



It was lovely to welcome Rachel and her family as they moved into The Rectory yesterday, you may have seen the removal vans on the car park delivering their many boxes and furniture. We now look forward to her settling into her home and the parish. Hopefully, you will have received your invitation to her induction service on 29 May at 7pm. We shall be having a bring and share after the service so watch out for the sign-up lists at the back of church in the next week or so. It is a very exciting time in the life of the parish so please do

continue to hold Rachel and her family in your prayers as we look forward with her to see what God has planned for us!

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

It was great to welcome so many of the church family to the joint service on Sunday 21 April 2024. 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 2023 and to look forward with eager anticipation to what God has in store for us in 2024. 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.

Please do pray for the PCC as they further the mission and ministry of the church over the next twelve months with Rachel at the helm. Also, a big thank you to Michael Edwardson as he stepped down from 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. There are also copies of the various reports presented at the PCC available at the back of church if you were unable to join us at the meeting.

The tech team at St Thomas are a huge blessing to those leading and preaching at our services, knowing that someone is looking after that side of things is brilliant. We could do with a few more folk to join the team, so if you feel you could help and join the rota then please do have a word with me. There is training available!

Christmas Fair! Date for the diary – Saturday 7 December 2024. We shall be needing a small team to oversee this so have a think – could this be you??

West Cheshire Foodbank. We continue to host collection boxes for donations for the foodbank. At the moment they are asking for donations of instant custard, treats, long life juice, desserts and rice as the stocks are running low for these products.

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. 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 and church hall – not only wasting water but costing money as these were the hot water taps! Thank you.

2024 Christmas Shoebox appeal

We are continuing to support the T4U shoebox appeal this year and so we shall be requesting various items over the next months. There is a donation box at the back of St Thomas Church. May 2024 requested items – toothbrush/toothpaste, soap, face cloth, small toiletries, new make up and hairbrush/comb.

We are also collecting empty shoeboxes for use in this project – would you please let Doreen have any girls/ladies shoeboxes – she does not want men's shoeboxes thank you as they are too big! Thank you for your continued support.

News from Gemma

April has been a blessing to us with so much happening in terms of our community outreach.

Starting with our family fun day at the beginning of the month, we had such an exciting time mixing 'Faith and Science' together thanks to our visitors from the Xplore Discovery Centre. The Jesus Christ Slime Star was the main attraction, however there were displays about the Trinity involving fire, bridges, electrical circuits and all manner of things scientific. Our families had a wonderful time, and the atmosphere within the church when we all sat down to share our meal together was such a joy to be a part of.

We then had our cinema night just a few days later, and again, families flocked in. Another evening of entertainment, with a fantastic attendance. Many hotdogs and pizzas were consumed, let alone popcorn! Many thankful families at the end of the evening, showing the importance of such work.

Another busy Tea at Two afternoon then followed the week after. This is becoming quite an event on the calendar now, with folk from both our churches, plus new faces from our community joining us too. The company and the cakes are definitely worth it, so do pop in if you haven't been before.

Community work and eco-church have teamed up a lot, with the tree planting project in co-ordination with Christ Church School coming to quite a finale - we now have trees planted at the school, and both of our churches, plus saplings bought in National Trust sites across the UK, and also around the world in Armenia, India and Brazil via the World Land Trust. What a fantastic job! Plus, we then teamed up with our Community Champion Adele from Asda for a litter pick out in the community over at Wolverham Park too.

With such a lot going on, I would like to thank all the volunteers involved in all of this work - what a fantastic job everyone is doing. Many hands make light work - if you would like to know more about our community work and opportunities to get involved, please do get in contact with me via communityportparish@hotmail.com

Dates for May 2024

Sunday 5	10.45am	Café Church – Great Expectations
Wednesday 8	2pm 7.30pm	Tea at Two in coffee lounge Café church meeting via zoom
Thursday 9		Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Initiative for 7 days
Sunday 12	4pm	ABC service at St Lawrence
Monday 13	7.30pm	PCC meeting in coffee lounge
Monday 20	3.30pm 4.30pm	Set up church in readiness for Food collection from Aldi
Tuesday 21	9am	Food packing and delivery to schools
Tuesday 28		FIG Fun Day Out
Wednesday 29	7pm	Rachel's induction and collation service at St Thomas
Friday 31	1pm	PALS lunch in church hall – new NEW DATE

Pastoral matters – please do let me or the churchwardens know of any church family members that are sick in hospital or at home and would appreciate a visit.

I think that is it for now.

Take care & God bless
Gill & the staff team

Thy Kingdom Come – please see their website for further details

