

Vale atque salve 6 July 2025—St Thomas

This Latin tag means something like ‘Farewell and be healthy’, or perhaps in a more sci-fi spirit ‘May the force go with you’. I want to use it today to say thank you to the parish as a whole and to the individuals within it for my seven years as Rector here. It is an extraordinary place which I have very much enjoyed, but it has also kept me grounded in the ordinariness of parish life, amid the shenanigans of the Church of England nationally, and (more recently) during the anxieties and uncertainties of our public life. I want to wish you well for the future, especially during the vacancy.

Today will also see, I hope, a distinct ‘Out with the old and in with the new’ as we baptise a tiny baby and his mother. We know that life will continue here, and this is a visible symbol.

St Thomas our patron, on this occasion the Apostle (and I do like both St Thomases), often suffers from the moniker of ‘doubting’, as if that were a bad thing. When it means a faith derived from questions, discussions, and some spiritual challenges, then doubting is so much better than certainty. So please continue to ask questions, push boundaries, and challenge authority. And have some fun at the same time!

Fr David



NEXT SUNDAY 13.07.25 Trinity 4

10.30am in the Church

READINGS: OT Deuteronomy 30: 9-14

NT Colossians 1: 1-14

GOSPEL Luke 10: 25-37



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St Thomas, Exeter

6th July 2025

St Thomas the Apostle

10.30am in the Church

Today

Sung Eucharist & Holy Baptism

Hymn Numbers

134 For all the saints

73 Brother sister

287 Just as I am

310 Lord for the years

[Karis Jayne and Reuben Stuart Lynton Darby]

Wednesday 9th July

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 10th July

9.30—11am St Thomas Tots

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

Friday 11th July

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting

Saturday 12th July

9am Men's Breakfast in the Sawyers



Collect

Almighty and eternal God, who, for the firmer foundation of our faith, allowed your holy apostle Thomas to doubt the resurrection of your Son till word and sight convinced him: grant to us, who have not seen, that we also may believe and so confess Christ as our Lord and our God; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Habakkuk 2: 1-4

I will stand at my watch-post, and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me, and what he will answer concerning my complaint. Then the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay. Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith.

Psalms 31: 1-6

1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

2 Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.

3 Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me, for you are my rock and my stronghold; guide me, and lead me for your name's sake.

4 Take me out of the net that they have laid secretly for me, for you are my strength.

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.

6 I hate those who cling to worthless idols; I put my trust in the Lord.

Ephesians 2: 19-end

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

John 20: 24-29

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.'

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

We have finished revising the **Year's Mind list** as it had become rather lengthy. We recognize that it is a sensitive matter and all those currently on this list from the year 2000 have been retained automatically. We have tried to keep any other names that you have provided, and no names have been removed from the Book of Remembrance in the Church. If you are concerned, do please speak to Jenny Thomas.

Cleaning the Church Volunteers are needed. Areas can be cleaned whenever it suits as long as there are to least two people. Speak to Ian.

The House Group meets fortnightly on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the month at Helen's house. They will be looking at selected Psalms. For details see Mic or Ian.

Baptisms and Marriages Please pray for all those who are being baptized during this season at St Thomas, and their families; and for couples being married here, their families and friends.

Fr David's last Sunday service is tomorrow when we will be celebrating our patronal festival St Thomas' Day and also the baptism of Karis and Reuben Darby. There will be a lunch in the Hall to celebrate David's time with us and to wish him well in his retirement. Everyone is invited to join the festivities.