



A warm welcome to all

April 2023

Letter of the month

Here we are again at that beautiful time of year, when we can sense new life emerging and the longer, warmer days encourage us to look up and out, despite the recent snow. It's that time of year when we are faced with mountains of Easter Eggs, Easter bunnies and Easter chicks everywhere we look.

This will be my first Halsall and Lydiate Easter and after a roller coaster year it seems to me the message of Easter is more important and more profound than ever. If these last few years has shown us anything it has shown the stark reality that Easter Day cannot be separated from the uncertainty and anguish of Holy Week, no matter how hard we try.

It is right that we celebrate the amazing achievements of so many people who work to build up our communities, keep us safe and ensure all are able to flourish. But we must not forget or dismiss the struggles of those for whom the current pressures mean they are constantly questioning how they will survive another day. Nor should we forget the tragic deaths of so many in war and natural disasters or the ongoing impact of COVID on the world's economy and the associated suffering being endured by so many as a consequence.

The Christian faith is not simply one of deepest despair at sin and the horror of what it does in human lives, nor is it only a constant celebration of God's love and saving power. It embraces both. Jesus' death without his resurrection is simply another tragic and untimely death. Equally, resurrection without recognising the cost paid by Jesus in both the manner of his death and its reality diminishes the profound and unique sacrifice made by God in order to restore our relationship with Him. It is an amazing if profoundly disturbing claim. Why not join us at one of our services over the coming month and ponder what it means for you and your family?

Jesus Christ died and rose from the grave for you and me
Lets give thanks with grateful and humble hearts.

Susan

Holy Week and Easter.

Why not make space to come along to all or some of our services and take time to pause, ponder and pray?

Date		Service	
Sunday 2 nd April	Palm Sunday	Distribution of palm crosses Dramatic Gospel reading	8am Said BCP HC St Thomas' 9.30am CW HC St Cuthbert's 11am CW HC St Thomas'
Monday 3 rd April		Said HC	7pm St Cuthbert's
Tuesday 4 th April		Said HC	7pm St Thomas'
Wednesday 5 th April		Said HC	7pm St Cuthbert's
Thursday 6 th April	Maundy Thursday	Sung HC with vigil	7pm St Thomas'
Friday 7 th April	Good Friday	Walk of witness	11am Our Lady's Catholic Church 2pm Service of reflection St Cuthbert's
Saturday 8 th April	Easter Saturday	Easter vigil	7.30pm St Cuthbert's
Sunday 9 th April	Easter Sunday	I wonder what will happen?	8am said BCP HC St Thomas' 9.30am CW HC St Cuthbert's 11am CW HC St Thomas'

Deanery Prayer for Fit for Mission

Loving Lord, as we seek to live out the vision you have set before us. May we see a bigger church making a bigger difference. As we explore together what it means to be fit for mission, May we be devoted to prayer and watchful for the signs of your coming kingdom. Give us thankful hearts and open doors to make known the Gospel. May our words and actions point people to Jesus, Who is our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Please pray and ponder how we should respond to "Fit for mission" as churches. If you want to know more speak to Susan, Glen or David or any of the churchwardens.

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Sunday Services for the rest of April			
Date	Time	Place	Service
Sunday 16 th April	8.00am	St Thomas Lydiate	Said BCP Holy Communion
	9.30am	St Cuthberts, Halsall	BCP Communion with Messy Church
	11am	St Thomas' Lydiate	Common Worship Holy Communion
Sunday 23 rd April	8.00am	St Thomas' Lydiate	Said BCP Holy Communion
	9.30am	St Cuthbert's Halsall	Common Worship Holy Communion
	10.30am for 11.00am	St Thomas' Lydiate	Common Worship Holy Communion – Family Service
Sunday 30 th April	8.00am	St Thomas' Lydiate	Said BCP Holy Communion
	9.30am	St Cuthbert's Halsall	Common Worship Holy Communion followed by the annual meetings
	11.00am	St Thomas' Lydiate	Common Worship Holy Communion

Looking ahead

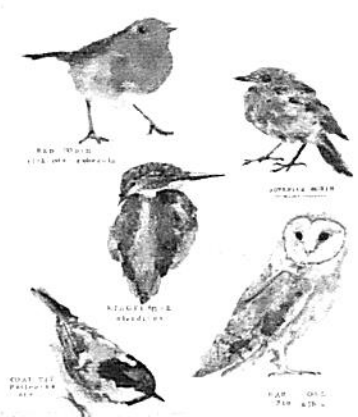
The new Anglican Bishop of Liverpool, Right Reverend Doctor John Perumbalath, will be installed at Liverpool Anglican cathedral at 3pm on **22nd April 2023**. Please hold him and the senior leadership team of the Diocese in your prayers.

Coronation weekend 6th, 7th and 8th May 2023

We will be marking and celebrating the King and Queen Consort's Coronation. Each church will be marking this significant national event in their churches during the Sunday Services. In addition on Sunday 7th May there will be a picnic on the Scout and Guide field after the church service in Lydiate and an afternoon tea in St Cuthbert's. On Monday 8th May we are encouraged to volunteer in our communities. There will be a village litter pick in Halsall and we are hoping people might gather to help tidy the churchyard at St Thomas from 11am to 1pm.

Thy Kingdom Come 2023

From Ascension Day (18th May) to Pentecost Sunday (28th May) we are invited to join with tens of millions of Christians around the world, and across all denominations in praying specifically for five people we know personally to grow in faith and come to know more of God's love in Jesus Christ. Why not think who you would like to pray for, risk inviting them to come to church and / or share with them why you believe what you do?

Pause	Ponder	Pray
<p>Thank God for birds.</p> 	<p>'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ...Matthew 6:25-26</p>	<p>Let me seek, then, the gift of silence, and poverty, and solitude, where everything I touch is turned into prayer: where the sky is my prayer, the birds are my prayer, the wind in the trees is my prayer, for God is in all. AMEN</p>

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to helping us keep a Holy Lent and will be working hard to enable us to have a joyous Easter. Much hard work goes on behind the scenes to enable us to gather together in worship. Thank you to one and all.

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