



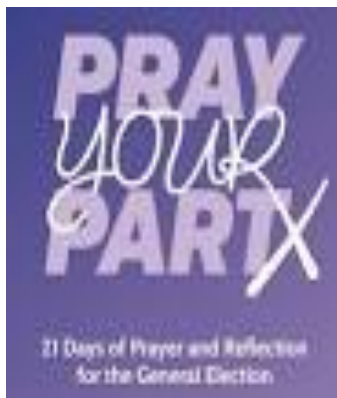
Ellesmere
Port
Parish

June 2024 newsletter

What is that saying?? Good things come to those who wait? It has seemed an age since we announced the appointment of Rachel as our new rector but last night she was inducted as the Rector of Ellesmere Port in a very special service at St Thomas. I am sure you will all agree it was worth waiting for. The church was full of representatives from the community, chapter colleagues, friends and colleagues from her previous parish and of course, the church family. We are now looking forward to sharing with her, in her ministry with us and the wider community in Ellesmere Port. Thank you to all who played any part in putting the service together and serving in whatever capacity at the service. As the saying goes exciting times ahead as we wait to see what God has planned for us.

Rachel can be contacted on rev.r.newell@gmail.com and 0759 4277453 and her day off will be Friday.

In this exciting 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. Such a great way to start the day spending time with others in bringing our worship and prayers to God. Very easy to join – just go on Facebook and look for The Parish of Ellesmere Port. Hope to see you there!



What to pray at significant moments in the life of the nation can be difficult and one such event is of course The General Election, this will be a moment for the nation to ask important questions about the future. **Pray Your Part** is an invitation from the bishops of the Church of England to encourage prayer and participation in the life of our nation and communities, both as voters and as citizens.

This 21-day journey of prayer and reflection (from Friday, 14 June until Election Day on 4 July) is designed for use in the run-up to the UK General Election. Each day explores a different theme, with a short Bible reading, reflection and prayer for a different aspect of our common life. The daily election reflections are available on line – you just need to sign up on churchofengland.org/about/topics/pray-your-part-general-election-2024. They are also issuing prayer booklets – if you would like one then please let me know by email and I will place an order.

I mentioned in our last newsletter that 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. Watch this space for details of forthcoming fundraising events!

A big thank you to everyone who has given to the 'Brian the Boiler' fund at St Thomas. A total amount of £1,605 which has been put back into our reserves and has made a huge difference. Thank you.

Foundations for Ministry is a course run by the Diocese and is a course of learning for anyone who wants to become better equipped to serve God in the world and the church. People join FfM to learn more about a variety of ways to serve God. I attach a flier which contains further information. If, once reading the attached you would like a chat please do not hesitate to contact Rachel or me.

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. 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 – hat & scarf, gloves and new socks/underwear.

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

Where has May gone? Yet so much has happened!



The trees have all been planted - one at St Thomas, one at St Lawrence, and one at Christ Church School. Plus, trees on National trusts sites across the UK, and those around the world in Armenia, India and Brazil. What a fabulous project this has been! It is very apt that these trees have been planted at this time of new beginnings within our Parish as we welcome Rachel, Matt and Florrie. These trees are very symbolic, as with all our community outreach work, we do this with a purpose, we are planting seeds of faith, in the hope that one day, with nurture, they will indeed grow.

Our FIG team have been on top form - another successful food hamper delivery ready for half-term. Thank you to everyone involved who made this such a smooth process. Then following this, we also took families out for a fun day. First stopping at the Tam O'Shanter farm, with lots of fun activities there, before heading off to Birkenhead Park for fun and games. A picnic lunch and hot meal upon return all included. I think if you take a look at the video on our social media sites, you will see just how much fun our families had.

With a cinema night also being held during the half-term, Tea at Two getting busier and our Toms Tots group still going strong - our community outreach work continues to thrive, which is why our Beacon Project becomes all the more important! I am delighted to inform you that we have now had our bio-diversity net gain survey completed and we are just waiting for the report, which is the final piece of paperwork required to submit our planning application - how exciting!!

So now, as a COG group, for June, we have a challenge for you all. It is called the **30 minute pledge**. Can you offer just 30 minutes of your time during the month of June to support our Parish work? Perhaps support an outreach initiative? Helping the tech team? Flower arranging? Washing up? gardening? There are so many small things that could be done - what is it that you could be involved in for just 30 minutes? We have 183 people on our electoral role. If everyone offered 30 minutes of their time that would be 5490 minutes during June given to our Parish - WOW!!! Take some time to pray about this, we have previously spoken to you about us all being COGs within our well oiled machine turning to make us work - what little COG are you?

Lots to look forward to moving forwards - as always if you wish to know more about our community projects and want to be involved, please do come and have a chat or email me on communityportparish@hotmail.com

Dates for June 2024

Sunday 2	10.45am	Café Church – World Environment Day!
Monday 3	7.30pm	PCC zoom meeting re fundraising
Sunday 9	4pm	ABC service at St Lawrence
Wednesday 12	2pm	Tea at Two in coffee lounge
Thursday 20	7.00pm 7.30pm	World Refugee Day – prayer meeting at St Thomas Archdeacon's visitation – St Paul's Hooton
Friday 28	1pm	PALS lunch in church hall
Sunday 30	10.45am	Joint Service of Holy Communion at St Thomas

Advanced date for the diary

Saturday 6 July 2024 11am Scout Summer Fete at St Thomas

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, Rachel & the staff team

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