



Ellesmere
Port
Parish

August 2023 newsletter

Good news, the parish profile is completed and ready to send off to the Diocese for their comments/approval. A big thank you to Gaynor, Judith, Karen and Amanda for their hard work in compiling this document, the PCC felt it gave a real flavour of what the parish is all about, the mission and outreach that we are involved with and a great sense of ownership and belonging. Once we have had the go ahead from the Diocese we can then draw up our advertisement for a new rector, which is really exciting! We held a prayer evening on Monday which gave many prayer pointers in bringing our vacancy and search for a new rector before God. We shall be hosting a similar prayer evening once the advertisement has been published, and I would encourage as many folk as possible to join us. Date to be announced.

I mentioned in my last letter that we were awaiting news regarding several funding applications, and I am pleased to announce that we were fortunate in receiving £10,000 from the National Lottery and £5,000 from the local councillor's budget which means our Summer Fun days can go ahead and that we were able to support 179 families with 2 bags of food to help them over the school holidays.



Why do we do what we do – working with the families in our community? We are going to explore this further using the Church Urban Fund's Growing Good resource. This is a six part course which helps parishes explore the link between social action, discipleship and growth. We are very involved in the outreach and mission to our community and so this course will hopefully embed in

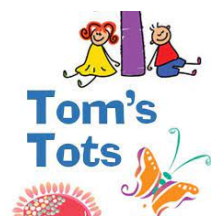
everyone the call to faith in action. I will send out further details regarding this course which starts in September. It is hoped that cell groups will attend as a group together with others from the church family as we delve deeper into what it means to be a disciple of Christ in the modern world.



The 10.45am services in August will all be café style and we shall be looking deeper into the life of Peter – a flawed yet faithful follower of Jesus, an ordinary fisherman who transformed into a follower of Jesus. Like Peter we have a few new faces who have agreed to dip their toe in the water and share God's Word with us at café church which is all exciting and very encouraging.

9am and 11am services during August remain unchanged.

After a break of a few years **TOMS TOTS** is being re-launched in September. We canvassed parents through our contacts in primary schools and the most popular request was Thursday morning and so we begin on Thursday 7 September from 9.30am – 11am. We still need a few more volunteers to help with various tasks – welcoming, hospitality,



making the morning coffee etc. If you would like to help, then please speak to Gemma asap. Thank you.

Jesus trail challenge for August – supporting Christian Aid and Church – please see attached for further details. Please speak to Gemma if you would like any further details for this.

Community Eco Summer Challenge - all primary school children have been challenged to pick up one piece of litter during the school holidays and then send us a photograph which will go on our Facebook page. Needless to say, we have been challenged to do the same! Don't forget to send in your picture.

PCC meetings – we have been asked for a report of our meetings to be available and so we are trialling posting a short resume of proceedings on the noticeboards at both churches. If you stop and read this, would you mind just giving a tick at the bottom of the page just so we can gauge the interest. Thank you.



Pastoral care – during this time of interregnum with visiting preachers etc it is difficult to keep an eye on those who may be missing from our Sunday services. Can I please ask everyone to be aware and let me know if anyone is missing from church for whatever reason so that this can be followed up by the clergy or one of our pastoral workers. Thank you.

St Thomas grounds - Needless to say, there is always work to be done on the grounds - brushing leaves, weeding, pruning etc. If you have a spare hour or two, please do pop down to either church or give a hand.

St Lawrence Churchyard – a big thank you to everyone who helps keep the churchyard tidy. We are in the process of contacting all families who have graves at St Lawrence and are sensitively asking them to consider the artefacts etc that have slowly crept in and onto the graves and are not in keeping with Diocesan Churchyard Regulations.

2023 Christmas Shoebox appeal August 2023 requested items – toothbrush and toothpaste, soap & face cloth, new socks and underwear. Don't forget we also need to collect shoeboxes too! Thank you.

In this period of transition and change prayer is more important than ever and so I do encourage everyone to try and join in with our Facebook morning prayers – Monday to Thursday 9am – 9.30am.

Christmas Fair! Date for the diary – Saturday 2 December 2023. We shall be needing a small team to oversee this so have a think – could this be you?? Do start to collect items – perhaps buy a bottle of anything when you are doing the weekly shop ready for the bottle stall or ask family and friends if they have any unwanted gifts etc.

Dates for August 2023

6 August	10.45am	Café church at St Thomas
8 August		Family fun day out – Eureka New Brighton
9 August	2pm	Tea at Two at St Thomas – for anyone who enjoys a chat and a cuppa!
12 August		Multi-cultural day in Whitby Park
13 August	10.45am	Café church at St Thomas
20 August	10.45am	Café church at St Thomas Start of Falcon Camp at Barnstondale
26 August	10.45am	Café church at St Thomas
27 August	10.45am	Café church at St Thomas
30 August		Family fun day out – Applejacks Farm Warrington

I think that is it for now.
Take care & God bless.
Gill 0785 0122092