

 **February 2025 newsletter**

Sitting at my desk preparing the newsletter I reflected on the start of my day. I went across to Christ Church to listen to readers in year 6 something I try to do every Thursday morning, first thing for an hour or so and as I walked across, the sun absolutely blinded me, it was a beautiful start to the day and then I came home and began on this letter – well, what a difference in the weather – it’s now dark and the hailstones/rain are pouring down! What a contrast to first thing this morning!

It got me thinking about life and how one minute we can be bobbing along quite nicely and then something comes along and takes the feet from under us. One moment we are walking in the sunshine and the next it feels like heaven is raining down on us, but it is at these times that we can rest in the knowledge that we are not alone in the dark we have the one who came to banish that darkness and of course that is Jesus.

We have a number of people in the parish who are going through some really tough times at the moment particularly thinking of those with ongoing health problems and of course there are other struggling with other matters but what a comfort to know that we have Jesus and of course we have each other recalling Paul’s words to the Romans ‘Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn’. As we continue to journey on into the year, let’s give thanks for each other and for the love and support that can be shared through the dark times but also through the happy times whilst also giving thanks for Jesus!

Thank you to those who came along to the Christingle Service on Christmas eve. A total of £239.55 was collected and sent to The Children’s Society.

Thank you also to those who have stepped forward to go on to the new welcome rota at St Thomas. We had a very encouraging meeting with everyone which looked at the role of the welcomer, so please look forward to be welcomed into church but also please do remember to do your bit – if you see someone new go and say hello and invite them for a cuppa after the service.

Date for the diary – praise and worship evening at St Thomas. Why not bring someone along with you?

ABC and Ignite children and their families recently enjoyed their trip to the panto at Ellesmere Port Civic Centre to watch Snow White and her 7 little friends.

Toms Tots started back after Christmas, and they have been thinking about the weather and making some lovely craft courtesy of Susan Mayers. A big thank you to everyone who helps in any way with Toms Tots, it is always lovely to go into church on a Thursday morning and hear the laughter and squeals from the little ones enjoying themselves.

A great night was enjoyed at St Thomas on burns night as we enjoyed fellowship, food and fun! A big thank you to Carole and Molly who organised the event and also to Joan who led the dancing and everyone else who helped on the evening and provided the ‘scouse’! We raised £1,019 for general church funds.

Our ‘What’s Next’ group continues to meet on the first Monday of the month – meeting from 5pm – 6.30pm in the coffee lounge. We have a good number of young people joining us and food is always included. We could do with help to oversee the preparation of the food – usually pizza, hot dogs etc. If we had a couple of people it would mean perhaps once every couple of months. Please have a word with Rachel or Gill if you could help with that. Thank you

**2025 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**.** February 2025 requested items – socks/underwear, stationery & paper & small toy – rubber ball, cars. We are also collecting empty shoeboxes for use in this project – would you please let Doreen have any girls/ladies shoeboxes – they don’t want men’s shoeboxes thank you as they are too big! Thank you for your continued support.

**Experience Easter –17 – 20 March 2025 – further to my recent email please do let me know if you can help in any way – craft, refreshments, welcoming.** It will be a great week working together and sharing the Easter story with over 300 primary school children! How exciting is that?? We’ve got lots of things that need cutting out so if you can help with that over the next weeks then please let Gill know.

**Dates for February 2025**

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| 2 February  | 10.45am | Café church at St Thomas – we are welcoming the ETHOS group from Christ Church School |
| 3 February | 5pm | What’s Next? In the coffee lounge at St Thomas |
| 9 February  | 4pm6pm | ABC at St LawrencePraise Evening at St Thomas |
| 11 February  | 4pm4.30pm7.30pm | Set up coffee lounge ready for food deliveryFood collection for Aldi Ellesmere PortSummer Fair meeting at 4 Deeside Close |
| 12 February | 9am2pm | Food delivery to local schoolsTea at Two in the Coffee Lounge  |
| 15 February | 6pm | Pop Up Cinema Night at St Thomas |
| 25 February | 7.30pm | Readers/Leaders meeting in The Rectory |
| 26 February | 7pm | Deanery Synod meeting at St Michaels’ Little Neston – vocations event open to all. Please speak to Rachel or Gill if you would like to attend. |
| 28 February | 1pm | PALS lunch in the church hall |

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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