

Reflection for the second Sunday of Easter (John 20: 19-31)

I want to pick up a remark I made in the notices in response to Revd Sarah's family phrase of "We've done Scotland" in order to rebut any suggestion that we (St Thomas Church, the wider Christian community) have "done Easter". We may have done Easter Day (and rather splendidly I thought) with on Saturday the blessing of the Easter candle, hearing some of the biblical salvation story, the renewal of our baptismal vows, and sharing a kind of agape supper as a mark of our communion; and then on the Sunday itself, blessing the Easter garden, hearing the Gospel of the resurrection, getting sprinkled again as a reminder of baptism, and sharing formally in the broken bread and wine outpoured, not to forget the scramble for chocolate Easter eggs at the end. Yes, we "did Easter Day".

But we've only just started the Easter season, and so we have fifty days leading to Pentecost, lots of readings from Acts telling us about the early Church, more Gospel readings about the resurrection, and passing through the Ascension of Jesus. We can legitimately wish each other Happy Easter every day of that period, notwithstanding any strange looks, and challenging the removal of Easter eggs from supermarket shelves, as if by now passé. How wise it would be to have lots of chocolate every day I would question, but in terms of a celebration, it's perfectly in order.

Which brings me to the nub of this: a consideration for each of us individually, and then communally, how best we do continue that Easter spirit, that acknowledgement of Jesus' resurrection. One thing might be to read over all those resurrection stories in the Gospels, including the short version of Mark, and the multiplicity of accounts in John.

The acknowledgement of our own resurrection – eternal life in this world and the next – is a much more complicated affair, and in my view, the work of a lifetime. So it might be worth starting/continuing asap. Happy Easter to you all!

Fr David

WARM SPACE ST THOMAS PARISH HALL- THURSDAY 3-5PM



Free refreshments in a warm space

NEXT SUNDAY 14.04.2024 3rd Sunday of Easter
10.30am in the Church

READINGS: OT Acts 3: 12-19
NT 1 JOHN 3: 1-7
GOSPEL Luke 24: 36B-48



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St Thomas, Exeter

7th April 2024

Second Sunday of Easter
10.30am in Church

Today

10.30am in the Church

Hymn Numbers

474 The day of resurrection

45 At the Lamb's high feast we sing

563 Ye choirs of new Jerusalem

Wednesday 10th April

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

7.30pm PCC Meeting in Church

Thursday 11th April

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots

10.30-12 noon Knit & Natter, 19 Maple Rd.

Details from Jenny 01392 498725

3-5pm Warm Space in the Hall

Friday 12th April

9.30am Prayers

10am Staff Meeting

Saturday 13th April

9am Men's Breakfast at the Sawyers



Collect

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Acts 4: 32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

1 John 1: 1-2: 2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the right-

eous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

John 20: 19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Post Communion

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

NOTICES

Community Larder There will be a collection box in the Church on Sundays for food donations. The need remains great so please be mindful of our wider community.

House Group is a small group of people who meet fortnightly to explore various aspects of our faith. It was started by a curate some 30 years ago and many have enjoyed this opportunity. At present we are on holiday but our next meeting is on 16th April at Helen's home. Helen and Ian can give you more details if you are interested.

Parish Website when we reviewed the website to include more details about the bell ringers we noticed that the last Blog entry was in 2022. We are looking for a small team of people who would be prepared to write something occasionally for this Blog. Please speak to one of the staff team.

Electoral Roll It is now time to revise the parish electoral roll ahead of the APCM in May. Please see Carolyn Bryant if you wish to be added to the roll or if you have moved house or changed any other details in the past year. Forms will be available from Carolyn or Ian. If you have any questions please contact Carolyn after the Sunday morning service or call 07780 707183.

Dramatised Mark performance 14 April at 6:30pm, Nave of Exeter Cathedral You are invited to listen to the gospel of Mark, re-told through the eyes, ears and voices of some of the first witnesses in the premier presentation of Dramatised Mark, by Professor Chris Bryan. Chris Bryan has brought his considerable New Testament scholarship to bear on editing the Gospel according to St Mark for public reading and, working with David Gunn-Johnson, has produced a script for eight voices. Familiar passages are brought to new and vibrant life by a talented team of speakers. There is no need to book and no charge, but seats will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Weekly Pew sheet. If anyone would like to receive the pew sheet by email or be on the pastoral care/contact list, please speak to a member of the clergy or Ian.

