

Welcome to St Thomas's Salisbury



SERVING GOD IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

A message from the Rector



A very warm welcome to St Thomas's Church the parish church of Salisbury city centre. We hope this booklet helps you find out a bit more about the life, worship and history of our church - who we are and what we do.

St Thomas's church is a majestic building with a lively Christian community. God has called us to ministry at the heart of the city. In the glory of our worship, we reflect the beauty of God's love. Richly blessed, we aim to be a blessing to others: inclusive, compassionate, generous. Whatever brings you to our church, we hope you will be nourished in faith, and find us welcoming, praying, transforming.

Whether you are new to Salisbury, or new to church, our aim is to help you feel at home with us, and discover the many events and groups we run alongside our worship services.

We hope you will come and join us. We look forward to getting to know you.

With our very best wishes

The Rector,

Rev'd Canon Kelvin Inglis



Who we are


St Thomas's is the parish church of St Thomas and St Edmund in Salisbury city centre, and is part of the Anglican Diocese of Salisbury. It is a church whose history dates from medieval times and is also the civic church for the city.

Our clergy team are:

Rector: The Rev Canon Kelvin Inglis

Associate Priest:

The Rev Selina Deacon



We offer three Sunday services plus 8am weekday services every day except Saturday using both the Common Worship (modern English) and Book of Common Prayer (traditional English) wording. Everyone is welcome to our services:

8am Holy Communion Said service of communion using the historic liturgy of the Church of England. Held in the Lady Chapel.

10.15am Parish Communion A Sunday celebration of communion for all in modern English, this service is also livestreamed

6pm Evensong Sung evening prayer using the historic liturgy of the Church of England.

Weekday Services - Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

8am Morning Prayer (Common Worship) Said morning prayer in modern English.

Wednesday 8am Holy Communion.

Our Church and Worship

St Thomas's is open for prayer and reflection Monday to Saturday from 10am to early evening.

Many come in to look around, sit quietly and may leave a prayer.

What we offer—at a glance



- Daily services and Prayer groups with good liturgy and worship offering prayer together in person, or remotely
- Baptisms, weddings, wedding blessings, funerals and special events
- Music and choirs, with the opportunity to get involved, or just enjoy
- Children's Sunday School
- Study groups and learning and teaching opportunities
- Social and fundraising events and hospitality within a friendly community
- Tuesday and Saturday morning café and bookstalls
- From prayer groups, flower arranging to bellringing and so much more ...

Mission and Ministry

Mission and Ministry is at the heart of the Christian calling and we list below some of our ministry at St Thomas's. Our clergy team is supported by a number of volunteers and helpers.

Help and Advice - St Thomas's firmly believes that all people are made in the image of God, and we seek to show the same love, care and respect for all, whether or not you are a regular member of the congregation. Our clergy team can give personal advice and help with homelessness and financial troubles, so do get in touch. Any of us might find ourselves in need at some point in our life. St Thomas's may be able to offer help, and can also suggest other avenues where help and support might be found.

Pastoral - Pastoral support takes many forms. The clergy and Lay Pastoral Assistant (LPA) teams St Thomas's provide pastoral support, or can assist you finding other support if needed.

Homelessness – St Thomas's is open for hot drinks and cake on Tuesday and Saturday mornings, and is always open during the day for a quiet place to sit.



We don't offer other facilities but we are always willing to help with advice of where help can be found. The charity Alabaré runs a drop-in centre for those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Charities -Financial support may be available from the charities St Thomas's administers. Applications are usually made by external agencies (normally Social Services or recognised charities) on behalf of those in need.

Inclusive church - we are a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality

Sunday School

*Our special activities for
3—7 year olds*

Children's Corner - "Tommy's Corner" in the church is packed with fun and interesting toys and activities to entertain very young members of the congregation during services.

"Tommy's Sunday School" is for children around the ages of 3 to 7 years and takes place in the St Michael's Room during the 10:15am Sunday service. Children are supervised by a very experienced Sunday School leader and helpers and are introduced to praying, bible stories, and many fun craft activities while parents can enjoy the church service

Music and The Choir

Singing in a choir is a great experience which has also been proven to be good for your physical and mental health. There is a sense of purpose and belonging being in a choir where friendships are made by children and adults alike. St Thomas's Choir is open to children from the age of 7 to 18. There is also a junior singing group which is open to 4-7+ years. There is no need to belong to the church and parents often sing along with the children. Choristers receive an excellent music training, including voice production, sight singing, music theory, musical knowledge and liturgy.



