

# A warm welcome to all



September 2023

## ***Letter from the Rector***

I can hardly believe that I have now been Rector of Lydiate and Downholland and Halsall for six months. Where has the time gone? I have been warmly welcomed by the communities I have been called to serve, for which I am very grateful. As part of settling in I have been pondering how we help communities to flourish. How can we help people feel they belong, in an age where there are relatively few opportunities to meet others beyond our own family and social circle?

There are well documented benefits of being part of a flourishing community, from improved physical and mental health to reduction in anti-social behaviour. Being part of such a community means finding things in common, having a shared story and being able to contribute to that story. For a community to be sustainable it needs to find ways to gather and tell and re-tell stories, as well as make new ones to pass on.

The local parish church is an important part of building up and maintaining community. It is one of the few places that enable people across generations and backgrounds to meet together. Through prayer, worship and social action relationships are built up and stories shared. Those stories are not just of faith but also the unique stories of each person and the locality.

Jesus knew how important it was to work with and be part of local communities. Jesus recognised the importance of community as a way of enabling mutual flourishing and growth. Our challenge is to make a positive choice to belong, being committed to building up relationships across generations and between people who are different from us.

St Peter, a key member of the early Church, wrote this:

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." (1 Peter 4:10)

So let us work together to build community and introduce people to Jesus where and when we can.

*Prayers and blessings, Susan.*

### **If you have a heart for children and young people**

**Come to a meeting on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September from 3-5pm**

Millenium Centre, St Thomas' Church, Lydiate,

Bring your family and an indoor picnic and your ideas about how we inspire and enable children and young people to flourish in their Christian faith. To register contact Steph on [stthomassteph@btinternet.com](mailto:stthomassteph@btinternet.com)

### **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 5<sup>th</sup> September 9.30am -12midday**

St Cuthbert's Church, choir vestry

No charge, but there will be a plate for voluntary donations.

### **Churchyard working parties.**

Both churches are exploring ways we can look after our churchyards in ways that encourage insects and wildlife.

Come and join one of the working parties.

St Cuthbert's Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2-4pm

St Thomas' Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> September 10am to 12 midday



### **Christian Chatter**

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> 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

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Services for September			
Date	Time	Place	Service
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	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 with baptism
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept	11am	St Thomas' Lydiate	Said CW Holy Communion
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept	9.15am	St Cuthbert's Halsall	Morning Prayer
	1.30pm	St Cuthbert's Halsall	Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	8.00am	St Thomas' Lydiate	Said BCP Holy Communion
	9.30am	St Cuthbert's Halsall	Common Worship Holy Communion with school bag blessing for those who wish
	11.00am	St Thomas' Lydiate	Common Worship Holy Communion for Education Sunday (NO church Parade)
Weds 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	11.00am	St Thomas' Lydiate	Said CW Holy Communion
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> Sept	9.15am	St Cuthbert's Halsall	Morning Prayer
	1.30pm	St Cuthbert's Halsall	Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> Sept Trinity	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
Weds 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept	11am	St Thomas' Lydiate	Said CW Holy Communion
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> Sept	9.15am	St Cuthbert's Halsall	Morning Prayer
	1.30pm	St Cuthbert's Halsall	Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept	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.
Weds 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	11am	St Thomas' Lydiate	Said CW holy Communion
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	9.15am	St Cuthbert's Halsall St Cuthbert's Halsall	Morning Prayer Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing
<b>Do come and join us and meet old friends and make some new ones</b>			
<b>Confirmation 4pm on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at St Cuthbert's Halsall with Bishop John.</b>			



**Interested in helping with the confirmation courses?** There are sign-up sheets at the back of both churches. You do not have to commit to all the sessions, but at least two. It will be fun and a great way to get to know some of the young people in our schools. For more information speak to Susan.

Pause	Ponder	Pray
<p>Where is God's heart in our community?</p> <p>What is God calling us to do?</p> <p>What is God prompting you to do?</p> <p>All of us have a role to play – for together we are the body of Christ</p>		<p>Loving Lord, as we seek to live out the vision you have set before us, may we see a bigger church making a bigger difference. 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.</p> <p>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.</p>

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