



21ST December 2025

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Parish Mass with Children's Nativity

*"Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.
And all mankind shall see the salvation of God."*

(Isaiah 40:3, Luke 3:4-6)

Welcome to St Thomas the Apostle Church, Hanwell for our Parish Mass.



We hope you enjoy your time with us.

Do join us for refreshments in the Church Hall afterwards.

The hymns are in the Green New English Hymnal Books.

The Mass Setting for this Service is the Addington Service.

Please do take this Service Booklet away with you for your own prayers & reflections this coming week.

2 minutes before the service begins, a bell is chimed for Silence.

During the silence the Choir, Servers and Priest will enter and move to the West (rear) of the church.

*Please **Stand** (if you are able) and turn to face the West end (rear) of the church.*

The Advent Liturgy

Choir: O Emmanuel our King and our lawgiver, the hope of the nations and their Saviour.
Come and save us, O Lord our God.

All: O come, O come, Emmanuel!
Redeem thy captive Israel
That into exile drear is gone,
Far from the face of God's dear Son.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

I, John, heard a voice saying to me: "See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let everyone who hears say, "Come." And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift. The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

The Choir, Priest and Altar Party process from the West end of the Church during the singing of the First Hymn.

The first Four Advent candles are lit in the Advent Wreath at the Chancel Steps.

First Hymn: 10 Long ago, prophets knew.

The Priest blesses the Lit Candles and Advent Wreath using the following words:

God our Father, the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she was to be the mother of your Son. Though Mary was afraid, she responded to your call with joy. Help us, whom you call to serve you, to share like her in your great work of bringing to our world your love and healing. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world.

All: Amen.

The Gathering & Welcome

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

The Prayer of Preparation

**All: Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit;
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Invitation to Confession

A voice cries out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'

(cf 1 cf John 1.23)

So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

**All: Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light.
Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison

We Sing together the Kyrie Eleison.

**All: Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, ✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Collect

Let us pray:

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

The Nativity

Scene One: Mary, Joseph, & the Angels

Little Donkey

Little donkey, little donkey
On the dusty road
Got to keep on plodding onwards
With your precious load.

Been a long time little donkey,
Through the winter's night.
Don't give up now, little donkey,
Bethlehem's in sight.

Ring out those bells tonight,
Bethlehem, Bethlehem.
Follow that star tonight,
Bethlehem, Bethlehem.

Little donkey, little donkey,
Had a heavy day.
Little donkey, carry Mary safely on her way.
Little donkey, carry Mary safely on her way.

Eric Boswell (1929–2009)

^{1.} See him lying on a bed of straw;
Draughty stable with an open door,
Mary cradling the Babe she bore;
The Prince of glory is his name.

Refrain:

Oh, now carry me to Bethlehem
To see the Lord appear to men;
Just as poor as was the stable then,
The Prince of glory when he came.

^{2.} Star of silver, sweep across the skies,
Show where Jesus in the manger lies.
Shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise
To see the Saviour of the world.

(Refrain)

^{3.} Mine are riches from thy poverty,
From thine innocence, eternity;
Mine, forgiveness by thy death for me,
Child of sorrow for my joy.

(Refrain)

^{4.} Angels, sing again the song you sang,
Bring God's glory to the heart of man;
Sing that Bethl'hem's little baby can
Be salvation to the soul.

(Refrain)

Father Michael A. Perry (1937–1996)

^{1.} We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

^{2.} Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.

(Refrain)

^{3.} Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high.

(Refrain)

^{4.} Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

(Refrain)

^{5.} Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.

(Refrain)

J. H. Hopkins (1820-1891)

Today, we remember the surprising joy of Christmas. We see the glory of the incarnation, of God with us in the messiness of life. We remember Mary, just a small girl from a small town that no one had ever heard of, and her joyous yes to God's glorious gift. We remember the birth of our Lord and Saviour, born not into royal splendour but into the dirt and noise of the manger. We remember the shepherds and the wise men, and the joy of God's message for all people: all are saved, all are reconciled. All are welcome in the celebration of Christmas; Jesus loves all of us just as we are, both Jew and Gentile, rich and poor, powerful and powerless. Amen.

The Apostle's Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Please Kneel or Sit for the Prayers of Intercession. (Led by Colin Lomas)

Maranatha.

All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

And at the end.

Merciful Father,

All: Accept these prayers for the sake of
your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

May the God of peace make you completely holy, ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of Peace.

