**March 2025**

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| ***Letter from the Rector*** | | | |
| **The Rector writes**  The seasons of the Church are a helpful framework for reflecting on different aspects of life. Christmas and Easter are all about celebration and counting our blessings, whereas Advent and Lent are times to ponder the profound questions of faith. Lent in particular is a season that invites us to look at ourselves honestly, to recognise our shortcomings and take steps - with the aid of the Holy Spirit and fellow Christians - to grow in faith, hope and love.  I recognise this may seem a challenging suggestion considering recent events within the Diocese of Liverpool. Like many of you, I was shocked and saddened by the allegations broadcast by Channel Four News at the end of January. There are many unanswered questions as well as feelings of anger and sadness. I want to assure you that St Thomas’ and St Cuthbert’s are committed to upholding the dignity of all people, whilst acknowledging we are also flawed human beings, who are held together in the love of God.  Every year, the Church asks us to observe the 40 days of Lent as a way of preparing for Easter. This year, in our Diocese as well as both our churches, it is a time for honesty, humility, repentance, unity, hope and blessing. This year in particular, Lent is more than denying ourselves a luxury or two - it is about asking important questions:   * How do we listen well to each other and celebrate our differences? * How do we break down the barriers that stop people encountering God’s love? * What does it mean to love God and our neighbour as ourselves, and how do we live this out with all our being?   Please do join us for our Lent course exploring how we find hope and reconciliation in our broken and hurting world; and throughout Lent, come and immerse yourself in the transforming majesty and holiness of worship.  *Every blessing, 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.    **Tuesday 3rd March 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.    **Lent Course will be on Tuesday evenings from 11th March** 7.30-9.00pm in St Cuthbert’s School  We explore the theme of hope and reconciliation  including a short service based on Coventry Cathedral’s litany for reconciliation  **On 18th March AT 7pm ALL** are invited to a **safeguarding update** run by the Diocese as part of that Lent course.    St Thomas’ Parent and Toddler Group Lydiate Guide Centre  **Every Tuesday 10.30-12 midday during term time**  £4 a family to cover costs - includes a drink and biscuit and craft activity.  You will find a warm welcome, worship and laughter.    **Organ Recital at St Thomas’ church, Saturday March 22nd at 4pm**  with Ian Pattinson (Organist at Lancaster Priory) to raise church funds  Tickets £5 (children free) to include refreshments | | | |
| **Services for March 2025** | | | |
| Date | Time | Place | Service |
| **Sunday 2nd March**  **Second before Lent** | 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 |
| **Ash Wednesday 5th March - see below for service details** | | | |
| Thurs 6th March | 9.15am  1.30pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Cuthbert’s Halsall | Morning Prayer  Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing |
| **Sunday 9th March**  **First Sunday of Lent** | 8.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said BCP Holy Communion |
| 9.30am | St Cuthbert’s Halsall | Common Worship Holy Communion |
| 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Church Parade celebrating families |
| Weds 12th March | 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said CW Holy Communion |
| Thurs 13th March | 9.15am  1.30pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Cuthbert’s Halsall | Morning Prayer  Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing |
| **Sunday 16th March**  **Second Sunday of Lent** | 8.00am | St Thomas Lydiate | Said BCP Holy Communion |
| 9.30am | St Cuthberts, Halsall | BCP Holy Communion *(with* Messy Church) |
| 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Common Worship Holy Communion |
| Weds 19th February | 11am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said CW Holy Communion |
| Thurs 20th February | 9.15am  1.30pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Cuthbert’s Halsall | Morning Prayer  Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing |
| **Sunday 23rd March**  **Third Sunday of Lent** | 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 26th March | 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said CW Holy Communion |
| Thurs 27th March | 9.15am  1.30pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Cuthbert’s Halsall | Morning Payer  Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing |
| **Sunday 30th March**  **Fourth Sunday of Lent**  **Mothering Sunday** | 8.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said BCP Holy Communion |
| 9.30am | St Cuthbert’ Halsall | St Cuthbert’s school celebration of mothering Sunday |
| 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | All Age Eucharist for Mothering Sunday |
| **Ash Wednesday March 5th - Holy Communion with imposition of ash for those who wish.**  St Thomas’ Church at 11am and St Cuthbert’s at 7pm  School services 9.00am St Thomas’ 1.15pm St Cuthbert’s 2.45pm Haskayne Downholland  **Renewal of the Electoral Roll 2025**  Please complete your form as soon as you can.  Our electoral roll secretaries are Jean Cropper (St Thomas’) and Kathryn Rankin (St Cuthbert’s)    2025 is a crucial year for our parishes as we decide on the shape and our role in the new larger single parish.  **Are you being called to join the fit for mission navigation team as a lay person?**  Want to know more or to volunteer, speak to Susan.  **St Cuthbert’s Halsall** “**Growing together” weekend Friday afternoon 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 as well as learn more about this historic church and faith.    **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). | | | |
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