

A warm welcome to all



October 2023

Letter from the Rector

We like counting things. Often, we feel reassured when we can see a number that we can work with. Numbers are everywhere. Often worldly success is seen in terms of numbers. Numbers inform us and can help us plan.

The bible too likes to count people and things. Think of Jesus feeding the five thousand in Luke chapter 9, or the ten lepers Jesus healed, recorded in Luke chapter 17. In Acts chapter 2, after Peter's speech to a crowd of onlookers gathered in Jerusalem, around three thousand people decided to follow Jesus and his teaching.

The Church of England likes to count things too. In October we have the national count of all people attending church, both on Sundays and during the week. Many of you will have seen the year-on-year headlines about the decline in numbers attending church on both a regular and irregular basis, which are derived from this annual count. Is that the whole story? Is the Church of England in terminal decline? What is the story behind those numbers?

The reality is that numbers can be a helpful tool, but they also mask much deeper meanings. They overlook the individual stories of pain and triumph. Sometimes they feel so frightening they stop us from taking action.

Whilst the bible records many numbers, God is not so much interested in the numbers themselves, but rather in how we, as stewards of this world, make sure everyone and everything counted really matters. As people of faith, we are called to look deeper to see and hear the stories behind those numbers, both wonderful and tragic. God calls every one of us to play our part in ensuring that each person we encounter knows that they count and are not merely counted. *Prayers and Blessings Susan*



Christian Chatter

Tuesday 25th September 7.30-8.30pm Millenium Centre, St Thomas Lydiate.

Come along and explore the Christian faith in a fun and friendly way.

Bring yourself, your friends, and your questions.

For more information speak to David or Susan

Come and have a drink and a natter every first Tuesday of the month.

Meet old friends and make some new ones and take the opportunity to have a quiet moment in church.

From Tuesday 3rd October from 10am to 11.30am (note change of time)

St Cuthbert's Church, choir vestry. No charge, but there will be a plate for voluntary donations.

Harvest Festivals at both churches Sunday 8th October

8am BCP HC at BOTH St Thomas' and St Cuthbert's

9.30am St Cuthbert's – Harvest thanksgiving led by the school

11am St Thomas' – Church Parade after "the wellie walk"

6.30pm Harvest songs of praise at St Cuthbert's – come and sing some of your favourite harvest hymns

Come and thank God for all His blessings. Why not bring a friend?

Curry and Quiz night St Thomas' Saturday 13th October

6-9pm in Millenium Centre. Adults £10, children £5

Come and have some fun and raise some money for the organ.

Gilbert and Sullivan Evening St Cuthbert's Friday 20th October

7.30pm Come and enjoy some great music and raise money for the church

Launch of a new time to pray.

Prayer is at the heart of our faith. Praying together changes us and the world we pray for. Come and join some of the ministry team as we say morning prayer Tuesday mornings at 9.15am in St Thomas'. The said service lasts around 40 minutes.

Why not set aside that time once a week or once a month and together let's see where God leads?

Monthly newsletter for St Thomas' Lydiate and Downholland and St Cuthbert's Halsall

Parish Office: 0151 526 2292 (Monday to Wednesday mornings) website: [www.https://tsnccs.church/](https://tsnccs.church/)

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Services for October

| Date | Time | Place | Service |
|---|---------|--|---|
| Sunday 1 st October Generosity | 8.00am | St Thomas' Lydiate | Said BCP Holy Communion |
| | 9.30am | St Cuthbert's Halsall | BCP Holy Communion (<i>Church without walls</i>) |
| | 11am | St Thomas' Lydiate | Common Worship Holy Communion |
| Tuesday 3 rd October | 9.15am | St Thomas' Lydiate | Morning Prayer |
| Wednesday 4 th October | 11am | St Thomas' Lydiate | Said CW Holy Communion |
| Thursday 5 th October | 9.15am | St Cuthbert's Halsall | Morning Prayer |
| | 1.30pm | St Cuthbert's Halsall | Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing |
| Sunday 8 th October Harvest Festival | 8.00am | St Thomas' Lydiate St Cuthbert's Halsall | Said BCP Holy Communion |
| | 9.30am | St Cuthbert's Halsall | Harvest Festival with school |
| | 11.00am | St Thomas' Lydiate | Harvest Festival Church Parade |
| Tuesday 10 th October | 9.15am | St Thomas' Lydiate | Morning Prayer |
| Weds 11 th October | 11.00am | St Thomas' Lydiate | Said CW Holy Communion |
| Thursday 12 th October | 9.15am | St Cuthbert's Halsall | Morning Prayer |
| | 1.30pm | St Cuthbert's Halsall | Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing |
| Sunday 15 th October Generosity | 8.00am | St Thomas Lydiate | Said BCP Holy Communion |
| | 9.30am | St Cuthberts, Halsall | BCP Holy Communion (<i>Messy Church</i>) |
| | 11am | St Thomas' Lydiate | Common Worship Holy Communion |
| Tuesday 17 th October | 9.15am | St Thomas' Lydiate | Morning Prayer |
| Weds 18 th October | 11am | St Thomas' Lydiate | Said CW Holy Communion |
| Thursday 19 th October | 9.15am | St Cuthbert's Halsall | Morning Prayer |
| | 1.30pm | St Cuthbert's Halsall | Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing |
| Sunday 22 nd October | 8.00am | St Thomas' Lydiate | Said BCP Holy Communion |
| | 9.30am | St Cuthbert's Halsall | Common Worship Holy Communion |
| | 11.00am | St Thomas' Lydiate | Family Service - come ready to create an all age collage for our Children's corner. |
| Tuesday 24 th October | 9.15am | St Thomas' Lydiate | Morning Prayer |
| Weds 25 th October | 11am | St Thomas' Lydiate | Said CW holy Communion |
| Thursday 26 th October | 9.15am | St Cuthbert's Halsall St Cuthbert's Halsall | Morning Prayer Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing |
| | | | |
| Sunday 29 th October | 8am | St Thomas' Lydiate | Said BCP Holy Communion |
| | 10.30am | St Thomas' Lydiate | Joint informal Celtic communion service |
| | 4pm | St Cuthbert's Halsall | Service of light for those who have died. |
| All are welcome, whether you have been a life long Anglican or are a little curious. | | | |

Services of Light to remember those who have died in the last few years

Sunday 29th October, 4pm at St Cuthbert's and Sunday 5th November, 4pm at St Thomas'

During these services, we will remember with thankfulness those we love who have died; we will reflect on the love and life that we have shared with them; and we will pray for them as we light candles in their memory. If you wish to have the name of a loved read out as part of the service, please write their name clearly on the lists which you will find at the back of both churches.

| Pause | Ponder | Pray |
|---|---|--|
| What is God calling us to do? What is God prompting you to do? |  | Loving Lord, as we explore together what it means to be fit for mission, may we be devoted to prayer and watchful for the signs of your coming kingdom. Give us thankful hearts and open doors to make known the Gospel. May our words and actions point people to Jesus, who is our Lord and Saviour. Amen. |

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