

St Thomas Methodist Church, Cowick Street, Exeter

Sunday morning worship at 10.30am
other services and events as advertised

tea/coffee will be served in the Foyer every week after worship

Advent 2025 - Epiphany 2026

This year we are following a Themed Preaching series using the Methodist Church resources for Advent – Epiphany:

Gifted

You are a gift. Made with love.

Gifted is a message of good news to a weary world ...

30 November *Advent Sunday*



... meets morning worship for Advent

craft activities for all ages from 10am; worship from 10.30am, including refreshments and more activities.

Be ready. Be real. Be the gift.

07 December *Advent 2*

Mr Lloyd Smale

14 December *Advent 3*

Rev Dr. Simon Leigh, with Holy Communion

21 December *Advent 4*

Mr David Bradford

28 December *Christmas 1*

Mrs Janet Lee

04 January *Christmas 2*

Mr David House

11 January *Covenant Sunday*

Rev Donna Leigh, with Holy Communion; followed by a 'Bring and Share' lunch. Please sign up on the list in the Foyer

Sunday 21 December

Carols by Candlelight

at 4.30pm

**Worship led by the Church Stewards
and members of the congregation**

Tuesday 23 December

Lights for Remembrance

The church will be open between
2 – 4pm for quiet reflection

*Drop in ... stay a while ... light a
candle to remember a loved one.*



Christmas Eve *Crib Service* all activities and worship suitable for all ages.

Craft activities from 3pm; refreshments from 4pm; finishing with worship from 4.30-5pm

All children must be accompanied by a parent/carer.

further details from: Caroline White 07854 482349

Christmas Day ~ *celebrate the birth of Christ*

There is no service at our church this year.

You are warmly invited to ...

Exminster Methodist Church for an All-age Christmas Celebration at 10.30am

(The service lasts 30 or so minutes.)

Christmas jumpers are often worn (but not compulsory!)

You are welcome to bring along a favourite Christmas present to show everyone.

or, locally, the Family Service at St Thomas Parish Church at 9.30am

***Epiphany* – Tuesday 06 January
2-4pm in the Foyer and church**

Join us for the final stage of our Advent – Epiphany journey.

... craft activities, ... reflection, ... conversation, ... music , ... and more.
tea/coffee and ‘something’ edible, will be available.

CHRISTMAS CARD SORTING 2025

Don't forget to bring your Christmas cards for members of our church family and place them in the post box, which will be in the foyer from Sunday 30th November; cards will be ready for collection AFTER each service up to and including Sunday 21st December. Please include the person's full name on the envelope to avoid any confusion.

All donations for Hospiscare will be gratefully received. Thank you

Josie James wishes Donna and the congregation ...

‘Blessings for Christmas and a peaceful New Year’.

Josie is visiting her family in Australia over Christmas and the new year, so is not giving cards, but making a donation, this year.

Rev Donna Leigh *is currently unwell and on extended sick leave.* If anyone would like to send her good wishes or a Christmas card it needs to be at church by the morning of 14 December.

TUESDAY SOCIAL GROUP

2 – 4pm in the Church Foyer ‘... company and a chat over a cuppa ...’

Open to everyone; just bring yourself and invite a friend!

Next meeting – 09 December.

Craft4Others meets fortnightly on Thursdays at 7.30pm in the Church Lounge.

NEXT MEETINGS –11 December; 08 + 22 January.

HOUSEGROUP meets on **Monday 19 January** at 2.30pm.

You are invited to support Exeter Foodbank this Christmas.

- (1) by donation of their 'regular' / 'most needed' items [please note the items NOT needed!]
- (2) by putting together a 'Christmas in a bag'. Fill a festive (or sturdy 'bag for life') with treats and small gifts for someone who might otherwise go without – ideas as below. Bags are given out for individuals (1 person) or families (4 people). Please clearly label who the bag is for.

PLEASE SEE POSTERS IN THE FOYER FOR FULL DETAILS.

'Christmas in a bag' donations need to be at church by Sunday 30 November; all other donations by Sunday 14 December.

Thank you

We are collecting for Exeter Foodbank

Their most needed items include:



They do not need pasta or baked beans

Thank you!



CHRISTMAS in a Bag

CONTENT SUGGESTIONS:

Christmas cake
Yule Log
Sweet pies
Posh biscuits
Crisps, nuts and or savoury crackers
A bottle/s of soft drink
Bag of sweets
A small game (like cards, Dobble, Uno)

Please no alcohol (even in ingredients)

Events and Services at St Thomas PARISH Church:

Tuesday 25 November from 4.15-6.15pm / Sunday 30 November from 1.30-3.30pm ~ drop in to the Parish Church HALL to get ideas and free materials, or stay to make an **ADVENT WINDOW**. No cost. Refreshments available. **For more info. contact:** pioneerstthomas@gmail.com

Sunday 14 December at 4pm + 6pm ~ Carol services with Grace Church

Saturday 20 December at 3pm ~ Blue Christmas Service

The Christmas season is often associated with joy and celebration, but for some, it can be a very challenging time. "Blue Christmas" is about acknowledging those feelings and offering support to those who might be struggling, and a Blue Christmas service aims to create a comforting space for people who might find this time of year challenging for a variety of reasons.

Christmas Eve at 11pm ~ Midnight Mass

Christmas Day at 9.30am ~ Family Service

Christmas Shoeboxes – *thank you!*

35 shoe boxes are now on their way to Moldova and Ukraine to bring love and joy to the recipients this Christmas. Many thanks, Mary Bews.

Keep in touch...

Rev Donna Leigh

Mary Bews [01392 256927 / bmjayb@gmail.com] **Senior Church Steward**

Janet Lee [jaylee.church@outlook.com / 07990 039361] **Pastoral Co-ordinator**