



Ellesmere  
Port  
Parish

## May 2023 newsletter

And life goes on..... It was wonderful to share in the celebrations as we said our thanks and gave our good wishes to Gordon and Julia as they retired from ministry in the parish last month. I am pleased to say they have moved into their new home and the emptying of boxes seem to be coming to an end for them as they find places for everything in a much smaller home! No doubt we shall hear from them in due course but we do continue to pray for them as they settle into a very different way of life in retirement.

Whilst remembering Gordon and Julia in retirement we also remember in our prayers our soon to be King Charles III as he looks towards his coronation on Saturday 6 May. A day of great significance for so many people and for so many reasons. Praying for God's Will to be done.



### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

It was great to welcome so many of the church family to the joint service on Sunday. The service incorporated our annual parochial church meeting which gave the opportunity to give thanks to God for the mission and ministry of the church in 2022 and to look forward with eager anticipation to what God has in store for us in 2023. A brilliant bring and share lunch was held afterwards! I have pleasure in attaching a note of the membership of the PCC for your attention. A few people have asked about the purpose of the PCC and so I have noted below the statement which underpins the work of the PCC.

***The PCC exists to express collective ownership of the church's mission bringing clergy and laity together to seek prayerfully the furthering of God's Kingdom, ensuring that the church is striving to fulfil its mission statement. It is charged with overseeing finance, safeguarding, employment and appointments complying with charity and ecclesiastical law.***

Please do pray for the PCC as they further the mission and ministry of the church over the next twelve months. A big thank you to Sarah Guest and Sheron Roberts as they completed their term of office on the PCC.

Finance and fundraising was highlighted at the APCM. We are just holding our head above water but this is an area of church life that needs our attention. If you have any ideas for fundraising then please do let me know whilst also revisiting your own giving to the life of the church. Giving and finance is not an easy or comfortable subject to broach in the current climate but is something that we need to face as a church family.

If you would like a hard copy of the Annual Report then please do let me know and I can get that sorted for you.

**Revd Debbie Wilkinson** is being licensed at the Diocese of Chester appointed Associate Minister of Birkenhead Priory Parish and Mission Lead for the Wirral Waters Development on Wednesday 3 May. Our thoughts and prayers are with Debbie as she takes on this new role and as the family settles into their new home.

**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)

**Community Development Worker** Following months of preparation and finally interviews we were pleased to announce at the APCM that Gemma Alexander-Bloomfield subject to references has been appointed as our Community Development Worker – start date to be arranged. This is a very exciting appointment in the life of the parish and so we look forward to continue working with Gemma in this role. There is just one slight downside to the appointment and that is Gemma will have to relinquish her role as Parish Safeguarding Officer which she has carried out so diligently over the last few years. This will mean the appointment of a new Parish Safeguarding Officer so prayers would be appreciated for that too!

**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!

**Lent – sponsor a food bag.** As promised, I have great pleasure in advising that £1,020.50 was donated towards the Easter bags. Thank you.

**West Cheshire Foodbank.** We still host collection boxes for donations for the foodbank. At the moment they are asking for donations of tinned potatoes, biscuits and UHT milk and juice as the stocks are running low for these products.

### **2023 Christmas Shoebox appeal**

May 2023 requested items –toothbrush & toothpaste, hair accessories, soap and flannel, stationery and paper. Thank you for your continued support.

**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 May 2023**

1 May	2pm - 4pm	<b>Pre-Coronation Afternoon Tea at St Thomas</b>
2 May	1.30pm	FIG meeting at 4 Deeside Close
3 May	10am	Holy Communion at Christ Church – all welcome

6 May		Coronation of King Charles III
7 May	10.45am	Café Church at St Thomas
10 May	2pm	Tea at Two in coffee lounge at St Thomas
14 May	4pm	ABC service at St Lawrence
15 May	7.30pm	PCC meeting in coffee lounge at St Thomas
20 May	10am – 3pm	<b><i>Work party at St Thomas – lots of jobs to do!</i></b>
23 May	4.30pm	Unloading food for food hampers at St Thomas
24 May	9.30am	Packing and delivery of food hampers
	7.30pm	Deanery Synod at St Thomas
26 May	1pm	PALS lunch in church hall at St Thomas
27 May	6pm	Cinema night at St Thomas 'The Magician's Elephant'
28 May	6.30pm	Memorial Service at St Thomas – for anyone who has recently been bereaved – a time to come and remember
31 May		Fun Day for families in our community

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

Gill

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