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## St Thomas . Penny Street . Lancaster

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

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# St.tees bulletin

## 13<sup>th</sup> December 2009

### TODAY

**Advent 3:** *Jesus is coming again - hallelujah!*

Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

Matthew 24:V42 ESV



**JUNIOR CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTIES** Ladybirds will finish at the usual time of 11:30 am. Please collect all older children at 12:00 noon, even if they normally meet you back in church.

**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 **today** after the morning service. 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.

### Sermon's for December:

#### December 13<sup>th</sup>

10:30 am

**Holy Communion** Advent Community waiting actively in prayerful attention (Matthew 24: v 32-51)

6:15 pm

**Service of the Word** Advent Community waiting in obedient expectation

(1 Thessalonians 5: v 1-28)



#### December 20<sup>th</sup>

10:30 am

**All-Age Nativity**

6:15 pm

**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 24<sup>th</sup>

5:00 pm

**Carols by Candlelight**

Jesus, Light of the nations.

#### Christmas Day

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

10:30 am

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

#### December 27<sup>th</sup>

10:30 am

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

6:15 pm

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



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For details and times of Christmas Services at St Thomas's pick up a leaflet from the welcome desk.

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# THIS WEEK

**PCC MEETING Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December** 7:30 pm in the church lounge.

**BIBLE STUDY Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December** 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. 4:00 pm in the church centre upstairs. For tomorrow the passage is 1 Corinthians 15 & 16. This will be the last Bible study until next term.



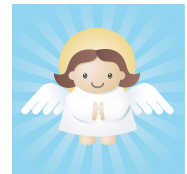
**CONTEMPORARY DANCE GROUP** 8:00 pm in the downstairs centre. Just turn up! For anyone age 12 and upwards (no maximum age limit!) and no previous dance experience is needed. **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December.** More information from Jess Walmsley, Diane Armstrong or Debbie Lemmon (01524) 34007; [debbielem@hotmail.com](mailto:debbielem@hotmail.com).

**CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS** The next rehearsal is on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December** 8:00 pm in church.

**Puppet Nativity  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

at 3:00 pm for children under five and their families. Invitations on the welcome desk.

**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 or place in the offering. **Do not leave money in the lounge area.**



## 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 routed 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.



**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 **11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 girly' 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.

**Can you help??** We need to clear the downstairs centre on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December** for the Christmas Shelter. If you are available to help please meet at the centre at 10:00 am. Thank you in anticipation!

**FAREWELL PARTY** for Peter and Shell - **5:00 pm Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January** and a 'farewell' at both services on **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> February** 7: 30 pm at St Mark's Gillingham.



**WEEKLY FOOTBALL Sundays** 9:00 - 10:00 pm at the University of Cumbria Sports Centre on the astroturf. All welcome. **Today** will be the last session before the Christmas break and will re-commence Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2010. 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.

**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.



**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.
- **KARAGWE, TANZANIA** Pick up Bridget's Christmas Greetings letter from the welcome desk. Pray especially for two things:
  - 1) a very clear call to the next phase of her ministry, whether abroad or in the UK.
  - 2) For God's power to break into what she feels is a battleground of spiritual warfare, particularly in her church.

Thank you. Mission Support



**ACCOMMODATION NEEDED** for a Christian female student from September 2010. If anyone has (or knows of someone who has) a room in a Christian home, or shared house for rent in the Lancaster area, please contact the Church Office with details.

**REFRESHMENTS TEAM**

Today	13 Dec	10:30am	Richard & Ingrid Eglese's house group
		6:15pm	Brian & Pauline Davies' house group
Sunday	20 Dec	10:30am	Margaret & Roger Oliver's house group
		6:15pm	Slyne house group

For general information & further details about St Thomas's activities, do visit our website [www.st.tees.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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		Surname		Title: Mr/Mrs/Ms/...	
Address					If a student tick box
Post Code		Tel No		age ? 20+, 30+, 40+, 50+	
		e-mail			
I would like more information about....				I am interested in house groups <input type="checkbox"/>	