**May 2024**

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| ***Letter from the Rector*** | | | |
| The Rector Writes:  The newly formed Butterflies and Bees brigade at St Cuthbert’s, and the graveyard working group at St Thomas’, have amazed and inspired me by what they have achieved in both churchyards in such a short time. The fruits of their labours are plain for all to see. In mid-April I saw my first butterfly and bumble bee. As a Christian such sights remind me of God’s amazing love and care for all of his creation.  May is the month of the feast of Pentecost in the church, where we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Day of Pentecost comes fifty days after Easter Day. It is a time when Christians recall how God’s Holy Spirit was given to the disciples after Jesus’ ascension.  Pentecost reminds us that everything which exists, every person and the whole of creation, is a gift of God. God’s revelation of himself in creation is inseparable from the revelation of his love for us in Christ and in his desire to live in us through his Holy Spirit.  As Christians we believe that ‘God’s Spirit is always and everywhere’. So God’s creation is a precious gift to us. It is our common home entrusted to each generation. The way we choose to live our everyday lives has an impact on everyone and on the earth. How are we honouring this precious gift and being good stewards of the world and the place we call home?  There are no easy answers or quick fixes to the environmental challenges we are seeing, but together in small ways we can all make a difference. We can think about how we live more harmoniously with nature and each other. We can put aside our differences to work together to help build community, to care for our communities and surrounding countryside in sustainable ways and celebrate all that we are and have.  “For God’s Spirit is always and everywhere, and we are because God is.” Prayers and blessings, **Susan**    **Luncheon Club - Wednesday May 1st, 1pm to 3pm St Thomas’ Millenium Centre**  Come along for a simple lunch and a warm welcome. Enjoy meeting old friends and make some new ones.  Swap some books, try out a jigsaw or simply chat. No charge but donations to cover costs welcome.    **Coffee Morning - Tuesday May 6th, 10am to 11.30am, St Cuthbert’s Church, choir vestry**  Why not bring your photos of the locality both old and new and talk about what they mean to you?  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.    **Line Dancing taster session - Friday May 17th, 7.30-9.30pm, St Thomas’ Millenium Centre**  Tickets £5. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Tea and coffee will be provided.  Proceeds toward the installation of screens in church.    **Christian Chatter - Tuesday May 28th, 7.30-8.30pm.**  Following on from the successful Lent course why not come and join an informal chat as we continue to explore the sermon on the mount? We will be looking at “blessed are the pure in heart.” All Welcome.    **Parent and Toddler Group at St Thomas’ - Thursday mornings, 10.30-12midday.**  £4 a family to cover costs includes a drink and a biscuit and a craft.  You will find a warm welcome, worship and laughter. | | | |
| **Services for May** | | | |
| *Date* | *Time* | *Place* | *Service* |
| Wednesday 1st May | 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said CW Holy Communion |
| Thursday 2nd May | 9.15am  1.30pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Cuthbert’s Halsall | Said Morning Prayer  Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing |
| **Sunday 5th May**  **Fifth 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 8th May | 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said CW Holy Communion |
| **Thursday 9th May**  **Ascension Day** | 9.15am  1.30pm  7pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said Morning Prayer  Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing  Holy Communion for Ascension Day |
| **Sunday 12th May**  **Sixth Sunday of Easter** | 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,  celebrating 90 years of Girl Guiding in Lydiate |
| Wednesday 15th May | 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said CW Holy Communion |
| Thursday 16th May | 9.15am  1.30pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Cuthbert’s Halsall | Said Morning Prayer  Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing |
| **Sunday 19th May**  **Pentecost** | 8.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said BCP Holy Communion |
| 9.30am | St Cuthbert’s Halsall | BCP Holy Communion *(*Messy Church) |
| 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Common Worship Holy Communion  Followed by annual meetings |
| Wednesday 22nd May | 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said CW Holy Communion |
| Thursday 23rd May | 9.15am  1.30pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Cuthbert’s Halsall | Said Morning Prayer  Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing |
| **Sunday 26th May**  **Trinity Sunday** | 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 Holy Communion |
| Wednesday 29th May | 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said CW Holy Communion |
| **Thursday 30th May**  **Corpus Christi** | 9.15am  1.30pm  7pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said Morning Prayer  Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing  Holy Communion for Corpus Christi |
| **All are welcome, whether you have been a life-long Anglican or are just a little curious.** | | | |
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**Every Monday Morning (except Bank Holidays) at 9.15am Morning Prayer** **across the Fit for Mission Parishes**

Please join in when you can. Use the link below

https://zoom.us/j/94976540051?pwd=UENadEhSM2hqOTVyR08zcGt6QUpjUT09

**Youth Evening Praise Service Sunday 5th May at 7pm at St John’s Burscough**

All welcome – for more information ask Susan

**Parish weekend away with St Paul’s Skelmersdale 17th -19th May**

Quinta hall Shropshire. See poster at back of either Church for more details

**Summer Praise Service Sunday 23rd June at 4pm St Thomas’ Lydiate**

Followed by a strawberry cream tea.

All are welcome to join other members of the fit for mission parishes as we worship together.

**Both churches need your help**. Do you have a heart for children and young people? Would you be willing to join a team to run a Sunday School at St Thomas’ or a Youth group at St Cuthbert’s?

Talk to Susan - if enough people are interested we will set up a meeting to explore things further.