

Reflection for Easter 4 & APCM

You can read the staff report as part of the APCM booklet for 2021 (available at our meeting and on the website) and hear me highlighting some particular events during the service on Sunday, but here I wanted briefly to underline some of the pastoral links between current events and the Gospel for the Easter season.

We are clear that we are coming out of the Covid pandemic, and this began last year, but infections are still high, vulnerable people are still at risk, and many will be grieving or otherwise affected for many years into the future. And in 2022, internationally we have the war in Ukraine, and nationally a cost of living crisis, not to mention Partygate.

What is our Gospel response? Interestingly this week, less in the Gospel than in Acts. Tabitha's friends in this early community at Joppa sent for Peter, they trusted, they had hope, but I suspect they were also realistic. Peter enacted a resurrection miracle.

We may not be so privileged, but our task is to maintain hope in the possibility of change and new life, to encourage others in this, but realistically; and to pray together constantly. And to try to trust God. In doing this we become the Church – an attractive community of life and hope.

Fr David



Codes for Zoom No further Zoom services planned at the moment.

Meeting ID: :
Passcode:

Telephone numbers: 0203 481 5237,
0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

NEXT SUNDAY 15.05.2022 Easter 5

SERVICES: 10.30am in Church

READINGS: OT Acts 11: 1-18
NT Revelation 21: 1-6
GOSPEL John 13: 31-35



CONTACT US

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St Thomas, Exeter

8th May 2022

Easter 4

10.30am in Church

Today

10.30am Sung Eucharist followed by the Vestry meeting and the APCM.

Tuesday 10th May

7.30pm House Group by Zoom. See Ian.

Wednesday 11th May

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

5pm PCC Standing Committee Meeting

Thursday 12th May

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots, Breast Feeding Support

10.30am Knit & Natter at 19 Maple Road

Friday 13th May

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting

Saturday 14th May

9am Men's Breakfast at the Sawyers.

10.30am Service of blessing for Exeter Pride at St Petrock's.



Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Acts 9.36–43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Revelation 7.9–17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living

creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.' Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

John 10.22–30

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

Post Communion

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always

under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

For our services in Church, **mask wearing** is not now compulsory but we would still advise it while infection numbers remain high. If you are coming to coffee, we also recommend wearing a mask until you are seated in the Hall.

Knit and Natter May 2022 We shall be meeting every Thursday from 10.30 to midday at 19 Maple Road. Details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

Community Larder is receiving donations on Tuesdays from 10am-12noon.

St Andrew's, Exwick. Please note that Fr David and Rev Sarah are covering some of the Sunday morning services at Exwick after the retirement of Jerry Bird.

There is a vacancy on the PCC. Decisions affecting the life of our Church are made by the PCC. It is important that we have a full complement of PCC members. If you are interested in joining the PCC and would like more information, please contact Jenny Thomas on 01392 213207, Ian Totterdell or one of the clergy team. Nomination forms will be in Church until the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on Sunday 8th May.

8th May Vocation Sunday. The Bishop is asking us specifically whether anyone might consider exploring self-supporting ministry, i.e. being ordained without being paid a stipend. Could this be you? This is the prayer for Vocation Sunday.

God our Father, Lord of all the world,
through your Son you have called us into the
fellowship of your universal Church;
hear our prayer for your faithful people
that in their vocation and ministry
each may be an instrument of your love,
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen