for providing such excellent music for our services and to Brian for replacing the old CD player with one that works brilliantly!

VISIT BY BISHOP SMITHA, THE BISHOP OF HUDDERSFIELD – 12TH JANUARY 2024

You are invited to a special service of Holy Communion on Sunday January 12th at 11am when we will be joining with our friends at Christ Church, New Mill for a Eucharist , which will be celebrated by the Rt. Reverend Bishop Smitha Prasadham, Bishop of Huddersfield.

Everyone is most welcome to come along and we hope that as many people as possible will take the opportunity to chat with the Bishop over a cup of tea after the service.

A GIFT IN MEMORY OF JOAN & JOHN BATTYE

At the Advent service on 1st December, Allison & Julie, the daughters of Joan & John Battye presented the church with a lovely slate candle holder in memory of their parents, for which we are very grateful. John was Churchwarden at St Thomas' and Joan Branch Leader of the Mothers' Union. They worshipped at St Thomas' for many years and their ashes are buried in the Memorial Garden.

North Wales was a dearly loved place for the whole family and the candle holder is made of Welsh slate from the mine in Blaenau Festiniog, North Wales. The family hope that those who wish to remember loved ones find comfort being able to light a candle in remembrance.



Candle holder in memory of Joan & John Battye



REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Remembrance Day Service was led by Rev Dr Steve Dixon and was well attended. Those present at the service processed to the War Memorial and were joined by many other members of the local community for the laying of wreaths. The Royal British Legion were represented, the flag lowered and a bugler played The Last Post. Wreaths were laid by the RBL, the church, the TVA and the Parish Council. The RBL have thanked the community for buying poppies in church and for the retiring collection after the service



ST THOMAS' CHURCH SERVICES

www.thurstonland.org or www.newmillpc.org.uk

January 2025

Date 2025	Service & Time	Minister	Saying Hello	Intercessor	Reader	Reading	Chalice Holder	Coffee
5	Family Service 10am	Bill	Lynda	Jenni	Jenni	Isaiah 60: 1-6 Ephesians 3: 1-12 Matthew 2: 1-12	-	Lynda
12	Joint Service 11am Christ Church	Bishop Smitha		-				
19	Holy Communion 9:30am	Peter	Vernon	Mari- anne	Marianne	Isaiah 62: 1-5 Corinthians 12: 1-11 John 2: 1-11	Jackie	Gilly
26	Joint Service TBC (? St Thomas)		Sue	Lynda	Lynda		Janet	Richard

February 2025

Date 2025	Service & Time	Minister	Saying Hello	Interces- sor	Reader	Reading	Chalice Holder	Coffee
2	Family Service 10am	Ailsa	Lynda	Jenni	Jenni	Malachi 3: 1-5 Hebrews 2: 14-end Luke 2: 22-40	-	Sue
9	BCP Commu- nion 9.30am	Lorna	Brian	-	Brian	Isaiah 6: 1-6 Corinthians 15: 1-11 Luke 5: 1-11	Liz	Carole
16	Holy Com- munion 9.30am	Peter	Vernon	Michelle	Michelle	Jeremiah 17: 1-10 Corinthians 15: 12-20 Luke 6: 17-26	Michelle	Jo
23	Joint Service ?	Di						

Further details on page 19

THANK YOU LETTER FROM SEAN

Rev'd Canon Sean and Mrs Sally Robertshaw
Shepley
Huddersfield

Email: revsean10@gmail.com

17 November 2024

Dear friends,

We have been overcome with your good wishes and expressions of love for us, our time amongst you and for our future. Words cannot adequately express our gratitude; the whole experience of leaving behind us 28 years of living was always going to be a challenging one. Your love and prayers have helped carry us through some of these moments. The service celebrating All Saints and the following lunch on the 3rd of Nov at Christ Church was overwhelming.

We will have moved into our home by the end of the month and my new role in the diocese as director of vocations is beginning to take shape. It's only early days but we managed to hook up with friends on the other side of Sheffield recently to join their celebration for 20 years of 'Outcry'. You might remember they are the band that supported us at many of the Folk Festival services in Holmfirth. It felt good to be with a fellowship praising God. I think we might well enjoy the flexibility and opportunity to experience different worship styles and denominations. We are sure God is with us, and that provision is being made for the Holme Valley congregations.

As we journey towards advent and the beginning of the new lectionary year we will continue to hold you in our prayers, praying often for you with love and affection in our hearts. The new lectionary will present Luke's Gospel. The writer affirms his reason for writing, v4 "So that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught." Stay strong in the Lord in these uncertain times and trust in God always. We pray that God will continue to bless you.

Very many thanks for your good wishes, gifts and friendship.

Yours faithfully,

Sean, Sally, William and Lydia.

Brass cleaning in February— Sue Todd

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Vicar (Vacant)

Rev Ailsa Brooke

01484 883278

Churchwardens

Janet Wiltshire, 52, The Village, Thurstonland

01484 663123

Richard Wood, 11, Moor Top Avenue Thurstonland

01484 662752

PCC Secretary

Janet Wiltshire, 52, The Village, Thurstonland

01484 663123

PCC Treasurer

Lynda Booth, 3, Moor Top Avenue, Thurstonland

07742 730591

Parish Giving Officer

Contact Lynda Booth or Janet Wiltshire

Mothers' Union

Jenni Wohlman 'Hudd Royd' 4 Top of the Hill,
Thurstonland

01484 663996

Safeguarding & Children's Ministry contact

kgaunt15@gmail.com

Usual times of Church Services

10.00am	1st Sunday each month	A Service of the Word.
9.30am	2nd Sunday each month	Sung Holy Communion BCP
9.30am	3rd Sunday each month	Sung Family Eucharist
11.00am	4th Sunday each month	Eucharist @ Christ Church
10.00am	5th Sunday each month	Team Eucharist (see mag for info)