**March 2024**

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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, warmer days encourage us to look up and out. It’s that time of year when we are faced with mountains of Easter eggs, Easter bunnies and Easter chicks everywhere we look.  In contrast to the hope of another Spring, the war in Ukraine rumbles on and tensions in Israel and Palestine continue. People around the world continue to be displaced by war, famine, and natural disaster. When there are Individuals struggling with the cost of living and finding their place in the world and we cannot find sustainable ways to care for our fragile planet, the message of Easter is more important and more profound than ever. For it is a message of hope in the face of overwhelming adversity.  The Christian faith is neither one of deepest despair at sin and the horror of what it does in human lives, nor is it a constant celebration of God’s love and saving power. We are called to recognise and embrace both realities and hold them in tension. We witness both the beauty of a random act of kindness and the cruelty of a selfish misuse of power on a daily basis.  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 and reality of his death, diminishes the profound and unique sacrifice made by God to restore our relationship with Him.  Jesus died and rose from the grave for us all! Why not join in one of the services during Holy Week and then on Easter Day join in the cry, “Jesus Christ is risen today”?  May I wish you all a happy and blessed Easter full of light and hope (and a manageable bit of chocolate). Susan    **Tuesday 5th 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.  If you know someone who is lonely why not bring them along? They will be assured of a warm welcome.    **Warm Space, Millenium Centre, St Thomas’ Church every Wednesday 12.30- 4pm.**  A simple warm lunch served from 1-2pm followed by time to chat. See Glen Gardner for more details  **Final session 27th March under the warm space banner**.    Lent course continues Tuesday evening in March 7.30-9pm.  Come and think about Social Justice and ponder our response, with a cup of tea and some simple worship.  Pick up a flyer at the back of church. Last session will be Tuesday March 19th.    **Parent and Toddler Group at St Thomas’ Thursday mornings 10.30-12midday**  £4 a family to cover costs includes a drink and a biscuit  You will find a warm welcome, worship and laughter.    **Easter Lillies St Thomas’ Church Lydiate**  As in previous years the altar at St Thomas’ will be decorated for Easter with Lillies.  We invite you to help in this by sending a donation in memory of loved ones who will be remembered during our services at Easter time. Please leave the names of those to be remembered with your donation in an envelope in the Church Porch, with the Church Wardens, one of the clergy, or Val or Anne by Sunday 24th March. | | | | | |
| **Services for March – Lent and Easter** | | | | | |
| Date | | Time | Place | | Service |
| **Sunday 3rd March**  **Third Sunday of Lent** | | 8.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | Said BCP Holy Communion |
| 9.30am | St Cuthbert’s Halsall | | BCP Holy Communion *(Church without walls)* |
| 11am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | Common Worship Holy Communion |
| Tuesday 5th March | | 9.15am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | Said Morning Prayer |
| Weds 6th March | | 11am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | Said CW Holy Communion |
| **Sunday 10th March**  **Mothering Sunday** | | 8.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | Said BCP Holy Communion |
| 9.30am | St Cuthbert’s Halsall | | All Age Communion with school |
| 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | All Age Communion and Church Parade |
| Tuesday 12th March | | 9.15am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | Said Morning Prayer |
| Weds 13th March | | 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | Said CW Holy Communion |
| Thurs 14th March | | 9.15am  1.30pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Cuthbert’s Halsall | | Said Morning Prayer  Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing |
| **Sunday 17th March**  **Fifth Sunday of lent** | | 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 19th March | | 9.15am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | Said Morning Prayer |
| Weds 20th March | | 11am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | Said CW Holy Communion |
| Thurs 21st March | | 9.15am  1.30pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Cuthbert’s Halsall | | Said Morning Prayer  Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing |
| **Sunday 24th March**  **Palm Sunday with distribution of palm crosses** | | 8.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | Said BCP Holy Communion |
| 9.30am | St Cuthbert’s Halsall | | Common Worship Holy Communion |
| 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | Common Worship Holy Communion |
| **Come and keep Holy week and Easter** | | | | | |
| Monday 25th March | | 7pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall | | Said Compline for Holy Week |
| Tuesday 26th March | | 9.15am  11am  7pm | St Thomas’ Lydiate  St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Thomas’ Lydiate | | Said Morning Prayer  Said Communion for Holy Week  Said Compline for Holy Week |
| Wednesday 27th March | | 11.00am  7pm | St Thomas’ Lydiate  St Cuthbert’s Halsall | | Said Communion for Holy Week  Said Compline for Holy Week |
| Thursday 28th March  **Maundy Thursday** | | 9.15am  1.30pm  7pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Thomas’ Lydiate | | Said Morning Payer  Holy Communion with stripping of the altar  Holy Communion and Vigil until 10pm |
| Friday 29th March  **Good Friday** | | 11am  2pm | Our Lady’s / St Thomas’ Lydiate  St Cuthbert’s Halsall | | Stations of the Cross and walk of witness  Devotions at the foot of the cross |
| Saturday 30th March  **Easter Eve** | | 7pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall | | Easter Eve Vigil, blessing of the new Paschal Candles, renewal of baptism promises |
| **Sunday 31st March**  **Easter Sunday** | | 8.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | BCP Holy Communion |
| 9.30am | St Cuthbert’s Halsall | | CW Holy Communion and easter Egg Hunt |
| 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | | CW Holy Communion with easter Egg Hunt |
| **All are welcome, whether you have been a life-long Anglican or are just a little curious.** | | | | | |
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| Pause | | Ponder | | | Pray | |
|  | | What does it mean to say;  Christ has died,  Christ is risen  Christ will come again?  What is your response? | | | Risen Jesus, we rejoice that you are alive with us,  Help us to be messengers of Easter joy and hope for our community and the world. Help us to be generous in our giving and hospitable to all.  Amen | |