Offertory Hymn: 185 Sing we of the blessed Mother.

Preparation of the Table

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this bread to set before you, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to set before you, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement; draw us from hatred to love; make the frailty of our praise a dwelling place for your glory.

All: Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

All: His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.

He is the one foretold by all the prophets, whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling. John the Baptist was his herald and made him known when at last he came.

In his love Christ fills us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth, so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your glory, and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord. God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
✠ Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Congregation Kneel or Sit.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. ✠

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. ✠

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, St Thomas the Apostle and our Patron, and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

All: ✠ Amen.

As we await the coming of our Saviour; let us pray with confidence as he has taught us:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All: Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Invitation to Communion

✠ Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

The Prayer of Humble Access

All: We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,

and that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us.
Amen.

The Lamb of God (Agnus Dei) *is sung.*

All: Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.

The Priest, Altar Party, Choir and the People all receive communion.

If you are baptised and receive communion in your own church, you are welcome to receive communion here.

You are welcome to receive a blessing instead of communion.

If you wish to receive a blessing, please keep your head bowed.

Communion Hymn: 387 Jesus good above all other.

The Motet *is sung.*
‘Gabriel’s Message’

Words: Basque Carol | Translated by Sabine Baring-Gould (1834–1924).

The angel Gabriel from Heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
All hail, said he, thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
To me be as it pleaseth God, she said,
My soul shall laud and magnify His holy name.
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world
Will ever say
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Prayers after Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and
reigns now and for ever.

All: Amen.

All: Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.

The Parish Notices *are given.*

Final Hymn: Tell out, my soul.

The Blessing

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.' So may the Lord, when he comes, find us watching and waiting, and the blessing of God almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

The Dismissal

As we await our coming Saviour, go in the peace of Christ.

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.



You are warmly invited to continue our fellowship over tea, coffee, and refreshments in the Church Hall after the 10am Mass.

Whether you are a regular or a visitor, we would love to see you there.

Throughout the week, The Daily Offices of
Morning & Evening Prayer
are observed in Church at 9am and 5pm.

On Mondays & Wednesdays

(Live-streamed on Facebook)

On Tuesdays and Thursdays

The Offices are said in-person in the Lady
Chapel.

(These are said privately to allow for personal, private prayers and reflections)

(All are warmly welcome to join in person.)

On Fridays

Morning Prayer only.

This is at the earlier time of 8.30am.

(Live-streamed on Facebook)

Scan the QR Code to join us for The Daily Offices



Tuesday 23rd December 2025 - 12(Noon) MASS in the Lady Chapel

Wednesday 24th December 2025:

Parish Mass on Christmas Night (Midnight Mass) - 11.30pm

Reader(s): Chris Michell & Pauline Britton

Intercessor(s): Stephen Brooks | Chalice: Stephen Brooks & Andrew Lumsden.

Thursday 25th December 2025: Parish Family Mass on Christmas Day

Reader(s) & Intercessor(s): Members of the Junior Church.

Chalice: Fade Solanke-Mitterer & Michael Horn



St Thomas' Players
present

Aladdin

A Pantomime by Ben Crocker

8th,9th January 7:30pm

Sat 10th 1pm & 6pm

Adults £15 Children £5

Thursday Adults £10 Children £5

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St Thomas' Church Boston Road W7 2AD



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

21 Dec

Mass with Nativity at
10 am

24 Dec

Crib Service at 4 pm
Midnight Mass at
11:30 pm

25 Dec

Christmas Day Family
Mass at 10 am



The 12 Ways of (Green) Christmas

Please join us in making a "Green Christmas" pledge this Advent — practical, planet-friendly actions you can take during the festive season!

Write your pledge on a "bauble" and hang it on our Green Christmas "tree"!



Ceilidh FUNDRAISER

When: Saturday 24th January 2026, 7.30pm
Where: St Thomas Church Hall
182 Boston Road, W7 2AD
Tickets: Adults: £20, children £10
Licenced bar with snacks
Get your tickets here: <https://shorturl.at/uYxOf>

Music by
Blanter



ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE
BOSTON ROAD, HANWELL, W7 2AD



Vision and Values Day

Join us for our Vision and Values Day, where we will work together as a parish to define our long-term vision and core values. Teas and coffees provided. Lunch afterwards.

17 January 2026
10 to 2 pm



Parish Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray for the Church and for the world, and let us thank almighty God for his goodness.

