
St Thomas . Penny Street . Lancaster

Worshipping God together and at home, we serve and proclaim Jesus wherever we are.

St.tees bulletin

6th December 2009

TODAY

Advent 2: *Jesus is coming again - hallelujah!*

And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. Matthew 24:v6 ESV



STUDENT LUNCH in the downstairs centre (behind the church) following the morning service. All students welcome.

THE CHRISTMAS CARD As in previous years, rather than church folk sending individual Christmas card greetings to each other, there is one 'big card' in the church lounge. Write your greeting on the angels etc provided and pin to the notice board. Any money you have saved by not purchasing individual cards can be given to The Ark. Please put your donation in the envelopes provided, mark clearly and hand to a member of staff (not Peter!) or place in the offering. **Do not leave money in the lounge area.**

After Hours for 6th form age students and those in their 20s (also Year 11 students) meet in the downstairs centre 8:15 pm Sundays. Tonight there will be a party, after which, After Hours will not meet until Sunday 17th January 2010.

Sermon's for December:

December 6th

9:15 am
10:30 am
6:15 pm

Holy Communion (said) in the downstairs centre
All-Age Service Waiting for God
Service of the Word Meaning; What's the Point?
(Luke 5: v 1-11)



December 13th

10:30 am
6:15 pm

Holy Communion Advent Community waiting actively in prayerful attention (Matthew 24: v 32-51)
Service of the Word Advent Community waiting in obedient expectation
(1 Thessalonians 5: v 1-28)

December 20th

10:30 am
6:15 pm

All-Age Nativity

Carol Service with Holy Communion Advent Community waiting for his coming. Jesus came as a baby and is coming again as a glorious king. (Philippians 2: v 5-13)

Christmas Eve December 24th

5:00 pm

Carols by Candlelight

Jesus, Light of the nations.

Christmas Day December 25th

10:30 am

All-Age Holy Communion Jesus the Saviour is born (Luke 2: v 1-20)



December 27th

10:30 am
6:15 pm

All-Age Holy Communion The angels were there: worshipping and announcing the good news. We are messengers too (Luke 2: v 8-18)

Service of the Word Living as a people of hope. (1 Peter 1:v 3-23)

THIS WEEK

BIBLE STUDY on Mondays for those aged 16 - 30 ish. An opportunity to discuss together how to live lives that glorify God. Bring your questions/views and explore what God has called us to be as His church and live it out practically. 7:00 - 9:00 pm at 14 Lindow Square, Lancaster. For tomorrow the passage is on chapters 12, 14, 15 & 16!



EXTRA TIME meets on **Tuesday morning 8th December** 10:15 am for 10:30 am in the downstairs centre. There will be Carols and Readings for Christmas, followed by a bring and share lunch. All welcome. Please come along with your Christmas tales, quotes and anecdotes.

NISCU Come along on **Tuesday morning 8th December** to find out news and pray for the North Lancs team and others working in schools. 11:00 am coffee, 11:30 am prayer, 12:00 noon light lunch. Venue: Inglewood, Aldcliffe, Lancaster.

CONTEMPORARY DANCE GROUP 8:00 pm in the downstairs centre. Just turn up! For anyone age 12 and upwards (no maximum age limit!) and no previous dance experience is needed. **Tuesday 8th December and 15th December.** More information from Jess Walmsley, Diane Armstrong or Debbie Lemmon (01524) 34007; debbielem@hotmail.com.

FAITH IN LANCASTER (Inter Faith organisation for Lancaster & District) invite you to a **Tree Planting Ceremony on Wednesday 9th December** 12:30 pm in Dalton Square. In recognition of the organisation's formal constitution and as a follow-up to last month's celebration of Inter Faith Week. See notice board for details.

CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS The next rehearsal is on **Thursday 10th December** 8:00 pm in church. (Future rehearsal dates **Fri 18th & Wed 23rd December.**)



STUDENT ALPHA For those who would like to be involved in Student Alpha in the New Year, there is a training / information session on **Saturday 12th December** 11:00 am - 3:00 pm in church. We will be looking at what will be happening and how people can get involved. The training will be on how to be a host or encourager in groups and be involved in prayer ministry. If you are coming along and would like to be involved please contact Naomi: naomi@st.tees.org.uk.



CHRISTMAS CREATIVE WRITING Explore your faith through creative writing and discover the writer within you. Two writing workshops are taking place in the church centre upstairs lounge during Advent, completely free of charge. **Saturday 12th December.** Could you write a modern-day Christmas Carol? Book your place by emailing Nick Robinson on nick.robinson17@btinternet.com or ring 07889 294 102.

PRAYER NIGHT "A Journey to Church" The church will be set out as a journey through the Old Testament to the gospels on to the epistles and forward to the church today. Along the journey there are some rest stops. Chance to pause, listen and wait on God. Come and dedicate some time to God in the midst of daily life. See how God's people have journeyed in various ways throughout the Bible and pray about what church can be and how you are part of it. Bring a notepad to jot down your prayerful ponderings during the evening of **Saturday 12th December.** Contact Naomi: naomi@st.tees.org.uk.

NEXT SUNDAY

SPORTS AT ST. TEES Following on from the success of the weekly football group, we are keen to widen the Sports Ministry at St Tees. Ideas that have been suggested include *a running group, badminton and table tennis evenings, monthly cricket games, a series of rambles/hill walks, and even a water sports activity day!*

A Sports Lunch (bring and share) has been arranged for after the morning service on **Sunday 13th December**. Come and learn more about what may be happening in the New Year! Also, Martin Bateman will talk about his work with Sports ministry through Operation Mobilisation. *Book this in your diary if you would like to be involved with Sport at St Tees.* For now you can visit the church website: www.st.tees.org.uk for more information, or on Facebook 1. Search "@St.Tees". 2. Click on Groups, 3. Set Group Type to show 'Sports & Recreation'.
The Sports Team

EVENTS COMING UP

GROWING LEADERS COURSE

Leadership is a proven factor in growing, healthy churches yet so many struggle to find leaders. We need to grow more leaders - more people to take on leadership roles and responsibilities within our own and local congregations. We need more growing leaders - leaders who are growing and developing themselves, will tend to grow others into leadership.

The "**Growing Leaders Course**" is a practical resource from CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society). Over a year, provisionally booked to start at St Thomas's in January 2010 and led by Rev Sam Corley, it has a unique mix of teaching, mentoring and practical application which focuses on leadership rooted in Christ, deepening commitment to long term service and essential skills for the task.

Numbers will be limited therefore all who apply may not be accepted. Dates of the course are on the notice board in the church lounge. If you're interested please contact the Church Office.

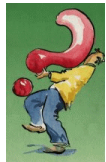
CHRISTMAS EVENTS & SERVICES AT ST THOMAS'S



**Puppet Nativity
Saturday 19th
December** at
3:00 pm for
children under
five and their
f a m i l i e s .
Invitations on the
welcome desk.

(If anyone would like to help with refreshments afterwards please contact Sarah).

Pick up a leaflet from the welcome desk giving details and times of Christmas Services.



ALPHA Have you always wanted to invite your neighbour or friend to an Alpha course, but they couldn't commit themselves to an evening Alpha? Do they live in the Morecambe area? Here's your chance: We will be running an Alpha course in Bare on Monday mornings, starting on **11th January**. If you or somebody you know is interested, please contact me here in church or give me a call on (01524) 406156 (Maja Möller). Our Alpha course is organised by different churches and will take place in a cosy living room atmosphere.

NOTICE BOARD

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH for International students and families, arranged by Friends International. If you would like to help with this there are lots of ways you can be involved: transporting students; helping to cook; donate a pudding; wash up; get involved in games etc. Contact Elspeth Wood: wood@friendsinternational.org.uk or phone (01524) 592580.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS for International students and families, organised by Friends International - see notice board for details.

