

Reflection Easter 3

As we continue to explore the impact of the resurrection and our Easter joy, a few words from theologian Anthony Towey:

'The discipleship band that had followed Jesus during his ministry seems always to have had some sense of a common life. This tradition appears to have carried on after Pentecost where it at first appeared idyllic, with the text implying it formed part of the power and attraction of the baptized...

In line with liberation and kingdom themes that mark his Gospel from the 'Nazareth Manifesto' onwards, it seems that for Luke (writing in Acts) the miracles and mutuality go hand in hand...It would seem that the power of the witnesses to work wonders is being deliberately linked to the radical, communal lifestyle being proposed. Hence while the miracles drew attention to the *kerygmatic* preaching (apostolic teaching of Christ in the power of the Spirit) in a dramatic fashion, there does seem a strong indication that the growth of the early community is attributable to the programme which includes radical generosity, group belonging and mutual help.'

How might we show radical generosity, group belonging and mutual help with our community?

How else might we share Christ's love and power with the world?

Towey A (2013) *An Introduction to Christian Theology*, London: Bloomsbury p131

Revd Sarah



WARM SPACE ST THOMAS PARISH HALL- THURSDAY 3-5PM



Free refreshments in a warm space

NEXT SUNDAY 21.04.2024 4th Sunday of Easter
10.30am in the Church

READINGS: OT Acts 4: 5-12
NT 1 John 3: 16-24
GOSPEL John 10: 11-18



CONTACT US

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St Thomas, Exeter

14th April 2024

Third Sunday of Easter

10.30am in Church

Today

10.30am in the Church

Hymn Numbers

324 Love's redeeming work is done
194 Hallelujah, my Father
181 Good Christians all, rejoice and sing

Tuesday 16th April

7.30pm House Group. Come & See.
John 1: 29-42

Wednesday 17th April

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 18th April

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots

10.30-12 noon Knit & Natter, 19 Maple Rd.

Details from Jenny 01392 498725

3-5pm Warm Space in the Hall

Friday 19th April

9.30am Prayers

10am Staff Meeting



Collect

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; 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

Acts 3: 12-19

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, 'You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. 'And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

1 John 3: 1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify

themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Luke 24: 36B-48

While the disciples were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you. 'They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Post Communion

Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

NOTICES

Community Larder There will be a collection box in the Church on Sundays for food donations. The need remains great so please be mindful of our wider community.

House Group is a small group of people who meet fortnightly to explore various aspects of our faith. It was started by a curate some 30 years ago and many have enjoyed this opportunity. Our first meeting is on 16th April at Helen's home. Helen and Ian can give you more details if you are interested.

Parish Website when we reviewed the website to include more details about the bell ringers we noticed that the last Blog entry was in 2022. We are looking for a small team of people who would be prepared to write something occasionally for this Blog. Please speak to one of the staff team.

Electoral Roll It is now time to revise the parish electoral roll ahead of the APCM in May. Please see Carolyn Bryant if you wish to be added to the roll or if you have moved house or changed any other details in the past year. Forms will be available from Carolyn or Ian. If you have any questions please contact Carolyn after the Sunday morning service or call 07780 707183.

Dramatised Mark performance 14 April at 6:30pm, Nave of Exeter Cathedral You are invited to listen to the gospel of Mark, re-told through the eyes, ears and voices of some of the first witnesses in the premier presentation of Dramatised Mark, by Professor Chris Bryan. Chris Bryan has brought his considerable New Testament scholarship to bear on editing the Gospel according to St Mark for public reading and, working with David Gunn-Johnson, has produced a script for eight voices. Familiar passages are brought to new and vibrant life by a talented team of speakers. There is no need to book and no charge, but seats will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Weekly Pew sheet. If anyone would like to receive the pew sheet by email or be on the pastoral care/contact list, please speak to a member of the clergy or Ian.

