

## Reflection for Safeguarding Sunday

Today, we are delighted to welcome Bishop Moira to St Thomas' Church. A Bishop's visit is a reminder to us all that we belong to something bigger than our own parish – we are part of the wider family of the Diocese of Exeter, the Church of England and the Anglican Communion.

Bishop Moira cares for the clergy and people in north, mid and east Devon, encouraging and supporting the mission of the Church, and helps us to keep faithful to the Gospel we share. She is also the lead Bishop for Licensed Lay Ministers, with a particular focus on caring for their development and ministry.

This Sunday is Safeguarding Sunday – a time when we pause to reflect on how we care for those in our church communities especially those who are most vulnerable. Safeguarding is not simply a set of policies or procedures; it is an expression of our discipleship and our calling to love one another as Christ loves us.

In a world where trust can be easily broken, our Church must be a place of safety, honesty, and compassion, and we all have a part to play in this by helping to create a community – a church family – where everyone is valued, heard and allowed to feel safe.

And so as we welcome our Bishop and thank her for the care she shows to us, let us continue to work to care for each other, and pray for our Safeguarding Officers Carolyn and Jane, and all those who work to keep our churches safe. May we be a church where God's care and justice is embodied in all we do.

Rev Sarah



**NEXT SUNDAY 23.11.25 Christ the King**

10.30am in the Church

**READINGS:** OT Jeremiah 23: 1-6



NT Colossians 1: 11-20

GOSPEL Luke 23: 33-43

### CONTACT US

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# St Thomas, Exeter

**16th November 2025**

**Safeguarding Sunday**

**10.30am in the Church**

### Today

**Sung Eucharist**

*Hymn Numbers*

285 *Judge eternal, throned in splendour*

570 *You are the King of Glory*

172 *God is working his purpose out*

522 *To God be the glory!*

### Wednesday 19th November

**10am** Holy Communion (BCP)

### Thursday 20th November

**9.30-11am** St Thomas Tots

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

### Friday 21st November

**9.30am** Morning Prayer

**10am** Staff Meeting

### Saturday 22nd November

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



## Collect

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## Malachi 4: 1-2a

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

## 2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labour we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

## Luke 21: 5-19

When some were speaking about the temple, how

it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, 'As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.' They asked him, 'Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?' And he said, 'Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and, "The time is near!" Do not go after them. 'When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. 'But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

## Post Communion

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

## Notices

We welcome Bishop Moira this morning who will pre-side and preach for us this Safeguarding Sunday

Thank you to all those who donated Bibles and Theological literature on Bible Sunday. These have been passed on to a charity who will distribute them in the African sub-continent and have been very gratefully received. Thank you for your generosity in giving others the gift of God's word.

Our Community Pioneer Liz and Rev Sarah are running two sessions for making **Advent windows** on Tuesday 25th 4.15pm—6.15pm and Sunday 30th November 1.30pm—3.30pm. Drop in for 5 mins, get ideas and free materials or stay and make a window. Refreshments will be available.

**Next week is our last Sunday morning service in the church.** From Sunday 30 November – the first Sunday in Advent – we will gather to worship in the church hall on Sunday mornings.

Please pray for all the Clergy and Licensed Lay Ministers in the Diocese as they gather with their Bishops next Saturday 22 November for a Clergy Study Morning here in Exeter.

Flyers are now available detailing our Christmas services. Please distribute them to family and friends.

Sunday 14th December 4pm & 6pm. Carol services with Grace Church.

Saturday 20th December 4pm. Blue Christmas service.

Sunday 21st December 3pm. Christingle Messier Church

Christmas Eve 4pm Family Crib Service.  
11pm Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day 9.30am Family service.