

Reflection: Dedication Sunday

It is said that no less a person than Henry VIII decreed that churches which did not know a specific date of dedication should opt for the first Sunday in October, and that is what many Anglican churches still do, hence our theme today.

This celebration should not be confused with the Patronal Festival, in which the patron saint of the parish is invoked, so at St Thomas we concentrate especially on 3 July, and in a nod to history also keep the feast of St Thomas the Martyr (Thomas a Becket) on 29 December. Come to think of it, perhaps we should therefore make much more of St Andrew's Day, not forgetting St Philip of course.

But this does leave a bit of quandary with the parish of Emmanuel. Every Sunday, indeed every day, would be their Patronal Festival as they marked God-with-us, which may explain their sunny disposition. Being a very late c19 foundation, they are also more likely to know the exact date of their dedication, but if they chose to emphasize the first Sunday of October, that would be fine.

Dedication (as opposed to Patronal Festival) is all about the particular church building, and so here, about giving thanks to God for the various forms of St Thomas Church, near the river and then two versions on the present site. It's about recognising our history, good moments and bad moments, and about acknowledging how we use material things, including buildings, in our worship of the Almighty.

Fr David



NEXT SUNDAY 13.10.2024 Harvest Festival
10.30am in the Church

READINGS: NT Joel 2: 21-27
OT 1 Timothy 6: 6-10
GOSPEL Matthew 6: 25-33



CONTACT US

Fr David Nixon 01392 667192. Day off: Mondays
rev.dave@virgin.net

Revd Carys Puleston Curate 07977090932
rev.carys@gmail.com

Revd Sarah Cumming Assistant Priest [on secondment at St Davids]

Revd Alison Whiting Associate Priest
rev.alisonwhiting@gmail.com

Revd Mike Clark Associate Priest
mike.clark@exeter.anglican.org

Phil Baker, Reader 07970 216740
lionelbaker@outlook.com

Revd Terry Litherland 07594633195
tlitherland36@gmail.com

Ian Totterdell Church Warden 01392 848674
07536459096 ian.totterdell@cantab.net

Liz Pioneer Community Worker
pioneerstthomas@gmail.com

Email: parishoffice@stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sttexeter

Website: www.stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk

X (formerly Twitter): @sttexeter

Office Tel: 01392 437486 Messages at any time.



St Thomas, Exeter

6th October 2024

Dedication Sunday

10.30am in Church

Today

10.30am Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers.

422 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven

247 In our day of thanksgiving

518 Thy hand, O God, has guided

Wednesday 9th October

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

7.30pm PCC Meeting in the Church

Thursday 10th October

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots

10.30-12 noon Knit & Natter. 19 Maple Rd

Details from Jenny on 01392 498725

Friday 11th October

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting

Saturday 12th October

9am Men's Breakfast in the Sawyers.



Collect

Almighty God, to whose glory we celebrate the dedication of this house of prayer: we praise you for the many blessings you have given to those who worship you here: and we pray that all who seek you in this place may find you, and, being filled with the Holy Spirit, may become a living temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Genesis 28: 11-18

Jacob came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, 'I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!' And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.' So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it.

1 Peter 2: 1-10

Rid yourselves of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long

for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: 'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner', and 'A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

John 10: 22-29

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand.'

Post Communion

Father in heaven, whose Church on earth is a sign of your heavenly peace, an image of the new and eternal Jerusalem: grant to us in the days of our pilgrimage that, fed with the living bread of heaven, and united in the body of your Son, we may be the temple of your presence, the place of your glory on earth, and a sign of your peace in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

TALKWORKS can help! If you are feeling stressed, anxious, are experiencing ongoing low mood, or are having difficulty sleeping,

NHS TALKWORKS is a free, confidential, talking therapies service helping you to feel better and giving you the tools and techniques to improve your mental well-being.

0300 555 3344 Give us a call and see how we can support you. www.talkworks.dpt.nhs.uk

The House Group meets fortnightly in someone's house to talk about our faith, other Christian churches, other faiths, about the Bible and anything else! It is a friendly group and people are always welcome to see if it's for them. Please speak to Ian, Helen or Mic if you would like to come and find out more.

Northcott Theatre Friday 18th October to Wednesday 23rd October (local discount on Friday) *The Commotion*. More on the Prayer Book Rebellion of 1549 following our successful talk by Prof Mark Stoye. Box office phone no 01392 726363

Macmillan Cancer Support. You will be pleased to know that £220 was raised between the Tots group and the Church refreshments.

Harvest Festival 13th October. Bring & Share lunch. Also a collection of produce for Food Bank.

There will be an Extraordinary Annual Parochial Church meeting on **Sunday 20th October** to confirm the number on the Electoral Roll for 2023 and the presentation of the Annual Accounts.