

## First Steps to a new Incumbent

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September we held our Vision Meeting. It was led by the Archdeacon of Exeter, Very Revd Andrew Beane, and a good proportion of our congregation took part.

AD Andrew explained the process of appointing a new Incumbent, and the likely timescale. First we need to reflect and decide how we want our church community to develop over the next few years, taking into account the Diocese's own vision: growing in prayer, making new disciples, and serving the people of Devon with joy. We made a start on this at the meeting, and it will determine the qualities we look for in a new Incumbent.

Then we need to prepare a parish profile document, which explains to clergy who might want to apply to be our Incumbent what our local St Thomas community is like, how our church community worships, witnesses and serves, and how we plan to move forward in the future. Input from everyone in our church community is welcome, and encouraged.

Then the post is advertised, in the Church Times and on the Diocesan website; it is important that we advertise nationally, to get the best choice of candidate. The advert will be published soon after Christmas.

Candidates will be shortlisted, and interviewed by representatives from the Diocese and our own congregation. Our parish representatives will be chosen by the PCC, and will have the final say on who is appointed. The interviews will take place just before or just after Easter.

Finally, the new Incumbent will start during the summer (they will have to give three month's notice in their current position). Then we can move forward with them in God's service!

We started the process of reflecting on how we should move forward as a parish at the meeting, discussing what we see as our strengths and our weaknesses, and what opportunities we have in our local community. But everyone is encouraged to give their views on this, it is very important that we get the widest set of ideas. So please speak to your churchwardens and PCC members!

Ian Totterdell, churchwarden



**NEXT SUNDAY 28.09.25 Trinity 15**  
10.30am in the Church

**READINGS:** OT Amos 6: 1a, 4-7  
NT 1 Timothy 6: 6-19  
GOSPEL Luke 11: 37-end



### CONTACT US

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# St Thomas, Exeter

**21st September 2025**

**St Matthew**

**10.30am in the Church**

### Today

**Sung Eucharist**

*Hymn Numbers*

46 *At the name of Jesus*

63 *Blest are the pure in heart*

464 *Take my life and let it be*

560 *Will you come and follow me*

Money paid for refreshments will be donated  
to Hospiscare

### Wednesday 24th September

**10am** Holy Communion (BCP)

**2-4pm** Young at Hearts

### Thursday 25th September

**9.30-11am** St Thomas Tots

**10.30-12noon** Knit & Natter at Jenny  
Tuckett's house

### Friday 26th September

**9.30am** Morning Prayer

**10am** Staff Meeting

### Saturday 27th September

**12.30pm** Ladies Lunch at the Royal Oak



## Collect

O Almighty God, whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist: give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain and the possessive love of riches that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## Proverbs 3: 13-18

Happy are those who find wisdom, and those who get understanding, for her income is better than silver, and her revenue better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand in her left hand are riches and honour. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called happy.

## Psalms 119. 65-72

You have dealt graciously with your servant,  
according to your word, O Lord.  
O teach me true understanding and knowledge,  
for I have trusted in your commandments.  
Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep  
your word.  
You are gracious and do good; O Lord, teach me  
your statutes.  
The proud have smeared me with lies, but I will  
keep your commandments with my whole  
heart.  
Their heart has become gross with fat, but my del-  
ight is in your law.  
It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I  
may learn your statutes.  
The law of your mouth is dearer to me than a hoard  
of gold and silver.

## 2 Corinthians 4: 1-6

Since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

## Matthew 9: 9-13

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

## Post Communion

Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: by the power of the same Spirit strengthen us to witness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire

of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

## Notices

**Sunday 28th September** The Birdhouse Café in Pincus Gardens is having a Community Fundraising Day from 10am—4pm. Liz is walking there after the service if anyone would like to join her.

**Saturday 4th October.** Liz's special Lay Licensing! All are welcome to attend the licensing service at the Cathedral where Liz, our Pioneer Community Worker, will be officially licensed as a Lay Pioneer. Please be seated by 13.45. Liz will be going for drinks afterwards so please ask her for details if you want to celebrate after the service.

**Alpha Course.** Christians Together Across Exeter have advertised five Alpha Courses which begin in churches across Exeter this Autumn. The course explains the basis of Christianity for those seeking God. If you or you know someone who is interested in attending the courses please see Ian for details. And please pray for these courses, that people may come to faith through them.

## Dates for your Diary

Harvest Festival on 12th October (followed by bring & share lunch in the hall)

On Sunday 26th October we will be hosting a multicultural All Souls festival in the hall, churchyard and church (after our service). Our own All Saints and All Souls services will be held on Sunday November 2nd.

We will welcome the Methodists to a joint service on Remembrance Sunday (9th November).

Bishop Moira, the new Bishop of Crediton, will celebrate the Eucharist with us on Sunday, 16th November.

We will hold a carol service, jointly with Grace Church, on the evening of Sunday 14th December.

The Bishop of Exeter, the Rt Rev Mike Harrison, will celebrate the Eucharist with us on Sunday, 11th January 2026.

