St Mary's Thorpe

A House of Prayer for All

Living by a rule and rhythm of prayer,
Learning from all generations and
Loving the diversity of people welcomed.

Church Family News, week of 8th November

GREETINGS

Last week I was given a book on the possibilities and limits of forgiveness called 'The Sunflower', by Simon Wiesenthal. It questions whether we should be able to forgive those who commit the most heinous of crimes, including all those perpetrators of the Nazi holocaust. Similar questions arise of course (in the light of King Charle's visit to the Caribbean), regarding forgiveness for perpetrators of the slave trade. How much difference does time make when it comes to the pursuit of justice and forgiveness? Our first lesson on Sunday is from the prophet Amos: *'Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness not light; as if someone fled from a lion and was met by a bear'*. The '*day of the Lord*' is a euphemism for God's justice being served - a bleak day of darkness for those who have sinned. But which of us is guiltless? Thankfully Christ is the light in the darkness and he bears away even the most heinous evil when a perpetrator, in their darkness, humbles themselves in grave shame before him. Thanks be to God for his mercy, his justice. ***Fr Stephen***

All GOOD WISHES AND PRAYERS to Jane she leaves us to move to Woodbridge on 12th November. She will be sorely missed.

This Week

TODAY: 8am REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
Said Holy Communion
10am Sung service for Remembrance Day
11am Exhortation at the War Memorial.
Refreshments will be served in church after the Exhortation.

Monday 11am Friendship Group at the Red Lion for anyone who would like to meet other people
2-4pm Tea and Talk Father Daniel, Chaplain at the University, will be our speaker, speaking on 'A journey to Priesthood'.
7.30-10pm TWRA meeting

Tuesday 2-4pm Sunset Café in the Rutherwyke Room
Following the insightful Age UK presentation last week, the conversation at the Sunset Cafe this week will be about 'How to stay longer in your own home'.
All Welcome.

Wednesday 9am-3pm Parish Office Open
9am Thorpe Primary School Remembrance Day Service in church

Wednesday 11am Holy Communion for Remembrance Day
Server: Kim *Warden*: Jill
Refreshments for all 11.30 -12.30

Thursday 9-11am Noah's Ark
4.30-6pm Alpha Discussion Group. Why should we trust the bible? All Welcome

Friday Fr Stephen's day off

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

Sunday 15th November 8.45-9.45am Joint 8am and 10am family breakfast. **Please sign the attendance list** in church or in the Rutherwyke Room.

Saturday 21st November St Mary's Quiz in Church. Doors open from 6pm for 6.30pm. Tickets £20 to include two course meal. BYO drinks and glasses. Payment in advance please. Cash to Jenny Bright or online payment to St Mary's PCC marked QUIZ. Thorpe Parochial Church Council Account 10884901 Sort Code 20-81-11

Saturday 28th November 7.30pm The Hythe Singers – Winter Concert at St Mary's with works by Hungarian, Czech and English composers and accompanied by harp, organ, piano. Tickets available from www.thehythesingers.com, or at the door.

Saturday 5th December: 11am-4pm Christmas Fair.
Help needed from **everyone**! Please contact a member of the Social Committee – Susi, Jenny, Joan, Jill. We need stall holders/cake makers/refreshment servers/ people to set up and clear up!

NOTICES

Tea and Talk Second Monday of each month. Our last speaker in 2026 is Zara Chamberlain - An insight into her work as a counsellor and midwife at St Peter's Hospital. Thanks to Susi for providing an amazing selection of speakers in 2026 and more to come in 2027. Thanks too, to Allison for the yummy refreshments. Tea and Talk provides a wonderful afternoon's entertainment as well as raising funds towards running costs for St Mary's.

Guildford Cathedral

Every day our Cathedral Church of the Holy Spirit prays for a parish in Guildford Diocese. On Sunday 8th November it's St Mary's turn and the Cathedral will include in its prayers **'The Parish St Mary's, Thorpe Incumbent Stephen Girling School Thorpe CofE (Aided) Primary School.'**
If you have never ventured as far as the Cathedral and don't like or unable to drive, I'd be happy to provide transport (as a Lay Canon one of my tasks is to promote the Cathedral). Mary.

Runnymede Foodbank— Urgent November needs are on the posters. Donation boxes are in the Rutherwyke Room and by the door outside the Rutherwyke Room behind the church. Financial donations also accepted. https://cafdonate. Cafonline.org/13202

SUNDAY WORSHIP 8th November **Year A**
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Activity packs for children, large print Service Booklets and Hymn books are available at the back, please ask a steward.

A basket will be passed around during the service for donations towards the work of St Mary's, or there are contactless machines at the back. Tokens for other donations are available on the backs of aisle seats.

Collect *(prayer for the week)*
Ever-living God, we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Those serving us today are:

8am said Holy Communion
Server/Reader: Andy *Welcome:* Diana

Reading: Amos 5:18-24
Psalm: 70
Response: You re my helper and deliverer

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-3

At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them.

10am Sung Service
Server: Susi *Warden:* Pete *Welcome:* Joan
Reader: Pete

Reading:
Amos 5:18-24

HYMNS

O God our help in ages past	417
Dear Lord and Father of mankind	353
Eternal Father strong to save	354

ORGANIST David

11am War Memorial – Exhortation

All welcome to return to St Mary's for refreshments

WE PRAY TO THE LORD

For Ukraine, the Middle East, and for all warring countries.

For loved ones who sacrificed their lives in war to give others their freedom

For those celebrating Diwali at this time

For those on our Diocesan Calendar of Prayer:
For the Anglican Church in Province of Congo,
and in our own Diocese, Care Homes and Hospices, local charities, foodbanks and all those struggling financially.

For those on our prayer list: Graham, Stan, Michael and Denise, Hannah, John, Lucas, Jimmy, Chris, Tommy

For the recently departed:
Jonathan and for his Family, Rosemary Mummery, Alan Rolfe

For those whose anniversary of death falls at this time: Pat Emmett, Neville King, Arthur Smith-Waddel. Lauretta Johns, Edward Syradd, John Parke, Joan Rollason, William Ewart, Frances Boswell. Diane Girling (senior),

Copies of Fr Stephen's sermons are available
Email: vicar@stmaryschurchthorpe.co.uk
Fr Stephen and others are available to talk or pray with anyone; please just ask.

Bless you this week.

Safeguarding: See it. Hear it. Report it.
Regardless of congregation number, ages, demographics, safeguarding is everywhere. Reporting concerns does not mean your parish is unsafe. It is safe to report concerns
safeguarding@stmaryschurchthorpe.co.uk

Contact Us:
Office Administrator: Mary Morris
stmaryschurchthorpe@outlook.com
tel: 01932 567603
Office open: Wednesdays 9.30am – 3.00pm
Vicar: Fr Stephen Girling
vicar@stmaryschurchthorpe.co.uk
Pastoral matters: 01932 565986
Churchwarden: Diana Lees