

*St Thomas's Osbaldwick and St James's Murton*  
*Churches with a heart - at the heart of our communities*

*An Inclusive Church — All are Welcome*

## Pew Sheet for Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025

### Sunday 12th January The Baptism of Christ

10am Holy Communion at St Thomas's

4pm Evening Prayer at St James's

*Readings: Isaiah 43: 1—7. Luke 3: 15—17, 21, 22.*

### Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January

5pm Wedding Blessing

### Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January

09.30am Playgroup - St Thomas's

12.30pm Soup and Jacket Potato Lunch, St James's

### Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January

10.00am Coffee Drop-in - St Thomas's

### Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January

10.30am Chairobics - St Thomas's

### Sunday 19th January -

10am Family Communion at St Thomas's

*Reading: Jesus goes to a wedding*

6.30pm Churches together East York **joint service at St Hilda's for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.**

### Looking ahead....

#### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 4pm - St Thomas's

Our annual Ecumenical Service to celebration of the life and heritage of Mary Ward. This year's service will be attended by the City of York Civic Party and the preacher will be Mrs Jane Beever, Headteacher of Loreto Catholic Girls' Grammar School in Altrincham. Please put this date in your diary and come along to give a warm St Thomas's welcome to our guests for this service.



#### Sunday 2nd February at St Helen's Escrick

6pm Derwent Deanery—Candlemas Choral Evensong with the Choir of Queen Margaret's School

### Sunday Reflection

Every week, the Diocese of York offers a new reflection and prayer resource on video, for personal use. This week the Ven Sam Rushton, Archdeacon of York, reflects on Luke 3: 15—17. Find the video at: [vimeo.com/dioceseforyork](https://vimeo.com/dioceseforyork).

### Prayers and Prayer Pointers

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January** - God of all grace, Today is a day where I can learn more of you and your ways, an opportunity to be challenged, changed and inspired by you and your love for me. Come, show me what is mine to do, I pray. Amen.

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January** - Around the world, there are many people actively working for peace and justice – humanitarian workers, campaigners, politicians, community organisers, fundraisers, religious leaders, and many more. - Today, take a moment to pray for them, to seek wisdom from God on what it might be that you can do to help seek peace in the world, in Jesus' name.

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January** - What would finding a moment of stillness look like for you this day? A moment when you can turn aside from your routine and intentionally listen to God's voice. - Come, Lord Jesus, into the stillness of my day. Amen.

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January** - Today, take a moment to notice the light. In these dark, winter days it is easy to miss the light shining. Whether its sunlight (what are the chances!?), a glimpse of the moon, a candle, a lamp, or similar...take it as a moment to celebrate and give thanks.

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January** - Living, loving God, Today we pray for all those involved in church leadership, All who set strategy, design programs, lead churches, chair meetings, All who seek to make space for grace in the midst of the working of the institution. May your Spirit guide and lead them today, we pray. Amen.

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January** - You might simply like to use the mantra 'God is love' as you go about your day, today. Notice that God is present, always, and closer than you maybe often realise.

**Diocesan Prayer diary**—This week join in prayer with the church throughout our diocese for:

**Church of England:** Diocese of Coventry, Bishop-designate Sophie Jelley, vacancy for Bishop of Warwick

**Church of Norway:** Diocese of Sør-Hålogoland (Bodø), Bishop Svein Valle

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland:** Diocese of Oulu, Bishop Jukka Keskitalo.

Find reflections and daily prayers:

[dioceseforyork.org.uk/diocesan-prayer-diary](https://dioceseforyork.org.uk/diocesan-prayer-diary)

## **Collect and Readings for The Baptism of Christ**

### **Collect and Prayer for the week**

Eternal Father,  
who at the baptism of Jesus  
revealed him to be your Son,  
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us, who are born again by water  
and the Spirit,  
that we may be faithful to our calling as your  
adopted children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*All readings are from Bible Gateway - NRSV .*

### **Isaiah 43: 1—7**

But now thus says the Lord,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be  
with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not  
overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be  
burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
For I am the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.  
I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.  
Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honoured, and I love you,  
I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.  
Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;  
I will say to the north, “Give them up,”  
and to the south, “Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the  
earth—  
everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.”

For the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

### **Luke 3: 15—17, 21—22**

The people waited expectantly, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

This is the Gospel of Christ  
**Praise to Christ our Lord**



### **Post Communion Prayer**

Lord of all time and eternity,  
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as  
Father  
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:  
by the power of your Spirit  
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth  
through the waters of the new creation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **At the end of the service**

May I go with the courage of Christ in my heart.

May I go with the fierce energy of the Spirit in my  
body.

May I go with the God of love streaming through me  
and out into the world.

May I go in peace, and serve the Lord. **Amen.**