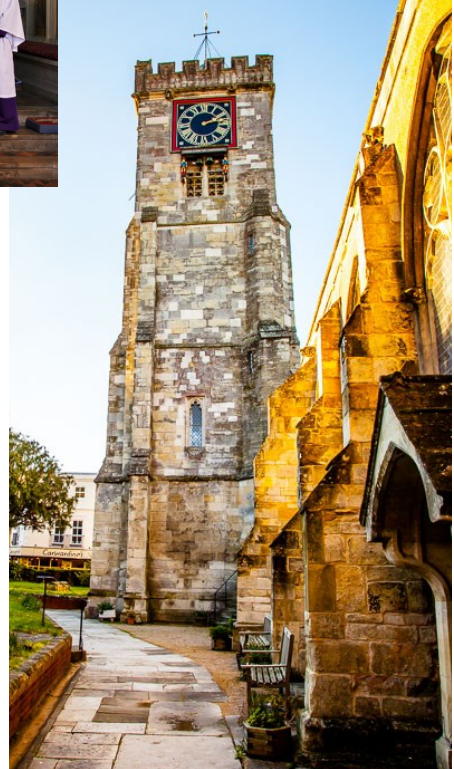
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The repertoire is extensive and it is amazing how choristers rise to the challenge of singing music of great composers. A number have gained choral scholarships at universities and successfully passed auditions for Cathedral choirs. Adults also learn and develop their skills and, like the children, they can work towards the awards of The Royal School of Church Music. The Choir is not all about singing and a variety of social events and trips are organised.

Bell Ringing

We have a friendly and enthusiastic team of bellringers – some having been ringing for over 50 years and others are just starting out (our youngest ringer to date was 11 years old). New Bellringers are very welcome so if you are interested in finding out more about ringing at St Thomas's do get in touch. Two of the ringing band are accredited teachers with the Association of Ringing Teachers so as a learner



you will be in safe hands. Ringing Times – Sundays 9.30 to 10.15am and from 5.15 to 6pm. Our practice night is every Thursday 7pm-9pm with the first half hour devoted to our more recent learners.

To get involved contact: :

Jonathan Sanderson

(sanderson166@btinternet.com) or

Nigel Orchard, Tower Captain,

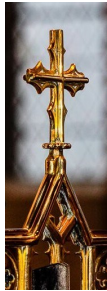
(nigel.orchard@btinternet.com)

Prayer Groups and learning opportunities



Study and prayer groups can help you to deepen and grow your faith and enjoy the company of others. Here are some of the groups that meet to pray, learn and share fellowship regularly:

Palmer Groups. At St Thomas's our group engages with the journey of faith through discussion of what the Bible says, what it means and how it might apply to our lives today. These groups meet weekly on Tuesdays during termtime, one in the afternoon and another in the evening. Although we use a structure for the groups, we are more a Bible and practical faith discussion group than a formal Bible study group.



Contemplative Community. We meet every Wednesday at 7.30pm in St Thomas's House for mutual sharing, support and contemplative prayer. The name of the group reflects what we try to be: we are a community because we grow in relationship with one another through listening to one another's story. We feel valued and loved because we are heard without judgement as we try to give expression to what is

going on in our lives and understand that in the light of our relationship with God.

We also support one another as needs arise both practically and through prayer. We are contemplative because we recognise that relationship with God is found in the silence of our own hearts. We practice Centering Prayer every other week; we also practice "lectio divina" and have times of more general discussion. We also welcome members from other churches and denominations.

Exploring Discipleship. The Exploring Discipleship Team's key aims are to enrich and deepen our spiritual life and witness, to pray and wonder where the

Holy Spirit is leading us in serving St Thomas's community. We offer opportunities during the Church's seasons to meet and discuss contemporary issues that may impact Christian faith, e.g. Art in Faith, study with the Bible Book Club, Quiet Days away from the Parish and occasionally Parish weekend retreats. We are always wondering "what next" to help everyone explore their faith.

Baptisms, weddings and confirmations



Baptism - St Thomas's offers baptism for all who wish it for themselves or for their children. The Parish Office will contact a member of the clergy team for you, who will arrange to meet with you to discuss baptism and what it means to be baptised. They will also lead you through what to expect in the service and will answer any questions you have.

Weddings and Blessings We are a popular church for weddings and services of blessings. If you are thinking about having your wedding or special blessing service in St Thomas's, please contact the Parish Office and arrangements will be

made to meet with a member of the clergy team.

