

A ray of hope

As a first timer to Churches Together England Forum my expectation was that it would be welcoming and friendly.

Having now experienced Forum, I can reflect that not only were the many individual interactions enriching and full of joy but the collective atmosphere in every gathering was life-giving and energising, as was the spring sunshine.

It was clear that the Holy Spirit was at work through our beautiful Christian unity.

The commitment to ecumenism of the organisers and the contributors shone through. The programme was a rich tapestry of praise, prayer, art, poetry, humour, research, opinion and belief all centred on our love for the Triune God and the hope we have in Jesus' incarnation and resurrection.

I soaked in the wisdom from the speakers up front but such learning also came from every conversation I had, including on our charity's stand in the marketplace.


I have come away from this Forum full of hope in the glow of our ecumenical family, an essential part of God's plan for the restoration and healing of all things.

Liz

Pioneer Community Worker



NEXT SUNDAY 08.06.25 Pentecost Sunday
10.30am in the Church

READINGS: OT Acts 2: 1-21
NT Romans 8: 14-17
 GOSPEL John 14: 8-17 (25-27)

6pm-7.30pm at Exeter Cathedral
Thy Kingdom Come Pentecost Celebration

CONTACT US

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

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

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

Phil Baker, Licensed Lay Minister 07970 216740
lionelbaker@outlook.com

Revd Terry Litherland 07594633195
tlitherland36@gmail.com

Ian Totterdell Church Warden 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

1st June 2025

Seventh Sunday of Easter

10.30am in the Church

Today

Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

191 Hail the day that sees him rise

518 Thy hand, O God, has guided

135 For I'm building a people of power

Tuesday 3rd June

7.30pm House Group. The Orthodox
churches

Wednesday 4th June

10am Walsingham Mass

Thursday 5th June

9.30—11am St Thomas Tots

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

Friday 30th May

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting



Collect

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Acts 16: 16-34

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, 'These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.' She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, 'These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.' The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about

to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.' The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' They answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.' They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

Revelation 22: 12-14, 16, 17, 20, 21

'See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. 'Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. 'It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.' The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And let everyone who hears say, 'Come.' And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift. The one who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen

John 17: 20-26

'I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are

one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. 'Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.'

Post Communion

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Notices

We are revising the **Year's Mind list** as it has become rather lengthy. We recognize that it is a sensitive matter and all those currently on this list from the year 2000 will be retained automatically. If you would like an older St Thomas name kept on this list please contact Ian or Fr David. Please note that if your relative or friend was a worshipper at Emmanuel or St Andrews, there are no dates with these names. So please speak to Ian or Fr David even if the date is 2000 onwards.

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. For details see Mic or Ian.

Hospiscare 100 Miles in May: our churchwarden, Ian Totterdell, has completed Hospiscare's fundraising event '100 Miles in May'. This involved running, cycling (and swimming) a total of 100 miles during this month. If you would like to support him, please visit <https://justgiving.com/page/ian-totterdell-3> or speak to Ian at a Sunday service.