



Benefice News

I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me .

Philippians 4:13

Issue 11 December 2024 /January 2025

Our Christmas Services

Sat 7 th	1-3pm	Christmas Bazaar	St Thomas, Pondersbridge
Sun 8 th	11am	Christingle	St Thomas, Pondersbridge
Fri 13 th -15 th		Christmas Tree Festival	St Mary's, Whittlesey
Sun 15 th	6pm	Tree Festival Carols	St Mary's, Whittlesey
Thurs 19 th	7:30pm	Carols at the Falcon	The Falcon Hotel, Whittlesey
Fri 20 th	7pm	Carols by Candlelight	St Andrew's, Whittlesey
Sun 22 nd	11am	Christingle	St Mary's, Whittlesey
	4:30pm	Nativity Tableaux	St Thomas, Pondersbridge
Xmas Eve	3pm	Nativity Service	Holy Trinity, Coates
	5:30pm	Nativity Service	St Mary's, Whittlesey
	8:30pm	Carols by Candlelight	St Mary's, Whittlesey
	9:30pm	Christmas Communion	St Thomas, Pondersbridge
	11pm	Christmas Communion	St Andrew's, Whittlesey
Xmas Day	9:30am	Christmas Communion	Holy Trinity, Coates
	10am	All Age Celebration	St Mary's, Whittlesey

Come and Celebrate the Good News of Christmas with us!

Benefice News



Pathway Lego Club

Exciting news The Lego club has been a great success ,we would like to thank Jane Randalls for her hard work setting it all up . The next one will meet at St Andrews Parish Hall, Parkinsons Lane, Whittlesey on Saturday December 28th Starting 9.30 am .

Jane is asking if anyone would like to help just once a year or regularly to get in touch jane@pathway-church.co.uk

You will need to be safely recruited so if not already then this can be sorted.

Also if you have any Lego sitting around in lofts or cupboards that you can donate it will be gratefully received.

Morning Prayer Online (Boiler Room)

Meeting every Tuesday and Friday Morning this is a great way to share prayer. Fridays Prayer can be shared in person at St Marys Whittlesey just before Open Church .

We pray for our local and church community and for others to come to know our Lord. Also we share prayer for world issues and those who are vulnerable.

There is opportunity to share some free prayer and also if you feel you would like to lead the group sometimes it would be great to here from you via myself belinda.clapperton@pathway-church.co.uk or lloyd@pathway-church.co.uk

Or catch us anytime at Church. The link can be found by going to webpage and clicking on Church life then Morning Prayer on the drop down here you will find online link and info to download the service sheet. The power of prayer is great.

Confirmations

Congratulations to Charlotte, Rob and Linda who were Confirmed by the Bishop of Huntingdon in Ely Cathedral on St Andrew's Day.



Ride & Stride

Thank you to all who supported the Ride & Stride in September; together we raised just under £400. This will split between the Benefice and Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust.

Parish News

Whittlesey - St Andrew

Pat Marston asked me to add this note:

“Thanks to everyone who purchased wet walnuts from me this Autumn. I'm pleased to say that I'll be forwarding £150 to Little Miracles in Peterborough. Your support will be much appreciated. Pat Marston - St Andrew's” Thanks in advance, Pat.



Friends of St Andrew's draw to take place after our 'Carols by Candlelight' service on Friday Dec 20th 7pm. Second prize will be a 'nibbles' basket. Tickets will be £1 per strip.



Friends of St. Andrew's Church



Come and join us for
Christmas Afternoon Tea
Friday 6th December 2024
At St. Andrew's Church
2pm - 5pm



Selection of Sandwiches, Scones with Cream and Jam,
Selection of Christmas themed Cakes
Tea or Coffee
For £10.00 per person



Numbers are limited please book soon

Please complete booking form below and return it to
Lynn Palmer either by email lynn.palmer20@btinternet.com

Or

18 Glenfields, Whittlesey, Peterborough PE7 1HX

If you require any information please ring Lynn on 07767 373264

Name _____ Names of members in your party

Any dietary requirements eg. Allergies, Vegetarian

Please tick payment method

Cheque payable to "Friends of St. Andrew's"

Or BACS Sort code 20-67-37 Account number 23409678

Reference: Afternoon Tea

Whittlesey - St Marys

13th -15th December Festive fun in the church with Christmas Tree festival alongside
The Whittlesey extravaganza on 14th . Warm drinks and cakes with music in
churchyard provided by Moremuzic radio . Cake donations welcome and if you can
offer support any of the days please see Sue Palmer (church warden) to sign up .

St Marys began opening regularly on Friday 4th October 10-12 Market Day, pop in for
a chat and cuppa ,spend some quiet time or just enjoy the building Someone will
always be available for prayer should you wish .