Confirmation. A service where a person declares their Christian faith publicly. If you were baptised as an infant and wish to affirm your commitment to the baptismal promises made on your behalf, then it is time to be confirmed. Confirmation is always performed by the Bishop, and you will probably be invited to go to a service at Salisbury Cathedral, the Bishop's church, for your confirmation service. For further information contact one of the clergy who will be happy to discuss confirmation with you.

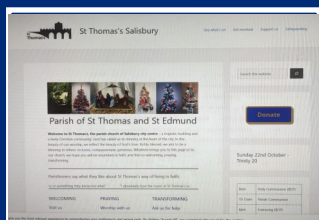


Keeping in touch online

Our website and our social media postings are our shop window, telling the world what we are about, what we've done and what we're doing now and in the future. Our website accepts online donations to church funds and charities, takes applications for the Christmas Tree Festival and is a portal to investigate:

- the weekly notice sheet
- what hymns, anthems and music will be heard at services
- duty rosters
- the readings at Sunday 10:15 services
- the link to our livestreaming channel on YouTube
- annual reports and documents about St Thomas's history, and keep abreast of concerts and other events at the church.

The website currently has 32 pages and, is attracting almost 4,000 unique visitors a month.



Supported by the Local Community

St Thomas's relies on the generosity of its members, its visitors and the Salisbury and wider community to maintain its building and its mission. Information on how to donate is on the donation box in the church, and on the website.



A Church Community with exciting opportunities for involvement



We are a very friendly and active church full of many willing volunteers and ministries all helping to provide many services and activities. Listed below are some more of our groups and activities.

- **Cleaning Teams – Friday mornings in church**
- **Various Committees including: Safeguarding Team, Health and Safety, Events Co-ordinating Group, Fabric Committee, Finance Committee, Staffing Team**
- **Standing Committee, PCC, St Thomas’s Charities**
- **Flower Arrangers Team**
- **Friends of St Thomas’s**
- **Gardening Team**
- **Grapevine Men’s Group**
- **Intercessors**
- **Lay Eucharistic Assistants (LEAs)**
- **Lay Pastoral Assistant (LPA) Team**
- **Money Counters**
- **Olive Branch Women’s Group**
- **Praying Together remotely**
- **Readers**
- **Recorder Group**
- **Sacristan Team**
- **Servers**
- **Sidesmen**
- **Welcomers**
- **Handbell Ringers**

We Welcome You

A church is people, and St Thomas’s encourages its people to get involved in church life. You may not have much time to give because you’re busy – family, work, caring and other volunteer projects may fill your day with other commitments. We understand that, and we’re happy to see you just coming to our worship services. But if you have some time, please do come and have a word if there is something you would like to be involved with or know more about. We would love to welcome you into St Thomas’s family. There is so much to do – so much to come and see and so much to join in with!

A Church that is part of the wider community

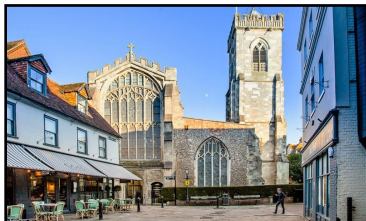


St Thomas's has a vibrant, active and committed community dedicated to helping those who work and live in the city. Prominently located at the heart of the city means that it attracts many kinds of visitor, and is also a popular venue for concerts and other local community events. As the civic church for Salisbury, St Thomas's is the venue for important city occasions including the service after the Remembrance Day parade, the annual celebration of Charter Sunday each year, as well as the service to celebrate mayormaking, to mark the occasion of new mayors starting their term of office. St Thomas's provides many important community events and services including the Christmas Tree Festival, that attracts around 15,000 visitors annually. Also we must mention the much

loved Carols for Busy People, the twice weekly coffee mornings and bookstalls and weekly Saturday lunchtime concerts held throughout the summer, to mention but a few. The recent completion of the initial stages of our major project to renew, repair and renovate the church buildings and the replacement of the pews with movable benches has provided us with a much more flexible space to serve the local community. The church is now regularly used by local schools, organisations, groups and businesses and the bookings are increasing. Whether it's for large public events, concerts or small meetings, St Thomas's has the facilities to meet your needs. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like more information about hiring the church or St Thomas's House.



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If you would like further details about anything in this booklet please contact:

Rector: The Rev Canon Kelvin Inglis -

Call: 01722 239463

Mail: Rector rector@stthomassalisbury.co.uk

Parish Office:

Meryl Browning, Parish Manager -

mail: office@stthomassalisbury.co.uk or call 01722 322537

**St Thomas's Church,
St Thomas's Square Salisbury SP1 1BA**

Charity number 1133882

Web: www.stthomassalisbury.co.uk

Welcoming, Praying, Transforming



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