



Ellesmere  
Port  
Parish

## June 2023 newsletter

Following on from my last newsletter I am pleased to advise that Gemma was commissioned as our Community Development Worker on Pentecost Sunday, quite an appropriate day taking into account the message of Pentecost and reflecting on the words spoken by Jesus in promising that the holy spirit would come to equip his disciples for the ministry to which he was sending them. This post grew organically through the ministry of the Food Initiative Group which started Christmas 2020. What began with us supporting families over the Christmas holiday period with food has now grown into a much wider ministry in the life of our primary schools and community. The gift of the Holy Spirit that marks the birth of the church is a gift expressly for outsiders, those who need to hear God where they are at. It seems that one mark of the Holy Spirit's gifting is that it empowers us to connect to others and of course that is exactly what Gemma will be doing through her work. Please do pray for her as she takes on this role and continues to develop the work and the ministry of our churches into our community.



We welcomed Melanie Webb to our service at 10.45am on Sunday. Melanie is discerning God's call to ordination and needed a placement in a church in a different setting than rural and more evangelical in style and so will be joining us for the next 12 weeks. Please do make yourself known to her and have a chat.

**Health and Safety Rep** we desperately need a health and safety rep to oversee both churches. Is there someone in the church family with experience in this area and would be willing to serve the church in this way?? (I hope so)

**Tech team at St Thomas** – it's taken a while to get there but at long last we now have a small tech support team at St Thomas which is absolutely brilliant news. We have a few folk who have been trained in using the computer in our Sunday worship which is such a bonus. We could do with a few other folk to sign up. If you could help, please do have a word with me asap. There is training available!

**Bacon Butty morning** at St Thomas raised £204.25 for FIG summer days out. Thank you to all who supported the event.

**ECO Church** – this is very high on the PCC agenda at the moment, and to that end we now have an ECO church working group. If this is something that you would like to be involved with, please do have a word with Ricky. There are lots of small things we can do to make a difference and help care for our world. Watch this space as to

how you can do your bit in church! Perhaps this would be a good time to remind folk to ensure that lights are turned off when leaving the building and taps are not left running as has been the case recently in the church hall – not only wasting water but costing money as these were the hot water taps!

Thanks to everyone who came and helped at the spring clean day at St Thomas. The grounds look so much better de-weeded and cleared. It would be good if we could keep on top of this, so please if you have a spare hour pop down to church and give the paths a brush, keep the weeds at bay. Let's try and keep the grounds looking cared for.

**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**

June 2023 requested items –sweets – use by date June 2024, hair accessories, new socks/underwear, hat & scarf. 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. Hope to see you there!

Prim Taylor recently passed away. Her funeral is to be held on Wednesday 14 June 3.20pm at Blacon Crematorium. It would be lovely to see lots of folk from church there, she had been a member of St Thomas for many years and before that had been housekeeper to clergy – back in the day!

**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 June 2023**

1 June		Gemma joins staff team as Community Development Worker
4 June	10.45am	Café Church at St Thomas – Trinity Sunday
11 June	4pm	Recycling Clothes – bags to be returned to church TODAY. ABC service at St Lawrence
14 June	2pm	Tea at Two in coffee lounge at St Thomas
17 June – 2 July		Gill on annual leave for 2 weeks – all enquiries/pastoral matters to be directed to churchwardens please
21 June	7pm	Archdeacon's Visitation at St Andrews, Grange Runcorn

23 June	1pm	PALS lunch in church hall at St Thomas
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I think that is it for now.

Take care & God bless. Gill 0785 0122092/0151 356 2202