**May 2025**

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| ***Letter from the Rector*** | | | |
| *The Rector writes.*  *“I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.”*  *(1 Corinthians, chapter 3: verses 6 and 7)*  Growing plants involves selecting a suitable location, preparing the soil, planting seeds or seedlings and then providing appropriate care, including watering, feeding and weeding. For gardeners, May is a busy month, ensuring precious plants are enabled to flourish.  Our faith is similar. In order for us to grow in faith, we need to feel safe enough to ask the big questions around how we make sense of our complex and confusing world. Ideas need to be planted and allowed to germinate in their own time, watered by prayer and worship. That is why we need to create safe spaces, where we can be honest and allow all to speak without fear of judgement or ridicule. We need to hear each other’s stories with care and respect and ponder how we can enable all to flourish.  That is part of what St Cuthbert’s “Growing Together” weekend, (May 9th to May 11th), and St Thomas’ flower festival weekend, (June 27th to 29th), are all about. Creating spaces where we can learn together, listen to the stories of our communities and nurture those seeds within each of us. As we open our church doors and our hearts to the wider community we will be inspired by what we see and hear, and so play a part in enabling all to flourish.  Why not be part of the conversation and part of both weekends? How can you help to make sure that St Cuthbert’s and St Thomas’ contribute to the good of all those who live in the parish and beyond? We need everyone to take part to help us to listen and take a fresh look at how we can work alongside one another. That way we will grow and flourish together, as God surely intended. *Susan*    **Every Wednesday 12.30 – 2.30pm (approximately). St Thomas’ warm welcome 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.  **St Thomas’ Parent and Toddler Group Lydiate Guide Centre**  **Tuesdays 10.30 -12midday**. You will be assured of a warm welcome.  and  **Tuesday 6th May 10am to 11.30am, St Cuthbert’s Church, choir vestry**  Come and learn how to crochet a poppy with Sue Goldstraw, ready for display around Halsall war memorial.  Meet old friends and make some new ones and take the opportunity to have a quiet moment in church.    **Tuesday 13th May 7.30-8.30pm** - **Prayer meeting for the United Benefice**  led by Rev Glen Gardner at 26 Mayfayre Ave, Lydiate L31 4EA. All welcome    **Organ Recital at St Cuthbert’s Church, Saturday 17th May at 7pm, with Professor Ian Tracey**  Tickets £10 including a glass of wine (children under 16 free) from Pam Carr 07947 359437    **Tuesday 27th May 7.30pm – 8.30pm St Cuthbert’s School, Christian Chatter -** *I wonder what it would feel like if…*    **Saturday 31st May, curry and quiz night at Lydiate Guide Centre**  £10 adult, £5 children. Proceeds to St Thomas’ Church funds | | | |
| **Services for May 2025** | | | |
| *Date* | *Time* | *Place* | *Service* |
| Thursday 1st May | **No Services - sorry for any inconvenience** | | |
| **Sunday 4th May**  **Third 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 |
| Wednesday 7th May | 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said CW Holy Communion |
| Thurs 8th May | 9.15am  1.30pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Cuthbert’s Halsall | Morning Prayer  Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing |
| **Sunday 11th May**  **Fourth Sunday of Easter**  **St Cuthbert’s growing together weekend** | 8.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said BCP Holy Communion |
| 9.30am | St Cuthbert’s Halsall | CW Holy Communion |
| 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Church Parade for VE Day |
| 4.00pm | St Cuthbert’s school | Messy Church with mini bugs |
| Weds 14th May | 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said CW Holy Communion |
| Thurs 15th May | 9.15am  1.30pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Cuthbert’s Halsall | Morning Prayer  Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing |
| **Sunday 18th May**  **Fifth Sunday of Easter** | 8.00am | St Thomas Lydiate | Said BCP Holy Communion |
| 9.30am | St Cuthberts, Halsall | Common Worship Holy Communion with baptism  (with Messy Church) |
| 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Common Worship Holy Communion |
| Weds 21st May | 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said CW Holy Communion |
| Thursday 22nd May | 9.15am  1.30pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Cuthbert’s Halsall | Morning Prayer  Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing |
| **Sunday 25th May**  **Sixth 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 28th May | 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said CW Holy Communion |
| **Thurs 29th May**  **Ascension Day** | 9.15am  1.30pm  7.30pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Thomas’ Lydiate | Morning Prayer  Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing  Said Holy Communion for Ascension Day |
| **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.  Pick up a leaflet with more details and fill in a questionnaire.  **Sunday May 18th, help St Cuthbert’s raise money for the ramped access into the graveyard**  Please sponsor churchwarden Carol Ward who is abseiling 100 feet from the top of Anfield Football stadium  <https://gofund.me/646b3280> or sponsor form at the back of church  ***Looking further ahead.***  **Sunday June 8th Pentecost**  Joint service and picnic with Our Lady’s 4-6pm – watch out for more details.  **Friday June 27th to Sunday 29th June 2025**  St Thomas’ Flower festival weekend, exploring the theme of family  *A thought to ponder!*  Did you know the average item of fresh food from a supermarket will have travelled up to the equivalent of  1,500 miles by the time we buy it. Why not try and buy from local producers when you can?  Local seasonal produce helps our local farmers and may help reduce carbon emissions. | | | |
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