**November 2023**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Letter from the Rector*** | | | |
| November is one of those months that stirs strange emotions. The leaves are falling or have fallen. The nights are closing in and the weather is often cold and damp. As Keats would put it, it is the season of “mists and mellow fruitfulness”. Nature takes on a different hue and without the leaves on the trees we can see more.  It is the month in which we remember and give thanks for those have died in conflicts around the world and remember those who continue to be affected by the trauma of war; the bereaved and those left with life changing injuries both physical and emotional. With the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and in Israel it can be hard not to feel overwhelmed with a sense of hopelessness and that things never change for the better.  It is important to remember and lament the dreadful cost of war for in doing so we retell the stories of al sides caught up in conflict, as well as our own. We are called to ponder how we have been and continue to be changed by the acts of courage and resilience of so many individuals over the centuries.  Lee Ann Womack, an American country music song writer wrote these lyrics:  “I hope you never lose your sense of wonder  You get your fill to eat but always keep that hunger  May you never take one single breath for granted  God forbid love ever leave you empty handed  I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean  Whenever one door closes, I hope one more opens  Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting chance  And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance……. I hope you dance”  I am no dancer as those who watch me stumble down the chancel steps will testify, but I hope we can all join in the dance of faith and enjoy learning together just how much we are loved by God and commit ourselves to be peacemakers where we are, always seeking to build up and encourage rather than criticise and destroy. Susan    **Tuesday 7th November 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.  . No charge, but there will be a plate for voluntary donations.  Come and pick up some supplies to help you manage, if you are struggling, no questions asked.    **Warm Space, Millenium Centre, St Thomas’ Church**  **Starts Wednesday 15th November 2023 12.30- 4pm with**  A simple warm lunch served from 1-2pm followed by time to simply be.  *(If you are able to, come on Wednesday 8th November 12.30-3pm for a trial run and give feedback)*    **Christian Chatter**  Tuesday 28th November 7.30-8.30pm Millenium Centre, St Thomas Lydiate.  “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”  Come along and explore the Christian faith. Bring yourself, your friends, and your questions.  **Parent and Toddler group to launch around 14th January 2024, Millennium Centre, St Thomas’**  Thursday mornings from 10 - 11.30 am (term time only) for babies, toddlers and children up to 4 years old  We need donations: Baby toys,  construction toys, blocks, duplo, good quality books, jigsaws and games.  Small world toys such as toy cars, trains, animals, role play equipment such as a play kitchen, shop, prams and pushchairs.  Physical toys e.g. small slides, tunnels, 'sit-on' toys, climbing equipment. If you can help us, please could you drop off your contributions at Church on ***Saturdays 18th November and 16th December 9.30-11.30am*** | | | |
| **Services for November** | | | |
| Date | Time | Place | Service |
| Sunday 5th November | 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 |
|  | 4pm | ST Thomas’ Lydiate | Service of light |
| Tuesday 7th November | 9.15am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Morning Prayer |
| Weds 8th November | 11am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said CW Holy Communion |
| Thurs 9th November | 9.15am  1.30pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Cuthbert’s Halsall | Morning Prayer  Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing |
| Sunday 12th Nov  Remembrance Sunday | 8.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate  St Cuthbert’s Halsall | Said BCP Holy Communion  Said BCP Holy Communion |
| 10.30am | St Cuthbert’s Halsall | Remembrance Service |
| 10.30am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Remembrance Church Parade |
| Tuesday 14th November | 9.15am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Morning Prayer |
| Weds 15th November | 11.00am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said CW Holy Communion |
| Thurs 16th November | 9.15am  1.30pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Cuthbert’s Halsall | Morning Prayer  Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing |
| Sunday 19th November  Safeguarding Sunday | 8.00am | St Thomas Lydiate | Said BCP Holy Communion |
| 9.30am | St Cuthberts, Halsall | BCP Holy Communion *(Messy Church)* |
| 11am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Common Worship Holy Communion |
| Tuesday 21st November | 9.15am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Morning Prayer |
| Weds 22nd November | 11am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said CW Holy Communion |
| Thurs 23rd November | 9.15am  1.30pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Cuthbert’s Halsall | Morning Prayer  Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing |
| Sunday 26th November  Christ the King | 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 service |
|  | 4pm | St Cuthbert’s Halsall | Confirmation Service with Bishop of Liverpool |
| Tuesday 28th November | 9.15am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Morning Prayer |
| Weds 29th November | 11am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said CW holy Communion |
| Thurs 30th November | 9.15am | St Cuthbert’s Halsall  St Cuthbert’s Halsall | Morning Prayer  Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing |
| Sunday 3rd December  Advent Sunday | 8am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Said BCP Holy Communion |
| 9.30am | St Cuthbert’s Halsall | BCP Holy communion *(Church without walls)* Christmas tree festival and Christmas raffle draw |
| 11am | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Common Worship Holy Communion |
| 4pm | St Thomas’ Lydiate | Christingle |
| **All are welcome, whether you have been a life-long Anglican or are just a little curious.** | | | |
| **Christmas tree festival, St Cuthbert’s from 3rd December 2024 – can you spare some time to help?** | | | |
| In December we would like to open St Cuthbert’s Church, 11am to 3pm Saturdays and 2-3pm Sundays.  So people can place a star on the prayer tree for a loved one. Children can find the nativity figures hidden among the trees and spend a bit of time in this special place to slow down in the run up to Christmas.  See Elaine and Pam if you can help church sit. Thank you. | | | |
| Pause | Ponder | | Pray |
| Remember all those affected by armed conflict and those who live with its impact. |  | | O God of the nations, as we look to that day when you will gather people from north and south, east and west, into the unity of your peaceable Kingdom, guide with your just and gentle wisdom all who take counsel for the nations of the world, that all your people may spend their days in security, freedom, and peace. Amen |