We have seen new faces popping in to say hello and have been sharing our crafting skills teaching each other crochet and Rug making .

Ann doing some rug making and Jane chatting with Viv having a cuppa and painting bottles .



We also had visits from a Grandparent with her small Grandson paying his first visit to our Church 😊 they popped in after seeing the Open Church signs .

We plan to make this a long term arrangement and any donations of cakes/biscuits will be greatly received.

[Serving the Church](#) is always a great way of giving and always fun. Through out the year all sorts of events happen both in Church and outreach at community events if you think you would like to be involved speak to Emily or Lloyd .

[School News](#) We are extremely happy to have arranged for an after school Bible Club at New Rd school when the children return in January if you feel that you could be involved please let myself or Emily/Lloyd know this is a great way to introduce children to Jesus.

The club will run on a Tuesday 3.15-4.15 we anticipate it will begin after Christmas, January 2025

Church warden Ann has launched a St Mary's Birthday board no need to declare age just date and month with a picture on the board each week there will be a Happy Birthday mention during service 😊

Coates - Holy Trinity

Throughout December we are holding our Posada event. This is an old Mexican tradition

And involves figures of Mary and Joseph travelling around homes in the village and beyond

Accompanied by knitted sheep during the season of Advent. Starting at the beginning of December, Mary and Joseph are

Trying to find somewhere to stay to have their baby moving around leaving a sheep at each house as they move on

And eventually end up at church on Christmas Eve where they are reunited with the sheep brought by the families

Who hosted Mary and Joseph during Advent.



Pondersbridge – St Thomas

Firstly, we would like to say thank you to all who have been asking what events we have for this month at St Thomas, Pondersbridge. It is encouraging to us, to know that we have ongoing support, despite difficulties with the cost of living. The greatest gift

we can offer you is our time in giving you a genuine welcome and a listening ear. It is always good to have you with us.



On **Saturday 7th December** the church will be open between **1.00 pm and 3.00 pm for our Christmas Bazaar**. A variety of ware will be on offer, from the usual Home Baking and Hand Made Gifts, Christmas Floristry, Tombola, Raffle and Father

Christmas in attendance. Enjoy hot refreshments whilst making friends .

As usual, every penny spent on our stalls goes to St Thomas Church, (apart from two independent stall holders). All items on our stalls are made by our church members and goods are donated for tombola.

On Sunday 8th December at 11.00 am - Christingle Service



This is our 2nd year and as with last year, each family member will make their own Christingle, with Lay Reader John Chrisp, explaining the meaning of each stage, giving a deeper understanding of The Light of Christ coming into the world.



An intergenerational service, our pictures show, it was well supported and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Saturday 14th December 9.00 am – 10.00 am Breakfast Gathering We will be serving our last breakfast of 2024 with every intention to restart in the new year. Thank you to everyone for your support, you have been great, it has been a pleasure serving you.

Sunday 22nd December 4.30 pm – Carols & Nativity Tableau



Plays to a full house each year with so many of our community taking part. Thanks go to those who eagerly arrive, whatever the weather, from near and far, to take part in this wonderful service. Many saying it is the start and true meaning of Christmas for them. God is at the heart of our church.

The service is followed by hot refreshments/drinks with our Churchwardens steaming home made Christmas pudding taking centre stage (known to dish 100 servings). Toilets and parking are available in the village hall.

Tuesday 24th December – Christmas Eve Holy Communion 9.30 pm.

Regarding communication, we at St Thomas Church, Pondersbridge, do our best to ensure St Thomas' events reach public knowledge, but as there has not always been the compacity to do so, please do not hesitate to contact our Churchwarden Paul, directly on [07720719420](tel:07720719420) or email him on oldpumphouse@btinternet.com at any time, to ask for information or any details of our events. He always has time for you.

Finally, 2024 has been a great year for outreach at St Thomas', we have made new friends solely by the enrichment of God's presence in all we do. (that is what others say!). Together with any challenges we may have faced, this has made us a stronger church family and will enable us to look forward to 2025 and all that the new year has to offer.

Wishing you all Peace and Joy at Christmas. God Bless.

JANUARY 2025 – Members of St Thomas Church, wish you ALL a very happy and peaceful 2025. We pray that God will walk beside us every step of the way as we move into a new year, whatever its joys or challenges.

Our first event of 2025 is:-

Stay curious, try Alpha.



Alpha is a great way to explore faith if you are interested in joining us for next course

Please email lloyd@pathway-church.co.uk to register interest .

The sessions are friendly we explore what faith is through videos and discussion and there is always great food.!

Have a Great Christmas and New Year and don't forget to send your news for addition to Newsletter for New Year .

Contact Us

For general enquiries, please contact:

hello@pathway-church.co.uk or (01733) 205337

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Please send any items/notices for the February issue Newsletter to:

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