The Wider Church: *We pray for the Church throughout the world, for our partners in mission and friendship.*

Especially we pray for: ✠ Bishop George Dawson-Ahmoah and the Churches of Nkoranza, Ghana.

✠ Pfr. Jens Oehme and the people of the Lutherkirche, Hartau in Chemnitz, Germany. ✠ Revd Canon Clement Francis M.P.S. (Emeritus) and the people of Christ the King, Hillsborough, Carriacou,

May our fellowship in the Gospel bear witness to Christ's love and draw many to his light.

The Church of England and the Anglican Communion: *We pray for the life of the Church of England and the whole Anglican Communion. Grant to all who lead your Church wisdom and vision. Especially we pray for:*

✠ Sarah, Archbishop Designate and Bishop of London, ✠ Lusa, Bishop of Willesden, ✠ Catherine, Archdeacon of Northolt. We give thanks for the Cathedral Church of St Paul the Apostle, our Diocesan Mother Church, and for all who work and worship there.

Our Parish and Community: *We give thanks for this Parish of St Thomas the Apostle. Especially we pray for: Reverend Julia Palmer, our priest, her mother Marlene, and the Davoren family. We pray for our Churchwardens, PCC, and all who together serve in the life of the Parish. Bless our young people and their leaders - especially:*

Rowland Linder - Pastoral Assistant and Youth Intern, and Stephen Brooks - Parish Administrator and Liturgical Assistant. We give thanks for all who make use of our Parish Hall, and for the friendships formed there.

Strengthen our ministries, deepen our fellowship, and guide us as we grow in grace, serving others in truth and love.

We pray for our local community in Hanwell and beyond. *Especially we pray for: our schools - Ealing Fields, Elthorne, Oaklands, and New Level Academy; for all who teach and learn within them; and for all who live and work in this parish. May Christ dwell in our homes and hearts, and may his peace be known among us.*

The Nations of the World: *We hold before God the nations of the world, especially: the Holy Land, Palestine, Gaza, and all who suffer in the Middle East, India and Pakistan, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Syria, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Ukraine. Grant to all in authority the spirit of justice and reconciliation, and to every people the gift of peace.*

The Sick and Those in Need: *We pray for the housebound, the sick, and all who are in hospital or in care.*

Comfort all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, and give them hope and healing in your love. Especially we pray for:

Andrea Arthurs, Roy Arthurs, John Ball, Paul Ball, Caroline Baxter, John Brake & Family, Nathaniel Brito-Ault, Nigel & Davina Brooks, Ivan Carter, Noel Chardon, Jenny Cornwell, Patrick Dennerly, Daphne Dorival, Leo & Estriana Douglas, Merfyn Edwards, Gillian Fontaine, Geraldine, Celia Griffith, Darren Hancock, Ian King, Jaxon Prentice, Nick Lunn, Arda & Joe Metcalf, Dermot Molloy, Stuart Minty, Nicholas Robinson, Sarah, Gill Shaw, Keith & Sara Spillett, Colin Spooner, Leslie Stanton, John Tozer Lynne Wilson, Anthony Wilson and Viv.

The Departed: *We commend to your mercy all who have died recently.*

We remember those whose year's mind falls at this time. *Especially we pray for: Norman Newlyn, Bill Duce, Norman Lumsden, Priscillia Piggott, Violet Martha Lunn, Anne Bowles-Bevan, Mary Hammant, Cliff Cosstick, George Rosario, Elizabeth Mary Hickling, Rosemary Robinson, Christina Joseph, Ralph Baxter, Hazel Poole & Sandy Newlands.*

**✠ May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God,
rest in peace, and rise in glory. ✠**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Thomas the Apostle, and all the saints, we commend ourselves, one another, and all for whom we pray, to your unfailing love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Add a Bauble of Remembrance

As we approach Christmas, we hold close in our hearts all those we love but see no longer.

At the back of the church you will find our *Tree of Remembrance* - a place of quiet reflection and gentle hope.

You are warmly invited to write the name of a loved one on a bauble and hang it on the tree. Whether your loss is recent or long-ago, this simple act of remembrance allows us to honour their memory before God's enduring light.

Please take a moment before or after the service to add your bauble, say a prayer, and know that you are held in the love and prayers of this community.

May Christ, the Light of the World, bring comfort and peace to all who mourn.



Mass Setting is from the Addington Mass.

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The Parish Church of St Thomas the Apostle, Hanwell

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Tuesday to Thursday (11am – 4pm)

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The Parish Office is closed on Fridays