**April 2025**

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| ***Letter from the Rector*** | | | |
| **The Rector writes**  Here we are again at that beautiful time of year, when we can sense new life emerging and the longer, brighter days encourage us to look up and out. Yet at the moment, the wider world seems a harsh and unforgiving place.  Some of you reading this will be able to remember the Second World War. Sadly, 80 years on, we see conflict and violence enacted in more parts of the world than ever. The First World War was supposed to be ‘the war to end all wars’, and in the aftermath of the Second World War, the nations came together to write a body of International Law that would promote human rights, protect civilians caught in armed conflict, and ensure that genocide could not happen again: we are probably all left wondering, what went wrong? There are no easy answers, but part of our response should be to intentionally remember and, in doing do so, bring the past into the present; and where we can, bring hope and reconciliation. It’s something we can all choose to do and its importance in building community cannot be over emphasised.  In bringing the past into the present we need to take care. In a context where many people are traumatized and angry we need to speak gently. We need to try to build each other up, as is happening with Southport after the tragic events of last summer, and in smaller ways with the VE celebrations and the myriad ways we build each other as church across the generations.  Building a more Christ-like world means recognizing our common humanity and accepting that none of us is perfect or has all the answers. In standing with Jesus, the victim of appalling violence, we also stand with him in the resurrection, the total antithesis of destruction and death. It is an amazing if profoundly disturbing way to try and live. Why not join us at one of our services over the coming month, and take time to ponder what it would mean for you, your family and our communities to work towards such a Christ-like world. *Susan*    **Every Wednesday 12.30 – 2.30pm approximately. Warm Spaces in Lydiate Guide Centre**  behind the Parish Hall, 288 Southport Road, Lydiate, L31 4EQ  A simple warm lunch followed by time to chat or simply be. See Glen Gardner for more details.  and  **Tuesday 1st April 10am to 11.30am, St Cuthbert’s Church, choir vestry**  Come and learn how to crochet a poppy with Sue Goldstraw  Meet old friends and make some new ones and take the opportunity to have a quiet moment in church.    **Lent Course continues Tuesday 1st, 8th April 7.30-9.00pm in St Cuthbert’s School**  We continue to explore the theme of hope and reconciliation. This leads us on to  **Holy week,** withthe Eucharist and Stations of the Cross at St Thomas’s, on Monday to Wednesday 7.30pm    **Easter Flowers and Lillies**  Forms and envelopes at the back of church, please return to churchwardens  by 13th April at the latest for names to be included in a specially produced leaflet.    **St Thomas’ Parent and Toddler Group Lydiate Guide Centre - restarts 22nd April 2025**    **Organ Recital at St Cuthbert’s Church, Saturday 17th May at 7pm**  With Professor Ian Tracey from Liverpool Cathedral -to raise church funds  Tickets £10 including a glass of wine (children under 16 free). Tickets from Pam Carr 07947 359437 | | | |
| **Services for April 2025** | | | |
| *Date* | *Time* | *Place* | *Service* |
| Wednesday 2nd April | 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said CW Holy Communion |
| Thursday 3rd April | 9.15am  1.30pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Cuthbert’s Halsall | Morning Prayer  Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing |
| **Sunday 6th April**  **Fifth Sunday of Lent** | 8.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said BCP Holy Communion |
| 9.30am | St Cuthbert’s Halsall | Outdoor all age service  followed by toasted marshmallows |
| 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Common Worship Holy Communion |
| Wednesday 9th April | 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said CW Holy Communion |
| Thurs 10th April | 9.15am  1.30pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Cuthbert’s Halsall | Morning Prayer  Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing |
| **Sunday 13th April**  **Palm Sunday** | 8.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said BCP Holy Communion |
| 9.30am | St Cuthbert’s Halsall | CW Holy Communion with palm crosses |
| 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | CW Holy Communion with palm crosses |
| Monday 14th April | 7.30pm | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Stations of the cross and communion |
| Tuesday 15th April | 7.30pm | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Stations of the cross and communion |
| Weds 16th April | 11.00am  7.30pm | St Thomas’ Lydiate  St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said CW Holy Communion  Stations of the cross and communion |
| **Thurs 17th April**  **Maundy Thursday** | 9.15am  1.30pm  7.30pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Thomas’ Lydiate | Morning Prayer  Communion for Maundy Thursday  Communion for Maundy Thursday followed by vigil until 10pm |
| **Friday 18th April**  **Good Friday** | 11.00am  2.00pm | St Thomas’ Lydiate  St Cuthbert’s Halsall | Stations of cross starting at St Thomas and ending at Our Lady’s  Vigil at the foot of the cross |
| **Saturday 19th April**  **Easter Eve** | 7.30pm | St Thomas’s Lydiate | Easter Eve vigil and renewal of baptism vows |
| **Sunday 20th April**  **Easter Day** | 8.00am | St Thomas Lydiate | Said BCP Holy Communion |
| 9.30am | St Cuthberts, Halsall | Common Worship Holy Communion |
| 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Common Worship Holy Communion |
| **No mid-week services** | | | |
| **Sunday 27th April**  **Second Sunday of Easter** | 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 Eucharist |
| Wednesday 30th April | 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said CW Holy Communion |
| Thurs 1st May | **No services - sorry** | | |
| **Renewal of the Electoral Roll 2025**  Please complete your form as soon as you can and return to the relevant church.  Our electoral roll secretaries are Jean Cropper (St Thomas’) and Kathryn Rankin (St Cuthbert’s)  **Annual meetings for each Parish**  St Cuthbert’s 9.30am 27th April during and after the service  St Thomas’ 11.00am 18th May during and after the service  **St Cuthbert’s Halsall** “**Growing together” weekend Friday 9th to Sunday 11th May**  Come and find out about how we have been working in the churchyard, learn how to build a wormery,  buy some insect-attracting plants; learn more about this historic church and the faith we share.  **Saturday 31st May, curry and quiz night at Lydiate Guide Centre**  £10 adult, £5 children. Proceeds to St Thomas’ Church funds  **St Thomas’ Flower festival, exploring the theme of family**  Friday 27th to Sunday 29th June | | | |
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