

June 22nd Saint Thomas More and Saint John Fisher

Because 22 June falls on a Sunday it means that we miss out the opportunity of celebrating two significant saints from the Reformation. Both fell foul of Henry VIII and his Oath of Supremacy, which they refused to sign – Thomas More as Lord Chancellor and John Fisher as Bishop of Rochester. Both were executed. You might know Thomas More better from the play *A Man for all Seasons* (Robert Bolt) which I remember with delight from my childhood. More is often presented as either a complete sinner or utterly faultless, though a more recent book *Thomas More: A Life and Death in Tudor England* by [Dr Joanne Paul](#) is more balanced.

It's a pity in my view that the Church of England does not create saints or we would have Cranmer, Latimer, Hooper and Ridley: an archbishop and bishops who were also executed for their faith under the reign of Mary. It was said that nobody believed that they would die for their faith, and in part the Church of England was forged out of the fire of their pyres.

There were many other men and women who suffered in this period, and we might thank God that we have made such ecumenical progress since. Here is a Church of England prayer for the saints of the Reformation era:

Merciful God,
who, when your Church on earth was torn apart by the ravages of sin, raised up men and women in this land who witnessed to their faith with courage and constancy:
give to your Church that peace which is your will,
and grant that those who have been divided on earth may be reconciled in heaven
and share together in the vision of your glory;
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.
Fr David



NEXT SUNDAY 29.06.25 Peter & Paul, Apostles
10.30am in the Church

READINGS: OT Acts: 1-11



NT 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 17, 18

GOSPEL Matthew 16: 13-19

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

22nd June 2025

First Sunday of Trinity

10.30am in the Church

Today

Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

124 Father of heaven, whose love profound

473 The Church's one foundation

154 Give thanks with a grateful heart

Holy Baptism of Olivia Grace Kitchener

Wednesday 25th June

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

2pm Young at Heart (see Notice)

Thursday 26th June

9.30—11am St Thomas Tots

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

Friday 27th June

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting

Saturday 28th June

12.30pm Ladies Lunch at the Royal Oak



Collect

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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**

Isaiah 65: 1-9

I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask, to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, 'Here I am, here I am' to a nation that did not call on my name. I held out my hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices; a people who provoke me to my face continually, sacrificing in gardens and offering incense on bricks; who sit inside tombs, and spend the night in secret places; who eat swine's flesh, with broth of abominable things in their vessels; who say, 'Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am too holy for you. These are a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns all day long. See, it is written before me: I will not keep silent, but I will repay; I will indeed repay into their laps their iniquities and their ancestors' iniquities together, says the LORD; because they offered incense on the mountains and reviled me on the hills I will measure into their laps full payment for their actions. Thus says the LORD: As the wine is found in the cluster, and they say, 'Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing in it', so I will do for my servants' sake, and not destroy them all. I will bring forth descendants from Jacob, and from Judah inheritors of my mountains; my chosen shall inherit it, and my servants shall settle there.

Galatians 3: 23-29

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be re-

vealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Luke 8: 26-39

Then Jesus and his disciples arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, 'What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me'— for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, 'What is your name?' He said, 'Legion'; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they

were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, 'Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.' So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

Post Communion

Eternal Father, we thank you for nourishing us with these heavenly gifts: may our communion strengthen us in faith, build us up in hope, and make us grow in love; for the sake of 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 Th.

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.

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.

Young at Heart: sadly, the trip to Budleigh Salterton scheduled for 25th June has had to be cancelled. Instead the group will be meeting in the church hall from 2pm for a cream tea, with entertainment by Songbirds choir.