

Let Us Talk

1) What is the Personality and Character of your local Church?

St Thomas' is an Anglican church situated on the north-east side of Trowbridge, with the inclusion since December 2010, of part of the former Holy Trinity parish and Holy Trinity Church (Chapel of Ease). Also at Easter 2009 St Thomas' planted Kingfisher Church on Paxcroft Mead.

- St Thomas' is a vibrant, outward looking and growing church with many demands on its time and money and seeks, under the guidance of the Vicar, to grow and develop in a way that is pleasing to God.
- The new web site (www.stthomastrowbridge.org) shows the groups and activities within the church and indicates that we are a church that wishes to attract people of all ages.
- Through the preaching the Word of God, openness to the Holy Spirit, and heartfelt worship, we encourage people to have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and seek to be a Catalyst for God's Blessing to those in our congregation, the parish and to the people of Trowbridge. Our Mission is to *'prepare the hearts of the people and the structures of the church for the next great move of God in England'*.

2) What are the priorities of your local Church?

The Priorities of St Thomas's Church include the following:

- a) Reaching out and working with and in the local community in Trowbridge through
 - CATA (Christian Action in the Trowbridge Area) an organisation of Christian churches who keep each other informed of their activities and work together on town-wide events (exhibitions, prayer days etc.).
 - Street Pastors in the town centre on Saturday Evenings
 - Storehouse hampers at Christmas time
 - Working with the Council to help the local community,
 - Helping Polish men who are trying to give up drink by providing meals
 - Providing food for the Soup run and providing gifts for the Soup run people and the homeless at Christmas (some Cell groups within the Church).
- b) Working with other churches to develop the Alpha course
- c) Having outreach within St Thomas through Messy Church, Mothers and Toddlers, involving Brownies in certain Church services, Berach ladies group

- d) The Ladies' group Beracah take assemblies at Bellefield and The Mead each term.
- e) Making Holy Trinity (chapel at ease) available for a wide range of church and community events.
- f) Being involved with local schools. Bellefield, The Mead and Walwayne Court, are all schools within St Thomas' Parish.
- g) The Pulse, a monthly youth worship and ministry event
- h) The church supports charities and missions both national and overseas, giving at least 10% of our income annually. We have a Mission Awareness programme and speakers from various Missions come and speak at our morning services throughout the year.

3) Is there one thing you would like to take on or develop in the coming year (recognising that may mean you may need to stop doing something else?)

a) St Thomas's Church is looking to put more focus on Storehouse to try to increase the Church contribution to this on a regular basis and we are due to have a launch to introduce and promote giving to the Storehouse by the Church. We have a trolley on loan from Sainsburys and intend to have this at Church for people to put items in to donate to Storehouse.

b) Lay Pastoral Assistant courses are being promoted with the intention to have a Pastoral team to care for the needs of the Church family and local community.

c) Whilst the new web site has been launched, the development of it to reach it fully intended capability is ongoing.

4) Are there ways in which we can work together with neighbouring churches to achieve more?

Please see the article below from Wiltshire times about CATA, which St Thomas is involved with and Geoff Tate the convener, attends St Thomas's Church.



Christians Caring

“I have lived in Trowbridge for over eleven years, but in the past two or three, I have been encouraged by the really good things that have been taking place in our town as part of its re-generation.

This is also true of the Churches. Increasingly they are coming together to serve in the community and help make Trowbridge a really great place to live in. This year I hope you will be blessed and encouraged through some of our services and events.”



Geoff Tate
CATA Convenor

Churches
*working together
to make a difference
in our community*

For further information phone:
01225 755054

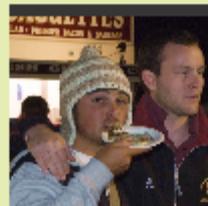
Post Xmas Blues? Fed up with the same-old, same-old? Try Alpha!

Explore the meaning of life, the Universe and everything (well, almost). Starts Monday 21st January 2013 at 7.30 pm and running over 15 weeks at Holy Trinity (the Church on the roundabout), Trowbridge. What are you waiting for?



Out on the razzle on a Saturday night? Needing help to get home safely?

Street Pastors are there to care, to pick you up and mop you up. Every Saturday, late till 3am



Can't stretch your cash far enough this week? Worried about feeding the kids?

Through referral from your GP, child's school, etc., Storehouse Foodbank supports people in short term need of food and toiletries. Find help at the United Church Buildings, 24 Church Street, Trowbridge. Open Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays 10.30 am - 12.30pm Tel: 01225 755657

Debt spiralling? Scared of loan sharks? Nowhere to turn?

Hope Debt Advice Service provides a FREE, confidential service and practical support to residents of Trowbridge who are in financial trouble.

For info contact the office on 01225 755657

Snug indoors? Nice warm bed?

Soup run: daily food and hot drinks for those living on the streets. Care and concern for those in deepest need.

New for 2013:

Trowbridge Community Sports Team.
Launching shortly! Look out for more info as time goes on.

5) How can we best measure the quality and impact of Church life?

At St Thomas's an exercise was undertaken to seek the views of the congregation, picking people to consult on a random basis, to gauge their views in respect of Church life. The Listening Exercise was conducted by Alison Bennett, who leads Kingfisher Church, which is a Church planted by St Thomas's. Alison then fed back to the Church the various themes which came out of the exercise, which were encouraging more Pastoral care in the Church for the Church family and outside of the Church, the form of services and worship and other matters.

The other way to measure the impact of Church life is to look at the areas in which St Thomas's Church members and leaders are involved within the local community.