

## Feast of Mary Magdalene – John 20:1-2, 11-18

Mary Magdalene was called the 'Apostle to the Apostles' by Thomas Aquinas. She was the person chosen by Jesus to be the primary witness to his resurrection and the one whom he trusted to spread that news. I wonder, can we even imagine what that must have been like for her? As she leaves the garden, she knows she is the only person in the world holding in her hands the weight of this most incredible knowledge: a truth that would change everything. What a responsibility, what a trust.

On top of that, and despite her closeness to Jesus, Mary is unlikely to have ever expected to be chosen as this messenger of salvation. She is a woman, so someone whose testimony was unlikely to have been believed in first century Palestine. Perhaps she wondered why it wasn't one of the male disciples who had been given the job and worried about whether she would be listened to or dismissed.

In our world today, there are many people who experience a similar lack of power and credibility to Mary Magdalene, people who are viewed by society as 'different' or 'lesser' in some way because of an element of who they are. Perhaps they have a disability or live in poverty; maybe the issue is their gender, age or ethnicity. God can speak through all of us and, just as the whole of humanity would have missed out if Mary Magdalene's words had not been received, we all miss out when we fail to listen to these other voices from the margins.

*Revd Carys*



**NEXT SUNDAY 28.07.2024 Trinity 9**  
10.30am in the Church

**READINGS:** OT 2 Kings 4: 42-44  
NT Ephesians 3: 14-21  
GOSPEL John 6: 1-21



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## St Thomas, Exeter

**21st July 2024**

**Mary Magdalene**

**10.30am in Church**

### Today

**10.30am Sung Eucharist**

*Hymn Numbers*

13 All hail the power of Jesus' name  
484 The king of love my shepherd is  
473 The Church's one foundation

### Wednesday 24th July

**10am** Holy Communion (BCP)

**2pm** Young at Hearts

### Thursday 25th July

**9.30-11am** St Thomas Tots

**10.30-12 noon** Knit & Natter, 19 Maple Rd.  
Details from Jenny 01392 498725

### Friday 26th July

**9.30am** Morning Prayer

**10am** Staff Meeting

### Saturday 2th July

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



## Collect

Almighty God, whose Son restored Mary Magdalene to health of mind and body and called her to be a witness to his resurrection: forgive our sins and heal us by your grace, that we may serve you in the power of his risen life; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## Song of Solomon 3: 1-4

Upon my bed at night I sought him whom my soul loves; I sought him, but found him not; I called him, but he gave no answer. 'I will rise now and go about the city, in the streets and in the squares; I will seek him whom my soul loves.' I sought him, but found him not. The sentinels found me, as they went about in the city. 'Have you seen him whom my soul loves?' Scarcely had I passed them, when I found him whom my soul loves. I held him, and would not let him go until I brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her that conceived me.

## 2 Corinthians 5: 14-17

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

## John 20: 1-2, 11-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to

them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew 'Rabbouni (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." ' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

## Post Communion

God of life and love, whose risen Son called Mary Magdalene by name and sent her to tell of his resurrection to his apostles: in your mercy, help us, who have been united with him in this eucharist, to proclaim the good news that he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

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## NOTICES

**Community Larder** has closed (existing clients are being transferred to the main Exeter Foodbank, which now operates from Cowick Street). Collection bins for the Foodbank are available in many local supermarkets and in a few weeks time we will be starting a collection in Church at the Sunday service.

**House Group** meets approximately fortnightly at Helen's house. New members are welcome. For information please see Ian or Helen.

## Further details of St Thomas Taster Prayer Walks are here!

We need some people from the congregation to attend the first two walks to give us valuable feedback. Each walk will take no more than 1 hour.

*Thursday 25th July:* Meet at 2pm for a true taster of different types of prayer walks. We'll walk slowly for 0.7 miles around our church yard and the pleasure ground, with stops by benches for rest making it accessible.

*Thursday 1st August:* Meet at 6pm for a 1.4 mile walk, undertaking one type of prayer walk, wonderfully created by Jenny. There is a 120 metre slope as part of this walk but no steps.

Fr Henry would like to invite you to the **St James' Patronal Festival** on *Thursday 25th July* at 7pm. All welcome.

There is a farewell service for **Revd Julian Albrow** the Methodist Minister on *Sunday 21st July*. Refreshments from 5pm followed by worship at 6.30pm. All welcome.

