



'It's the time of year' said the engineer who called to my house this week, 'we know the week will come but we never know when!' You may wonder what week they are talking about. It's the week that our heating goes on just to try it out and he says he knows because during that week he gets inundated with calls! And so, this is the week, the air is chillier in the morning and so Autumn is most definitely upon us. As well as my boiler at home, sadly, one of the boilers in St Thomas has given up the ghost and we are having to replace that but thankfully we have been given a boiler, so we only need to pay for the installation costs. Praise the Lord for that!



Considering we are now in the Autumn season can I please encourage you to 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.

Gaynor Lyth, Judith Derby, and I met with the Archdeacon of Chester last week to finalise the parish profile and I am pleased to advise that the advertisement has been drawn up and is now live on the Diocesan website. Hurrah! Closing date for applications is 23 October, shortlisting on 1 November and interviews on 21 November.

We pray that God is preparing the heart of the person he wants to come and lead and join us in our ministry to the people of Ellesmere Port. We continue to give thanks for everyone that has stepped up and helped and we pray that as we move forward, we will do so together in the knowledge that we are the Body of Christ, a family working together joyfully and serving the God who loves us.

We are holding another special prayer evening on Tuesday 10 October from 7pm in St Thomas Church to pray around the vacancy. Please make every effort to join us.

Moving into the new term our service pattern at 10.45am will revert to 'normal' with café church just being on first Sunday of the month. As we join together at 10.45am can I please encourage you to 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.

With effect from October, we shall be re-introducing the passing of the plate around during our services. Needless to say, there are many folk who give to the work of the church through standing order so if this is you, please just pass the plate on. At St Thomas we have the sum up machine which takes card payments so if you would rather give via your card then please do make use of the machine which is situated in the entrance hall. Thank you to everyone who gives generously to the life and mission of the church.

News from Gemma – our Community Development Worker



Toms Tots – we have been enjoying lots of singing, playing with our new friends, crafts, and yummy snacks. All our welcome to join us, and we are still looking for more volunteers to come and join the fun, please see Gemma if you are interested in joining the team. We have a successful rota in place, but additional support is always welcome.



The Beacon Project Recipe Book – keep those recipes coming. Thank you to those who have already started to send recipes, the book is going to be full of some lovely ideas. Where possible, please also include photos of the dish too. Remember to have all recipes sent by Saturday 14th October to CommunityEPortParish@hotmail.com

The Jesus Trail Fundraiser – thank you to all those who took part in this initiative, and to all those who sponsored our willing walkers! The total amount raised was £600! Well done everybody. What a fantastic effort. This will now be split between the general fund and Christian Aid.

COG – after successful Community Outreach Group (COG) services at St. Thomas, and with us looking forward to our COG service at the beginning of October at St. Lawrence, please find attached the COG vision document for you to digest. We hope that this allows you to gain further insight into the aims of our community work, and we do hope that you are able to join us in our COG journey.

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.



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 – there are empty shoeboxes available at the back of church if you would like to take one and fill it. There is also a 'filling' day planned for Friday 20 October in the coffee lounge. Items still required are hairbrushes and small games e.g. dominoes. Please speak to Doreen Wardle for further details.

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. 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.



Date for the diary – Saturday 7 October 2023 7pm at St Thomas. We are hosting this event on behalf of the churches in Ellesmere Port raising funds for Tear Fund. Get your team together and come and join us.

We shall be celebrating our Harvest Festival on Sunday 1 October 2023.

Gill is on annual leave from 28 September until Saturday 7 October. Please contact the churchwardens for any urgent matters. Thank you.

Dates for October 2023

1 Oct		HARVEST FESTIVAL IN BOTH CHURCHES – see separate flier for details
	10.45am	Café church at St Thomas
4 Oct	7pm	Growing Good Course – week 4 in coffee lounge
5 Oct	9.30am	TOMS TOTS in coffee lounge
7 Oct	7pm	The Big Quiz Night at St Thomas – see above
8 Oct	4pm	ABC service at St Lawrence
10 Oct	7pm	Prayer event at St Thomas – focussing on the vacancy and forthcoming shortlisting/interviews
11 Oct	2pm 7pm	Tea at Two in coffee lounge Growing Good Course – week 5 in coffee lounge
12 Oct	9.30am	TOMS TOTS in coffee lounge
17 Oct	7pm	Growing Good Course – week 6 in coffee lounge
18 Oct	10am	Christ Church School Harvest Festival in St Thomas
19 Oct	9.30am	TOMS TOTS in coffee lounge
20 Oct	9am	Shoobox filling in St Thomas coffee lounge
21 Oct	6pm	Cinema Night at St Thomas
24 Oct		FIG Fun Day at St Thomas
26 Oct		No TOMS TOTS – half term
27 Oct	1pm	PALS lunch in St Thomas church hall

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

Gill 0785 0122092