

 **October 2024 newsletter**

I trust that everyone is enjoying our short sermon series looking at various Psalms, I think they have given much food for thought over these last few weeks, not least in encouraging us to give God the thanks and praise due to him as our creator and sustainer. In Psalm 46 which we looked at last Sunday we were encouraged to ‘Be still’, to take time out to give him the honour and glory due to him in honouring his power and his majesty. I echoed the thoughts of the writer of the app Lectio 365 when they quoted from Isaiah 40 verses 28-31 which encourages us to be still but realising that it can be a challenge. They write ‘finding a space without physical distraction, muting the noise of physical and digital world and carving out time to slow down in God’s presence takes intentionality’ and so can I encourage you to intentionally take time out with this newsletter and give thanks to God for his goodness and to pray over where he is taking over these next few months, not least with Advent and Christmas fast approaching and everything else in between!

**Faith in Film** – Saturday 5 October at St Thomas – 6pm for a 6.30pm start. The first of our evenings looking at movies from a different perspective. Further details from Ricky.

**St Lawrence Churchyard**– weather permitting we are having a clear up of the churchyard on Thursday 3 October from 1.30pm. Unfortunately, we no longer have the services of the Community Payback Team and so the grass needs our attention plus other jobs around the churchyard. We are hoping to start a Friends of St Lawrence in the hope members of the surrounding community may like to come and help, so if you know of anyone that may be interested, please do encourage them to come along on 3 October or at any time to suit themselves – all help will be greatly appreciated.

**Fundraising**

A huge thank you to all who supported the afternoon tea with the singing vicar. We had lots of beautiful cakes, much hard work on the day but most of all a great afternoon was had by all who attended and the bonus was we raised £1,166.86 for general church funds.



**Jonathan Starkey** who is one of the organists at St Lawrence has very kindly offered to put on a concert for us and this is to be held at St Lawrence on Friday 15 November. Tickets are £10 which includes a glass of wine and nibbles! Funds raised will be going into the general church fund.

**Christmas Fair!** Date for the diary – Saturday 7 December 2024. Please do start collecting for the fair - 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. Jean Welch is kindly looking after the preserves stall and so has asked for jam jars with lids please. Please drop them off at either church. Thank you.

**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 Rachel or Gill. 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!

**Calling all knitters** – it’s that time of year again! We would like to distribute angels once again in the community in the run up to Christmas so lots of angels needed please.

Considering the current fuel costs etc the wardens and staff are asking that everyone be prudent with regards to heating in church. We want to provide warm and welcoming churches, but we have to be sensible and be good stewards of our funds so perhaps put an extra layer on when coming to church. The heating will be on, but we will be trying to keep it at a set temperature. Please also do ensure that lights and sockets that are left on stand-by mode are switched off.

**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**.** October 2024 requested items – we are desperately short of pencil cases, small cuddly toys, games and musical instruments - mouth organs, recorders or shakers. The shoeboxes are being packed on Friday 8 November in the coffee lounge if you can help with that, also there will be empty covered shoeboxes available at the back of church for you to take home and fill too!

**The Scout Group** is holding an "Exquisite Whisky Tasting Evening" at the Hall on Saturday October 12th at 7pm. Tickets are limited in number, and cost £25 each. They currently have 6 tickets left! Please contact Stan Foxall if you would like to join them. (Adults only!!) stan\_foxall@yahoo.co.uk

**News from Gemma**

Well September is the start of a new term for many of our school children, and our ABC service this month looked at going back to school with Jesus.  The fellowship of this group is wonderful, and the families really do enjoy coming together each month to share this special time together.

We have also seen the start of a new term for our Toms Tots, and what a busy start it has been!  It has been a delight to welcome back old faces from last year, who have been keen to return, along with brand new babies and toddlers exploring our group for the first time. Also welcoming some new volunteers, who have fit in to the team as if they have been there all along! It has been wonderful to see all the happy little faces back in the room, and to enjoy the fun and excitement that this weekly session brings.

Tea at two continues to be a huge hit - with us adding additional tables to fit everyone in!  We have such a fabulous time, with the most incredible atmosphere within the room. Please do join us. If anyone wishes to volunteer to serve tea/coffee or to help with setting up/washing up etc, please let me know. It really is a joy to be a part of this team.

This week we have hosted a money management/cooking on a budget course, in conjunction with Jayne Rowe training. Another initiative that we have been able to offer in order to support our local community.  All attendees said how useful this was, and the group were able to share information and ideas together, so it was so pleasing to be able to offer something that will make a real difference to people in our community.

October will bring more family fun, with our cinema night on the 26th, and our Light Party on the 31st. Both of these events are open to everyone, so please do come along and join us, it would be fantastic to see you there!

**Dates for October 2024**

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| Wednesday 2 | 7.30pm | First meeting of the steering group for the Beacon Project, not too late to join – come along to the coffee lounge and find out a bit more! |
| Thursday 3 | 1.30pm | Churchyard tidy up at St Lawrence – please bring any tools you may think you may need! All welcome |
| Saturday 5 | 6pm  | Faith in Film Night at St Thomas – see above |
| Sunday 6 | 10.45am | Café church at St Thomas ‘Psalm 8’ |
| Monday 7 | 5pm | ‘What’s next’ group meeting in coffee lounge for all year 6 and upwards |
| Wednesday 9 | 2pm | Tea at Two in coffee lounge |
| Saturday 12 | 3pm | Linda Tudor’s licensing service at Chester Cathedral – please do car share where possible |
| Sunday 13 | 4pm | ABC at St Lawrence |
| Sunday 20 |  | **Generosity Sunday at both churches** |
| Monday 21 | 3.30pm4.30pm | FIG - setting up church ready to receive food collectionCollecting food from Aldi |
| Tuesday 22 | 9am | Food delivery to local schools |
| Wednesday 23 | 7.15pm | Deanery Hymns of Praise at All Saints Church, Thornton Hough – everyone welcome to come and have a good sing! |
| Friday 25 | 1pm | PALS lunch in church hall  |
| Sunday 27 |  | **Gratitude Sunday at both churches** |
| Thursday 31 | 4.30pm-6.30pm | LIGHT PARTY at St Thomas for all children – Ignite and ABC – let’s spread the light! |

Pastoral matters – please do let the clergy 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

Rachel, Gill & the staff team

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