

 **April 2025 newsletter**

I have spent a lovely time this afternoon at a local primary school where I was invited in to tell the Easter story to children in the nursery and reception class. Firstly, what a privilege to be invited into school to share this and secondly, where do you start with children so young? Not sure tales of a nails and cross was a good idea so we started where it all began at Christmas and we talked about surprises and led on from there, going on a journey with Jesus’ friends. I had a super afternoon with them and hopefully they will all go home knowing it was a happy ending and most of all when they open their Easter eggs they will recall the empty ‘cave’ and know that Jesus is alive and even more than that, that he loves each one of them. We can sometimes get caught up with the minutiae of the Easter story that we at times like the children this afternoon we just need to be reminded that Jesus is indeed alive and that he loves us – what more can we say than that?

Details of Easter services are on the calendar at the end of the letter, I do hope you will join us at our services and even better than that bring along a friend/family member who may just need to know that Jesus is alive and loves them too!

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 18 May 2025** at 10.45am in St Thomas & All Saints. We are incorporating the meeting into our morning service which shall then be followed up by a bring and share lunch. Please do make every effort to join us for this – a most important meeting in the life of the church as we look back and give thanks and most importantly look forward. God has been so good over these last twelve months please do make every effort to join us to give thanks.

If you would like to stand for election to the parochial church council or deanery synod or churchwarden then proposal forms are available at the back of church. You will need to be proposed and seconded – please prayerfully consider serving your church in these roles.

There is a new Electoral Roll being prepared this year so everyone will need to complete an application form. Please see separate email regarding this item.

We are hoping to share something of our Easter hope and joy into the community with our chickens! If you need a pattern then they are available at the back of church. Let’s see if we can beat the numbers made last year!

**Sunday tech team** – we have a few people who are part of the tech team who ensure that the computer is manned during the 9am and 10.45am services. For those who lead it is a massive help and assurance that someone else is overseeing this side of the service so they can concentrate on leading the worship. We are running low in volunteers to help with this and so if you could help and go on the rota to assist with the tech/computer perhaps once a month that would be a huge help. Please speak to Rachel or Gill if you would like to help or need any further information. Thank you in anticipation!

**Christianity Explored – we are running a course for those new to faith or for those wanting to be baptised or confirmed. It will start on Tuesday 1 April 2025 at 7pm and will run for 6 weeks at 4 Deeside Close. If you would like to join us then please speak to Rachel or Gill. Exciting times!**



**Summer Fair 21 June 2025** 11am – 3pm St Thomas church grounds – in the sunshine! We had our first planning meeting for the fair and so have lots of ideas for stalls etc. Once we have a few matters confirmed I will write to you separately so you can see how best you can support this fundraiser for general church funds.

**FIG food hampers** will be going out once again to families in our local community via our primary schools. If you would like to sponsor a Family Food Bag as part of our FIG project then all gifts would be most welcome.  We are suggesting £20 per food bag.  If you would like to do a BACS payment then would you please use the following account and use the reference  FIGBAG or if gift aid applies FIGBAG GA  that would be helpful.

Account: Ellesmere Port Parochial Church Council Outreach Group

Sort Code 20-51-08 account no 33539806. There is also payment on the Sumup machine with this reference if you would like to use your card.

**Toms Tots** have continued to meet and they have been 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. They will be taking a break over the Easter holiday – off 10th and 17th April and then back in again on 24th April.

**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**. April 2025** requested items toys, small musical instruments, toy vehicles, small ball and stationery.

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.

**Spring Clean at St Thomas – Monday 7 April from 10am** –everyone welcome to come and spruce up the church ready for Easter.

Details of Easter Service etc – please see over.

**Dates for April 2025**

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| 1 April | 1.30pm4.00pm4.30pm7pm | Funeral of Stan Bunnell at St ThomasSet up church in readiness for collection of half term food order from AldiChristianity Explored Course at 4 Deeside Close |
| 2 April | 9am | Food deliveries to local primary schools |
| 5 April | 5pm | Pop up Cinema Night at St Thomas |
| 6 April | 10.45am | Café church at St Thomas – ‘Esther’ being called ‘for such as time as this’ |
| 7 April | 10am5pm | Spring Clean and tidy up at St Thomas‘What’s Next’ in St Thomas Coffee lounge |
| 8 April | 7pm7.30pm | Christianity Explored at 4 Deeside ClosePCC meeting in coffee lounge |
| 9 April | 2pm | Tea at Two in coffee lounge |
| 10 April | 3.30pm – 5.30pm | Fun Day for families in the community – Easter Bingo and crafts |
| 13 April | 4pm | ABC at St Lawrence |
| 15 April | 7pm | Christianity Explored at 4 Deeside Close |
| **17 April** | **7pm** | **MAUNDY THURSDAY Agape service and light supper** |
| **18 April** | **10am****12.30pm****2pm** | **GOOD FRIDAY all age worship at St Thomas followed by coffee and hot cross buns****Walk of Witness starting at Trinity Methodist Church****Hour at the Cross at St Lawrence** |
| **19 April** | **10.30am** | **Easter praise in The Port Arcades – all welcome!** |
| **20 April** | **9am****10.45am****11am** | **EASTER DAY****Holy Communion at St Thomas****Family Communion at St Thomas****Holy Communion at St Lawrence**  |
| 25 April | 1pm | PALS lunch in St Thomas Church Hall |
| 29 April | 7pm | Christianity Explored at 4 Deeside Close |

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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