



Ellesmere
Port
Parish

November 2023 newsletter

There is much on this month's newsletter for your information as we move ever closer to Advent and Christmas so, please do take time to have a read and make a note of dates for your diary and support the events where you can and bring a friend!

Saturday 2 December 11am – 2pm



The Christmas Fair brings a great opportunity to invite the community into our church building. Lots of things to start collecting and making in readiness for the fair – please see attached reminder. Let's try and make this year a bumper year! We still need a few volunteers to man the stalls and to help in the kitchen with washing up

etc. If you would like to help, please let me know as soon as possible. Thank you.

Angels of Hope! Our knitters have been getting into gear once again and many angels are being produced ready to share with our community once again. If you would like to have a go, then there are patterns available at the back of the church. We also require folk to distribute them in the community too!

Our very talented parish administrator Charmaine has once again donated one of her beautiful pieces of glassware for auction. It will be a silent auction open from now and will close at the Christmas Fair – when the winner will be announced. This poppy sculpture can be used indoors or outdoors and is mounted on a reclaimed mahogany base. Any funds raised to go into general church fund.



Sue Johnson's cell group is hosting a Quiz and Hot Pot Supper on Friday 24 November in St Thomas Church. Tickets are £5 which includes the hot pot supper and a drink. There will also be a raffle. They are raising funds to take our church children and families to the panto at the Civic Centre in Ellesmere Port in

January.

Advent reflections – Advent can be a season overlooked in the Christian Calendar, but this should be the time that we prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christ's birth and anticipate his promised second coming. We shall be hosting 3 advent reflections on **Wednesdays 6th, 13th & 20th December** from 7.30pm – 8.30pm at St Thomas Church. Please make a note in your diary now before they get full and take time out for yourself and Jesus.

News from Gemma – our Community Development Worker



We have been selected as one of the Co-op local community fund causes for the next 12 months, and



our cause is now live!

Support us by becoming a Co-Op member, selecting us as your cause, and as you shop, gather personal bonuses whilst helping us too! Become a member online or ask in your local Co-op store. Share this info far and wide, let's gather as much support as possible. All funding will support our ongoing community work – this simple act means we can all be ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20).

Toms Tots



Our first half-term has been such a joy! We conducted a survey with our families at the end of the half-term to check that we are offering what they want. The quotes below were heart-warming, and we are so pleased that seeds are being sown in the hearts of our youngest and newest members of our church family. Thank you to the volunteers who work incredibly hard at Toms Tots to make this group so successful.

"It's the highlight of our week, with not having much family it's great to feel so welcome and 'at home' somewhere else".

"Thank you for being so welcoming, this is a firm favourite of things to do in the week".

"I am so happy I started coming along to this group, it's very welcoming and relaxed, both my baby and myself love coming".

"One of the best playgroups I have attended, a good friendly and safe environment for all".

The Beacon Project Recipe Book Thank you SO MUCH for all the recipes that have flooded in – who knew we had so many creative chefs in our Parish! The book will be fascinating when it is complete. There are many recipes still needing to be typed up – if anyone would like to share the workload and type a few, please speak to Gemma. Many hands make light work! The book will be on sale at our Christmas Fair.

Family Fun Day, Cinema Night, and Food Hampers



Thank you to all the volunteers who supported these 3 huge events in October. It is so important to us that we have such fantastic and willing volunteers on board to be able to deliver such things to our community. 185 food hampers were delivered to 7 local schools and distributed to families at half-term, over 40 people attended our cinema night, then we had 105 people

attend our Boogie N Brunch fun day. Such community projects truly share the light and love of Jesus, and as these projects grow, we think of our prayer for growth, and the seeds sown within the community. Please speak to Gemma about opportunities to support these projects in the future, there are a variety of roles available for volunteers. There will be lots to do around Christmas time, so please do come and get involved, the more the merrier! CommunityEPortParish@hotmail.com



Gemma can be contacted via the above email address or by mobile 07467780771. Please use this mobile number if the matter is work related and not her personal mobile number that would be much appreciated. Thank you.



Considering we are now in the Autumn season please put on that extra layer when attending Sunday services – we are trying to be good stewards of our finances, keeping our heating costs at a manageable level.

Can I please make a plea to folk who join us for our 10.45am service? Please do take your seats a few minutes before the service is due to start to give yourselves time to prepare for worship and for the service to begin promptly. Thank you.

At long last the paperwork and surveys for the new sound system for St Lawrence have been completed! Thinking it was all steam ahead we were then advised that the instalment date would be 15/16 January 2024! At least everything is in place ready to go – thank goodness!



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 & St Lawrence Churchyard– a big thank you to those who have helped around the grounds over the summer. The work continues into the Autumn as the leaves begin to drop!! Please do pop along to either church and sweep the leaves or give a general tidy up – it is really appreciated.

2023 Christmas Shoebox appeal – the final date to bring in filled shoeboxes is Sunday 5 November – they will be collected and taken to the warehouse ready to be shipped the following week.

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.



A big thank you to all who supported the Big Quiz Night. £400 was raised for Tearfund.

Dates for November 2023

1 Nov	10am	Holy Communion at Christ Church School – all welcome
2 Nov	9.30am	TOMS TOTS in coffee lounge
5 Nov	10.45am	Café Church in St Thomas – ‘All Saints’
9 Nov	9.30am	TOMS TOTS in coffee lounge
12 Nov	10.45am	Remembrance Service at The Cenotaph, Civic Square – This replaces the 10.45am service at St Thomas – please do come and join this time of remembering and giving thanks
	4pm	ABC service at St Lawrence
13 Nov	7.30pm	PCC meeting in St Thomas Church Hall
15 Nov	2pm	Tea at Two in coffee lounge
16 Nov	9.30am	TOMS TOTS in coffee lounge
17 Nov	1pm	PALS lunch in St Thomas Church Hall
22 Nov	7pm	Wrapping night/preparations for Christmas Fair in coffee lounge
23 Nov	9.30am	TOMS TOTS in coffee lounge
24 Nov	7pm	Hot Pot Supper & Quiz at St Thomas – tickets £5
28 Nov	7pm	Wrapping night/preparations for Christmas Fair in coffee lounge
30 Nov		Set up church for Christmas Fair

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