

Reflection for All Saints' Sunday

*No Christian is solitary. In the words of our opening hymn this morning,
O blest communion!
Fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle,
they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee
for all are thine...*

All Saints' Day and the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed on All Souls' day which we commemorate this afternoon, both celebrate our mutual belonging.

All Saints' Day celebrates men and women in whose lives the Church as a whole has seen the grace of God powerfully at work. We give thanks for that grace and for the wonderful ways in which it shapes human life; we are encouraged by the example of the saints and remember that sanctity may grow in the ordinary circumstances as well as the extraordinary crises of human living.

All Souls' Day celebrates the saints known to us, in a more local and intimate way. We remember with thanksgiving before God those whom we have known more directly; those who gave us life and those whose lives have touched ours.

Next Sunday is Remembrance Sunday and we continue to explore the theme of memory, both corporate and individual as we confront issues of war and peace, loss and forgetting, and we do so with our Methodist brothers and sisters who join us for our Sunday commemorations.

May this season be for you all, a time of reflection, comfort, and hope as, although we recollect, reminisce and honour those who have gone before us, we remember that in Christ, love and life endure forever.

Rev Sarah



NEXT SUNDAY 09.11.25 Remembrance Sunday
10.50am in the Churchyard then into Church for the regular Eucharist

READINGS: OT Job 19: 23-27a



NT 2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5, 13-17

GOSPEL Luke 20: 27-38

CONTACT US

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St Thomas, Exeter

2nd November 2025

All Saints' Sunday

10.30am in the Church

4pm All Souls Service

Today

Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

134 For all the saints

63 Blest are the pure in heart

328 Make me a channel of your peace

130 Fill your hearts with joy and gladness

Wednesday 5th November

10am Walsingham Mass

Thursday 6th November

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots

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

Friday 7th November

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting

Saturday 8th November

9am Men's Breakfast in the Sawyers



Collect

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love 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**

Daniel 7: 1-3, 15-18

In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in bed. Then he wrote down the dream: I, Daniel, saw in my vision by night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea, and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions of my head terrified me. I approached one of the attendants to ask him the truth concerning all this. So he said that he would disclose to me the interpretation of the matter: 'As for these four great beasts, four kings shall arise out of the earth. But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom for ever—for ever and ever.'

Ephesians 1: 11-23

In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and

your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Luke 6: 20-31

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

'Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

'Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

'Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

'But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

'Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

'Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

'But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies,

do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Post Communion

God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things: may we who have shared at this table as strangers and pilgrims here on earth be welcomed with all your saints to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Notices

On Remembrance Sunday 9 November from 2.30-4.30pm, please Come and Remember.

An opportunity to drop in to church, share stories, and light a candle in memory of a loved one. Refreshments will be available. Do come, and spread the word amongst your friends and neighbours.

On **Remembrance Day** itself there will be a short service at the memorial in the Churchyard at 11am.

Our Community Pioneer Liz and Rev Sarah are running two sessions for making **Advent windows** on Tuesday 25th and Sunday 30th November in the Hall. More details to follow.

From 8th to 13th November the Mint Methodist Church will be hosting **Let's Face It!**, a powerful exhibition about homelessness. On Saturday 8th, there will be an evening concert given by Rhys Wynn Jones (AKA The Night Pianist). The concert is free to attend, but donations are welcomed.

