

### The Church



**The Church**, a Grade 2 listed building, was consecrated in 1845, in what was essentially a farming community, but now Henbury is a part rural, part suburban parish on the outskirts of Macclesfield, serving a population of around 3,500. We are an active Anglican community with a middle-of-the-road, liberal churchmanship. We make all newcomers feel welcome, have an open policy to those looking for baptisms and are as flexible as church law allows to those looking to be married here.

Electoral Roll: 81 (following creation of a new roll in 2019)

#### **Our Belief and Vision for the future**

To provide a focal point within Henbury and Broken Cross for the community to engage in and develop Christian Worship and Fellowship.

### Church Services

#### Sundays:

- 8:00am Holy Communion**  
(Said, every Sunday)  
Holy Communion and Eucharist use the Order for Holy Communion Rite A from the Sunday Service Book, printed in our own booklet.
- 11:00am Sung Eucharist** (1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday)  
**Family Service** (2nd Sunday)  
Specially written informal services suitable for families  
**Matins** (4th Sunday)  
BCP service from the **Sunday Service Book**, with sung psalms, canticles, versicles and responses  
All 11 am services are followed by refreshments in the Church Hall
- 6:30pm Evensong** (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday)  
As for Matins  
Holy Communion (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday)

#### Thursdays:

- 10.40am Holy Communion**  
Said, every Thursday, followed by refreshments in Church

Clergy and Readers are robed (Cassock, Surplice and Stole/Scarf)

Home visits for Communion are arranged.

Average attendances are: 8:00am - 8; 11:00am - 32; 6:30pm - 11; 10:40am - 14

### Special Services

- Plough Sunday** in January, blessing a plough and new-born lamb in Church
- Easter and Harvest Festivals**
- Memorial Service** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in November for recently bereaved
- Remembrance Day Service** in church and at the War Memorial
- Christingle**, December family service
- Traditional Nine Lessons and Carols**, using readings from the King James Bible
- Dressing the Crib**, Christmas Eve, bringing in about 100 adults and 40 children
- Midnight Communion**, Christmas Eve

### Occasional Offices (2019 figures)

Baptisms (14), Weddings (3), Funeral services (5), Burials and Interment of Ashes (5) are welcomed, including at the Macclesfield Crematorium (5).

### Music

#### Organist

We have a resident organist and a **Hymnal Plus** player for use when an organist is not available.

#### Hymn Books

Both modern and traditional tastes are catered for:  
**Mission Praise** is used at Sung Eucharist and Family services  
**Common Praise** is used for BCP services

#### Choir

A small, dedicated, mixed choir sings at 11 am and 6:30 pm services.  
They also perform at our Nine Lessons and Carols service.

### Quinquennial Surveys

There are no outstanding works following the last inspection and no major works are envisaged. The next inspection is due in 2020.

### Churchyard

The Churchyard is well maintained and is open for burials and interment of ashes.

### Finances

Total income: £45,000

Total expenditure £57,000

Average weekly giving: £5

Church Hall net income: £6,000

Magazine net income £700

Entertainments Committee contribute £2000

Investments in CCLA and other institutions £363,000

### Charitable Giving

A special Fund raising activity is held annually for a specific local, national or international charity. In 2019 we raised £1444 for **ShelterBox**, which provides emergency supplies to disaster areas worldwide.

In Macclesfield we regularly support the local **Food Bank** and the **Hope Centre**.

### Fellowship

**Light refreshments** are provided after all 11 a.m., Thursday and special services.

**CAMEO** (Come And Meet Each Other) gatherings monthly in the Church Hall, providing refreshments and entertainment, open to all local residents.

**MAST** (Men At St. Thomas) monthly meetings for men in a local hostelry.

**Entertainments Committee** provides **Harvest Supper, Festive Coffee Morning for Christmas, Spring Lunch, Seasonal refreshments after the Carol Service.**

An **Annual Parish Lunch** is held in a local hostelry.

The Church has enthusiastic packs of **Rainbows, Brownies and Guides.**

### Outreach

#### Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is organised by a dedicated team of people working under a Pastoral Care Team Leader. They regularly visit parishioners who are sick or who live alone, at home and in hospital and distribute gifts to them after the Harvest Festival, the Flower Service and at Christmas. They are also involved in the running of CAMEO.

We have a Lay Reader who completes her training in April.

Members of the PCC are being trained in the Safeguarding Policy.

#### Communications

##### Magazine

A monthly magazine is produced, with nearly 200 copies distributed widely in the Parish. As well as the obvious Church activities, it includes a children's section, humour, Christian articles and advertisements for local businesses.

A weekly Pew Leaflet is also printed.

##### Website [www.stthomashenbury.org.uk](http://www.stthomashenbury.org.uk)

The Church has published a website for approximately 20 years. It is updated once a month and contains details of the Church, Church Hall, services, extracts from the Magazine as well as contact information and news of local events. We average over 2,000 users with 2,700 sessions a year.

### **FaceBook Page.**

St. Thomas' and St. John's have had a joint FaceBook page since late 2018. We post details of upcoming services and social events regularly. Information about St Thomas' and joint events is updated at least once a week.

### **Whirley Primary School**

The school holds a carol service at St. Thomas' alternating each year with the Methodist Church. The vicar conducts assembly occasionally, so there is an opportunity to develop a closer relationship to encourage children into Church.

### **Spiritual development**

Bible study and Alpha Courses are organised.

### **Mothers' Union**

There is an active MU branch which meets monthly and has an annual outing. Members also serve at Deanery and Diocesan level. The Branch raises funds for MU projects worldwide. A member attends every Baptism and gives a small gift to the baby. They also hold corporate communion services four times a year, to which all are welcome.

### **Car Park**

There are two well-lit car parks for people using the Church and the Hall

### **Church Hall**



## Parish Profile St Thomas, Henbury & Broken Cross

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The **Church Hall**, which was recently refurbished, was built in 1979 and extended in 1992. It has 2 committee rooms, a large well-equipped kitchen and a sizeable hall with a stage. The hall can accommodate 90 people for a sit down meal, 120 for a buffet, 100 closely seated and has an entertainment license. A high speed Wi-Fi is available. Since the Hall was built it has become a well-used Community facility and the centre of the Henbury village for social events, meetings etc. It has many regular bookings as well as one off events such as children's parties.

### **Henbury and Broken Cross Environs.**

The Parish is located to the West of Macclesfield 4 miles from the Derbyshire hills and on the edge of the Cheshire plain. The surrounding countryside to the West and South is dominated by dairy farming.

Communication links are particularly well provided with a direct mainline rail service to Manchester and London, the M6 motor way is a 20 minutes drive away and the major international Manchester Airport also 20 minutes away.

There are local shops in Broken Cross, a mile from the Church. Macclesfield is a bustling town with several supermarkets and in earlier times was based on the silk industry, but now relies on modern high tech businesses such as pharmaceuticals.

The Church is adjacent to a modern housing estate built approximately fifty years ago. Within the last two years a further 31 houses have been built and planning permission has been sought for 144 houses to be built within the parish between Henbury village and Broken Cross. With the inevitable expansion of the housing stock westwards of Henbury, St. Thomas' is well positioned to provide their spiritual needs.

### **Brief resume from the Parish Census IMD Summary.**

97.5% white

71.2% Christian

Area 3.4 square miles

1036 population density per square mile

79% aged 18 and above

21% under 18 years old.

Total population 3525.

Ranked 10732 out of 12425 parishes (where 1 is the most deprived and 12425 is the least deprived).