

Reflection for the Feast of St Thomas

When I was a fulltime teacher, I set aside a few days each term to hold 'Maths Hospital'. Any child could suggest an area of maths where they felt baffled or uncertain and we would go back to the simplest steps and build back up. Occasionally a subject would be requested by a very capable mathematician and I would say quietly, "You get every question right," and they would wail, "But I don't understand!" and I would hear the turmoil of feeling out of their depth.

Wherever we are on the journey of faith, from confirmed saint to hardened sceptic, feeling a sense of doubt is normal. Maybe explaining our faith feels like too great a challenge so we don't mention it. Perhaps life is complicated enough without taking a risk on an invisible God.

Today we remember St Thomas. He is sometimes called Doubting Thomas, but I see his questions as courageous and honest. None of us has all the answers but (thankfully) we are not called to spout watertight arguments. Christian faith is about relationship with Jesus and the testimony of his love in our lives. That is what we are celebrating as Carys joins us as Deacon and that is what we hold to on St Thomas' feast day.

Rev'd Sarah



© pixabay



NEXT SUNDAY 07.07.2024 Trinity 6

10.30am in the Church

READINGS: OT Ezekiel 2: 1-5
NT 2 Corinthians 12: 2-10
GOSPEL Mark 6: 1-13



CONTACT US

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

[Rev'd Sarah Cumming Assistant Priest on secondment
at Pinhoe Church until 28th July]

Rev'd Alison Whiting Associate Priest
rev.alisonwhiting@gmail.com

Rev'd Mike Clark Associate Priest
mike.clark@exeter.anglican.org

Phil Baker, Reader 07970 216740
lionelbaker@outlook.com

Rev'd Terry Litherland 07594633195
tlitherland36@gmail.com

Ian Totterdell Church Warden 01392 848674
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

30th June 2024

St Thomas

10.30am in Church

Today

10.30am Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

186 Great is thy faithfulness

56 Be thou my vision

235 I, the Lord of sea and sky

Celebration in the hall after the service to
welcome Carys Puleston, our new curate

Tuesday 2nd July

7.30pm House Group at Helen's house.
Beyond Jerusalem.

Wednesday 3rd July

10am Walsingham Mass

Thursday 4th July

No St Thomas Tots. Polling Day

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

Friday 5th July

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting



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

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.
Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.
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.
Take me out of the net
that they have laid secretly for me,
for you are my strength.
Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.
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

Today we welcome **Carys Puleston** and her family to our church community. She was ordained as a Deacon yesterday afternoon (29th) at the Cathedral, and we look forward to getting to know her over the coming weeks and months. Please pray for her, and her family, as they move into the St Thomas area over the summer.

Community Larder has closed (existing clients are being transferred to the main Exeter Foodbank, which now operates from Cowick Street). Collection bins for the Foodbank are available in many local supermarkets and in a few weeks time we will be starting a collection in Church at the Sunday service. Thank you for your generosity to the Community Larder over the last 4 years.

Summer walks around our Parish will be happening on selected days from late July to the end of August. More information to follow!

House Group meets approximately fortnightly at Helen's house. The group is studying the Acts of the Apostles. New members are welcome. For information please see Ian or Helen.

General Election Please continue to pray for those standing as candidates and for those running the election; and also for everyone who can vote, that they will make wise choices.

We thank the sides people for volunteering to stand again. New people are always welcome. A list of duties is available and is posted on the notice-board.

