

Reflection for Sunday 10th July 2022

The story that Jesus tells, of the 'Good Samaritan', is very familiar to us, and we are used to the term 'Samaritan' being applied to a helpful or charitable person or body. But the Jewish people who first heard the story would have been shocked – for historical and religious reasons they hated and distrusted the residents of Samaria. Perhaps we would have a similar reaction to hearing of the 'good ISIS follower' or the 'good Putin apologist'. Jesus's audience would also have known why the Jewish Priest and the Levite decided to pass by the injured man: he might have been dead, and the Law said clearly that touching a dead man in such circumstances made you ritually unclean and unable to join in religious rituals and services (at least until you had been cleansed). Jesus's point is that the Law's summary 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself' must take precedence over the detailed minutiae of what makes you unclean.

The story would also have been uncomfortable in another way: Jesus's fellow Jews did not hear about one of their number charitably helping an unfortunate enemy, rather the injured Jewish man was helped by the vilified Samaritan. Sometimes it can be hard for us to accept that we need help, that we can't make things right on our own. That can even be the case when it is God who is offering help to us; we think that by trying a bit harder this time we ourselves can heal the rift our wrongdoing has put between us and God. But God knows that only by our trusting in the love and sacrifice of Jesus can we be put right with him and become the people he wants us to be, loving him and our neighbours with all our heart, soul, strength and mind.

Ian Totterdell, Churchwarden

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 17.07.2022 Trinity 5

SERVICES: 10.30am in Church

READINGS: OT Genesis 18: 1-10a
NT Colossians 1: 15-28
GOSPEL Luke 10: 38-42



CONTACT US

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

Revd Sarah Cumming Curate 07543604115
rev.sarahcumming@gmail.com

Revd Alison Whiting Associate Priest
rev.alisonwhiting@gmail.com

Phil Baker, Reader 07970 216740
lionelbaker@outlook.com

Revd Terry Litherland 07594633195
tlitherland36@gmail.com

Ian Totterdell Church Warden 01392 848674
07961621001 ian.totterdell@cantab.net

Email: parishoffice@stthomaschurhexeter.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sttexeter

Website: www.stthomaschurhexeter.co.uk

Twitter: @sttexeter

Office Tel: 01392 437486 Messages at any time.



St Thomas, Exeter

10th July 2022

Trinity 4

10.30am in Church

Today

10.30am Sung Eucharist with the Baptism of
Theo Steven Keith Rose and
Henry David Scott

Tuesday 12th July

1pm Funeral Service for John White

Wednesday 13th July

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 14th July

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots with Breast-
Feeding support.

10.30am Knit & Natter in St Thomas Park

Friday 15th July

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting



Collect

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Deuteronomy 30: 9–14

and the LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, when you obey the LORD your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

Colossians 1: 1–14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fel-

low-servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit. For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Luke 10: 25–37

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live. 'But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

Post Communion

Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son 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.

Baptism of Theo Steven Keith Rose and Henry David Scott. We welcome Theo and Henry's family, especially Kimberley, David and Keira.

Knit and Natter Summer 2022 In June, July and August we will meet in St Thomas Pleasure Ground or at 19 Maple Road according to the weather, every Thursday from 10.30am to midday. 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.

St Stephen's Church From 2 June onwards there will be a display in St Stephen's showing changes in our city centre churches with some good old photos and more recent events.

As many of you already know, Fr David is taking **sabbatical leave** over the summer, starting in the middle of July and ending in the middle of October. He is also away for the first part of July on a course at Windsor (postponed from 2019), and his last Sunday before the sabbatical is 17 July. Do please ask him his plans if you are interested!

12th July 1pm. Funeral Service for John White in Church followed by a short service in Exeter Crematorium. All are welcome. Please continue to pray for John, and for Iris and his whole family.