



Ellesmere  
Port  
Parish

## September 2023 newsletter

I think I must be getting old as that saying 'time flies as you get older' is so true. We are moving into the Autumn season, apparently it begins on Friday, so the weatherman informed me yesterday. The summer holidays have flown by and so we begin a new term with many activities re-starting, please see the dates for your diary at the end of the letter. We have seen many things change over the last few months as time as whizzed by, but we can hold on to the fact that God never changes, his love, support and care for each one of us remains the same – spring, summer, autumn and winter.

We are looking forward to meeting with the Archdeacon of Chester to finalise the advertisement for the new rector and then hopefully we shall have dates in place for shortlisting and interviews! Please do keep the vacancy and interregnum matters in your prayers. 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.



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**Why do we do what we do?** We are going to explore this further using the Church Urban Fund's Growing Good resource. This is a six-part course which helps parishes explore the link between social action, discipleship and growth. We are very involved in the outreach and mission to our community and so this course will hopefully embed in everyone the call to faith in action. I attach a notice

setting out dates for this course and would really encourage everyone to come and join us as we think about why we do what we do and more importantly who we do it for!



A big thank you to those who stepped out of the boat and dipped their toes in the water and shared God's Word with us in café church in August. We look forward to hearing Pam Maxwell this coming Sunday as we complete our journey looking at the life of Peter and his calling. We pray that each of them were blessed as they brought God's Word to us. I know many people at café church were truly blessed by their message.

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 in order to give yourselves time to prepare for worship and for the service to begin promptly. Thank you.

**TOMS TOTS** begins on Thursday 7 September from 9.30am – 11am. If you would like to be involved in helping – welcoming, hospitality, making the morning coffee etc. then please speak to Gemma asap. Thank you.

**Jesus trail challenge for August** – a big thank you to those who participated in this raising funds for Christian Aid and church funds.

### **Pray/Bake/Read at Christ Church School**

School welcomes volunteers to listen to children read. If you have an hour or two to spare each week or every fortnight and would like to join this initiative, then please do have a word with me. Prayers are always needed for our schools and for the wonderful work they do with the children and their families. Once the children are back in school, we will have some specific prayer requests. And lastly, if you would like to bake a cake(s) for a treat for our teachers then please do let me know, they are always so surprised that we are thinking of them as well as the children!



**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. Needless to say, the work continues into the Autumn as the leaves begin to drop!!

**2023 Christmas Shoebox appeal** September 2023 requested items – stationery & paper, crayons, felt tips, coloured pencils, small musical instruments, small rubber ball/tennis ball, sweets (use by date from June 2024)

**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. There will be a planning meeting on 12 September at 7pm in the coffee lounge. 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.

### **Dates for September 2023**

3 Sept	10.45am	Café church at St Thomas
4 Sept	7pm	PCC Social at 4 Deeside Close
7 Sept	9.30am	TOMS TOTS in coffee lounge
9 Sept	6pm	Pop Up Cinema Night at St Thomas
10 Sept		Bacon Butties served after 9am and 10.45am service – raising funds in retrospect for Falcon Camp
	4pm	ABC service at St Lawrence
12 Sept	7pm	Christmas Fair planning meeting in coffee lounge
13 Sept	10am	Service of Holy Communion at Christ Church School – all welcome
	2pm	Tea at Two in coffee lounge
	7pm	Growing Good Course – week 1 in coffee lounge
14 Sept	9.30am	TOMS TOTS in coffee lounge
17 Sept	10.45am	Community Outreach Group leading service at St Thomas
18 Sept	7pm	PCC Standing Committee meeting at 4 Deeside Close
21 Sept	7pm	Growing Good Course – week 2 in coffee lounge
22 Sept	1pm	PALS lunch in church hall
24 Sept	10.45am	Civic Service at St Thomas
26 Sept	7pm	PCC meeting at St Thomas
27 Sept	7pm	Growing Good Course – week 3 in coffee lounge
28 Sept	9.30am	TOMS TOTS in coffee lounge

I can't finish without mentioning our Summer Fun Days with families from the community. If you haven't seen the photographs taken on these days do have a look on the parish Facebook page. Thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way towards these days. As we look forward, we continue to pray that God would guide and direct us in our work with our families as we share the light and love of Jesus with them.

I think that is it for now.

Take care & God bless.

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