

Reflection Lent 3 Isaiah 55: 1-9

We welcome as preacher this week Doug Owen, who is a Team Leader with Exeter ICE (Initiatives in Christian Education).

Doug write this: "For the last 35 years, ICE has been working in the schools across Exeter bringing faith to life.

We interact with young people throughout their time in school sharing God's love through our words and actions. We tell stories of what Jesus has done, open the Bible and invite them to consider for themselves who Jesus is and what that means for them.

We work across 19 primary schools, all 5 secondary schools and Exeter College. (Roughly 63% of the schools in the city). We run assemblies, mentoring, RE lessons, lunch clubs, Christian Unions, explore clubs and big projects like Narnia; all to help the young people of our city learn about Jesus and who He calls us to be.

Please be praying for us as we continue our mission and try and give every young person in our city the opportunity to hear and respond to the Good News."

And from last week's sermon, the words of Desmond Tutu at the Eucharist: "Behold who we are". Response: "May we become what we receive."

Fr David



Thanks to Pedro Wroclaw for the photo

Sunday Evening Worship during Lent will be via Zoom. The codes are given below.

Meeting ID: 864 2705 6965 Passcode: 478637

Or dial by your location using the same codes as above.
0203 481 5240 0131 460 1196 0203 481 5237

NEXT SUNDAY 30.03.2025 Mothering Sunday
Main service: 10.30am in the Hall

READINGS: OT Exodus 2: 1-10



NT Colossians 3: 12-17

GOSPEL John 19: 25-27

CONTACT US

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St Thomas, Exeter

23rd March 2025

Third Sunday of Lent

9.55am Rosary Devotions in Church

10.30am in the Hall

5pm Evening Worship by Zoom

Today

Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

13 All hail the power of Jesus' name

287 Just as I am, without one plea

188 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer

Tuesday 25th March

7.30pm House Group Lent course at Helen's
house. Bible study Isaiah 53

Wednesday 26th March

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

2-4pm Young at Hearts

7.30pm PCC Meeting

Thursday 27th March

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots

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

Friday 28th March

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting

11.30am Stations of the Cross



Collect

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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 55: 1-9

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

1 Corinthians 10: 1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is

written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Luke 13: 1-9

There were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.' Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."'

Post Communion

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

Single Friendly Church After church on 23rd March (and 30th March) please participate in a short questionnaire for Liz and Judith S about our welcome to those who come to church alone. This is part of a free Single Friendly Church Network toolkit we are using. You can also complete the form at home and email it to pioneerstthomas@gmail.com

We are going to start revising the **Year's Mind list** as it has become rather lengthy. We recognise 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 name kept on this list please contact Ian or Fr David.

Electoral roll revision Every 6 years we are required to complete a full revision of the church electoral roll and this is due to take place at least 2 months before our APCM on 25 May. This is also a great time for any new members to be added. New and existing members will need to complete and return an application form to Carolyn Bryant, Ian Totterdell or a member of the clergy by 10 May at the latest. The new roll will be displayed on the noticeboard for 14 days prior to the APCM. Carolyn and Ian have copies of the application form available and if you need help or have any questions please speak to Carolyn after the service or on 07780 707183.

We will shortly be submitting an 'Expression of Interest' to the Heritage Lottery Fund, the first stage of seeking funds for our church development and reordering project. For this, we need to give the project a title, and we've been advised it's helpful to make that title inventive and catchy. So we are asking YOU for ideas as to what that could be! Please pass any ideas to Fr David or your churchwarden. Thanks!

Cleaning the Church Jenny Tuckett and Cayley will be cleaning the church on alternate Tuesdays at 10am. Volunteers are needed. Areas can be cleaned whenever it suits as long as there are at least two people. Speak to Ian.

Easter Flowers. If you would like to contribute towards the flowers in memory of a loved one, please speak to Mary Naish.

The clocks go forward at 1am on Sunday 30th March.