



Ellesmere
Port
Parish

July 2023 newsletter

Holiday season is upon us! Having just returned from my annual leave I give thanks for the time away spent in the sunshine, having a rest and recharging my batteries! Whether you are going away or enjoying a break at home I hope that the time away from the usual routine will give you the rest and refreshment that you need. There always seem to be so much going on, and at times you just need to step off and step out of the daily routine and give yourself time. Jesus gave us so many examples of drawing away from the crowds to spend time alone and with God in order to refresh himself, and in doing so I think he encourages us to do the same.

Church life tends to start winding down during July as we move into August however there is still much to look forward. We are once again supporting families in the community with food parcels to help them over the summer holiday period and so volunteers are required to help pack and deliver parcels -please see dates below. If you could help with this, please do let Gemma know.

We are also hoping to be able to offer these families a chance to spend time together on a Summer Fun Day out however, these are dependent on whether or not we are successful in our funding applications. Hopefully, we will get to hear in the next week or so.

Our main morning service on 30 July will be at 11am at St Lawrence. Following the service, we shall be having a cake sale to raise funds for the summer fun days – so please do support this either with baking or buying the cakes. Thank you.

Good news – we raised £227.60 from the clothes recycling bags which will be going into general funds.



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.

Everyone is invited to join the Scouts for their annual summer fair – this Saturday 8 July at St Thomas from 11am – 2pm. Let's hope the sun shines for them.



Jesus trail challenge for August – supporting Christian Aid and Church – please see attached for further details.

Health and Safety Rep – a big thank you to Matthew Boyle who has come forward to assist with this.

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. There is now a storage box by the side of the Rectory containing gardening tools for everyone to use – a big thank you to Jackie Flint for her kind donation of the storage box.

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 July 2023 requested items –small rubber ball, tennis ball, soft toys, small musical instruments. Thank you for your continued support.

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. Such a great way to start the day spending time with others in bringing our worship and prayers to God. Very easy to join – just go on Facebook and look for The Parish of Ellesmere Port.

We are also having a prayer meeting for everyone on Monday 24 July from 7pm – 8.30pm focussing on the interregnum and the next steps. I do hope as many people as possible will attend this important prayer meeting.

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??

Dates for July 2023

2 July	10.45am	Café church
8 July	11am – 2pm	Scout Summer Fair at St Thomas Church – all welcome
9 July	4pm	ABC at St Lawrence
12 July	2pm	Tea at Two at St Thomas – for anyone who enjoys a chat and a cuppa!
18 July	4.30pm – 7.30pm	Food delivery at St Thomas – volunteers required please PCC meeting at St Lawrence
19 July	9am	Food packing at St Thomas – volunteers required please
21 July	1pm	PALS lunch in St Thomas Church Hall
22 July	6pm	Cinema night at St Thomas watching 'Matilda the

		musical' – all welcome
24 July	7pm	Special prayer meeting focussing on interregnum and parish profile
25 July	10.30am	Community Outreach Group 'COG' meeting in St Thomas coffee lounge
30 July	11am	Joint morning service at St Lawrence followed by a cake sale

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

Gill
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