CHRISTMAS AT THE ARK We would be most grateful for your annual contribution of socks, underwear, hats, gloves and scarves for our guests. We would like to request '*really girlie*' socks and briefs (size 8 - 10) for our young women. Men's pants size small and medium. (There are more men than women). Please leave in the box under the welcome desk. Thank you. NO TOILETRIES PLEASE

LANCASTER & DISTRICT HOMELESS ACTION SERVICE LTD will be using our premises again this year over the Christmas period. There are various ways you can be involved. If you'd like to know more please see the notice board or contact Homeless Action direct on (01524) 842008.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY There will be a party for Peter and Shell on **Saturday 9th January** and a 'farewell' on **Sunday 10th January** prior to their departure from Lancaster. Please give the office a photograph of your family or friendship group (labelled on the back). Also, do you have photos of church events from the recent or distant past? Any financial contributions for a gift can be handed into the office or placed in the collection - clearly labelled please 'for Peter & Shell'. Peter's Licencing Service will be on **Thursday 25th February** at St Mark's Gillingham.



CHURCH FLOWERS The list of people providing church flowers in 2010 is being prepared. Anyone wishing to fill one of the many vacant dates please contact Eleanor on (01524) 416967 or Hannah, or leave a message at the Church Office.

WEEKLY FOOTBALL Sundays 9:00 - 10:00 pm at the University of Cumbria Sports Centre on the astroturf. All welcome. For more information contact Phil on 07900 037 590.

PRAYER MINISTRY is available following each service. Look out for those wearing a yellow badge - they will be happy to pray with you.

NEWS FROM:

- **MOMBASA** For the latest news from Education for Life, pick up a sheet from the welcome desk. They write: " Child Sponsorship - Following our recent annual financial review, we have assessed the costs of running Tumaini Schools and have realised that we need to increase our sponsorship income. We will therefore be asking new sponsors to sign up at new rates. They are £16 per month Primary School and £32 per month High School. As with previous increases, we do not expect existing sponsors to increase, however, we would certainly appreciate it if anyone were able to help in this way." Forms are available on the welcome desk.
- **MANCHESTER!** Simon & Laura Walton & family (currently in Manchester and hoping to go to Dar-Es-Salaam in 2010). The GP colleagues Simon is working with were hoping he would join them as a partner, but the family will be returning to Tanzania at the end of July ready for the girls to start at school in August. They are hoping they will not need to postpone again and praying that it is the right decision for all of them. Simon's mother is doing well and Laura is making slow progress learning Arabic. The girls are working hard at school - pray they will feel secure in their environment.

REFRESHMENTS TEAM

Today	6 Dec	10:30am	Meg Eagles / Carys Atkinson's groups
		6:15pm	
Sunday	13 Dec	10:30am	Richard & Ingrid Eglese's house group
		6:15pm	Brian & Pauline Davies' house group

For general information & further details about St Thomas's activities, do visit our website www.st.tees.org.uk
 Office hours: usually 9:00am to 3:00pm Mon - Fri
 ☎ 01524 590 410
 e-mail admin@st.tees.org.uk
 Charity No 113 0550

WELCOME.

If you have recently come to St Thomas's, or even if you've been coming for a while, we would like to welcome you and get to know you better. Please fill in this tear-off slip and hand it in at the Welcome Desk or put it in the church letter box in the St Thomas Centre behind the church (The letterbox is at the top of the concrete external stairs).



First name	<input type="text"/>	Surname	<input type="text"/>	Title: Mr/Mrs/Ms/...	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>			If a student tick box	<input type="checkbox"/>
Post Code	<input type="text"/>	Tel No	<input type="text"/>	age ? 20+, 30+, 40+, 50+	<input type="checkbox"/>
		e-mail	<input type="text"/>		
I would like more information about....			I am interested in house groups <input type="checkbox"/>		