**April 2024**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Letter from the Rector*** | | | | | |
| The Rector Writes:  As we were enjoying an Indian meal as a family a long while ago, my husband, Neil, broke a poppadom only to find that the piece which fell onto the table was in the perfect shape of a dove (or at least it was in his mind). He was so impressed with his poppadom dove that he preached about it at Pentecost and kept it in the fridge for many weeks, much to our children’s disgust!  Every now and then, another story hits the press about the face of Jesus or other divine image being seen imprinted on a piece of toast, found in the lid of a marmite jar, outlined on a rock or some other inanimate object, or reflected in the shape of a carrot .  If we get excited about perceiving a divine message in our foodstuffs, imagine the excitement and perplexity of those who actually witnessed Jesus following his resurrection. Some of us may feel a little envious of those witnesses and their subsequent confidence in talking about the resurrection: “if only I had seen him too, my faith would be all the stronger!” we might say. Well, we could torment ourselves in that way, or we could simply give thanks for those sightings granted to others, recognising them as a token of evidence to support what we experience in other ways as people of faith.  Easter challenges us to share what we have grown to understand about faith with others. “But how can I do that?” Being ready to speak up for God can feel embarrassing or uncomfortable. Even if we are sure of our faith, what about the awkward questions and counter-arguments people will come up with? Well, how about simply inviting someone to come along with you to church this Easter time? “*Come and see*” is one of the simplest forms of evangelism, and yet one of the most effective. Bring them and let God do the talking through the welcome and the worship they witness.  Sitting back and thinking someone else will do it just isn’t an option. People are often thrilled to see images of the divine in whatever curious places they turn up. Surely it is far more important that people should have the chance to know and believe in their hearts that “*CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA!”* They can only have that chance if we show them what it means to us. *With every blessing, Susan*    **Tuesday April 2nd April 10am to 11.30am, St Cuthbert’s Church, choir vestry**  Meet old friends and make some new ones and take the opportunity to have a quiet moment in church.  If you know someone who is lonely why not bring them along? They will be assured of a warm welcome.    **Christian Chatter, Tuesday 23rd April 2024 7.30-8.30pm.**  Following on from the successful Lent course why not come and join an informal chat as we continue to explore the sermon on the mount? We will be looking at “blessed are the merciful.” All Welcome.    **Parent and Toddler Group at St Thomas’ Thursday mornings 10.30-12midday, restarting April 18th.**  £4 a family to cover costs includes a drink and a biscuit. You will find a warm welcome, worship and laughter.    **Friday 19th April 7.30-9.30pm, Line Dancing taster session**  St Thomas’ Millenium Centre – tickets £5. Proceeds toward the installation of screens in church.  **Sunday 21st April, 2.00pm - The “Bs” meet in St Cuthbert’s Churchyard to sow wildflower seeds**  **Saturday 27th April** **– Rogation walks around Halsall** – different routes, for different abilities  **Sunday 28th April, 2.30-4.30pm** **at St Thomas’**  Ukelele band concert and cream tea - Further details to follow | | | | | |
| **Services for April** | | | | | |
| Date | | Time | Place | | Service |
| Tuesday 2nd April | | 9.15am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | Said Morning Prayer |
| Weds 3rd April | | 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | Said CW Holy Communion |
| Thursday 4th April | | 9.15am  1.30pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Cuthbert’s Halsall | | Said Morning Prayer  Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing |
| **Sunday 7th April**  **Second Sunday of Easter** | | 8.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | Said BCP Holy Communion |
| 9.30am | St Cuthbert’s Halsall | | BCP Holy Communion *(Church without walls)* |
| 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | Common Worship Holy Communion |
| Tuesday 9th April | | 9.15am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | Said Morning Prayer |
| Weds 10th April | | 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | Said CW Holy Communion |
| Thursday 11th April | | 9.15am  1.30pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Cuthbert’s Halsall | | Said Morning Prayer  Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing |
| **Sunday 14th April**  **Third Sunday of Easter** | | 8.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | Said BCP Holy Communion |
| 9.30am | St Cuthbert’s Halsall | | CW Holy Communion |
| 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | CW Holy Communion – no Church Parade |
| Tuesday 16th April | | 9.15am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | Said Morning Prayer |
| Weds 17th April | | 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | Said CW Holy Communion |
| Thurs 18th April | | 9.15am  1.30pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Cuthbert’s Halsall | | Said Morning Prayer  Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing |
| **Sunday 21st April**  **Fourth Sunday of Easter** | | 8.00am | St Thomas Lydiate | | Said BCP Holy Communion |
| 9.30am | St Cuthberts, Halsall | | BCP Holy Communion *(*Messy Church) |
| 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | Common Worship Holy Communion |
| Tuesday 23rd April | | 9.15am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | Said Morning Prayer |
| Weds 24th April | | 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | Said CW Holy Communion |
| Thurs 25th April | | 9.15am  1.30pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Cuthbert’s Halsall | | Said Morning Prayer  Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing |
| **Sunday 28th April**  **5th Sunday of Easter**  **(Rogationtide)** | | 8.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | Said BCP Holy Communion |
| 9.30am | St Cuthbert’s Halsall | | Common Worship Holy Communion |
| 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | All Age Holy Communion |
| **All are welcome, whether you have been a life-long Anglican or are just a little curious.** | | | | | |
|  | | | | | |
| Pause | | Ponder | | | Pray | |
|  | | The trees coming into blossom, the grass growing and new life emerging as the days lengthen and the sun gets warmer | | | May the sunlight and the rain be reminders that You are at work renewing the earth. As a God of renewal, You are ever at work in our lives, too. Open our eyes and lives to the needed changes in our lives this Spring. Awaken us to new life and perspective, for we pray in Jesus' name. | |



**Finance Information meeting with Questions and Answers with Darren Draper**

7.30pm 8th April at Rainford Church Hall or 9.30am 20th April St John the Baptist Church, Burscough Bridge.

**Youth Evening Praise Service Sunday 5th May at 7pm at St John’s Burscough**

All welcome – for more information ask Susan

**Parish weekend away with St Paul’s Skelmersdale 17th -19th May**

Quinta hall Shropshire. See poster at back of the Church for more details

**Summer Praise Service Sunday 23rd June at 4pm St Thomas’ Lydiate**

Followed by a strawberry cream tea.

All are welcome to join other members of the fit for mission parishes as we worship together.