

## Reflection for Bible Sunday

How do you read the bible? Do you follow an online guide, giving you daily readings? Or monthly bible reading notes? Possibly you are working your way through the whole of the Old and New Testaments. Or maybe you only have the time/inclination to read the Sunday readings set by the lectionary (and included in this weekly pew-sheet).

And what do you get from your bible reading? Does it give you comfort in the stress of day-to-day life? Does it challenge you, to change your attitudes or to pray more or to act for the marginalized? Does it sometimes appall you with the things people have done in God's name and make you wonder how certain passages can be considered 'the Word of God'?

The bible has been described as a 'history of salvation', showing the loving and active nature of God, how people have separated themselves (individually and collectively) from him and his will, and the lengths he has gone to in order to show the depths of his love for us and to open our way back to eternal life with him. Central to that redemption and restoration is the life of Jesus and his death on the cross. Christians can see how this is foreshadowed through the Old Testament, and recounted in the New. In today's Gospel Jesus clearly says that the messianic prophecies of Isaiah refer to him.

The long-term outworking of the salvation that God has prepared means that short passages of the bible can only be fully understood in their proper context as part of that overall story. But God wants us, and our words and deeds, to be part of that story, and has given us the Holy Spirit to guide us and help us interpret the bible in today's situations.

*Ian Totterdell, churchwarden*

## SUNDAY 30th OCTOBER

We will be celebrating:

**ALL SAINTS at 10.30am**

**ALL SOULS at 4pm followed by refreshments in the Hall.**

**NEXT SUNDAY 30.10.2022 All Saints**

**SERVICES:** 10.30am in Church  
4pm All Souls in Church

**READINGS:** OT Daniel 7: 1-3, 15-18  
NT Ephesians 1: 11-23  
GOSPEL Luke 6: 20-31



### CONTACT US

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# St Thomas, Exeter

23rd October 2022

## Bible Sunday

10.30am in Church

### Today

**10.30am** Sung Eucharist.

Hymns for today

172 God is working his purpose out.

318 Lord, thy word abideth.

362 O for a thousand tongues to sing.

### Wednesday 26th October

**10am** Holy Communion (BCP)

**2-4pm** Young at Hearts.

### Thursday 27th October

**9.30—11am** St Thomas Tots

**10.30am** Knit & Natter. See notices.

### Friday 28th October

**9.30am** Morning Prayer.

**10am** Staff Meeting.

### Saturday 29th October

**12.30pm** Ladies Lunch at the Royal Oak.



## Collect

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## Isaiah 45: 22-25

Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn, from my mouth has gone forth in righteousness a word that shall not return: 'To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.' Only in the Lord, it shall be said of me, are righteousness and strength; all who were incensed against him shall come to him and be ashamed. In the Lord all the offspring of Israel shall triumph and glory.

## Romans 15: 1-6

We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Each of us must please our neighbour for the good purpose of building up the neighbour. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, 'The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.' For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus,

so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## Luke 4: 16-24

When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum." ' And he said, Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town.

## Post Communion

God of all grace, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

## NOTICES

For our services in Church, **mask wearing** is not now compulsory but we would still advise it while infection numbers remain high.

**Knit and Natter.** From now on through autumn and winter the group will meet at 19 Maple Road. Details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

**Community Larder** is receiving donations on Tuesdays from 10-11am. On Sundays there will also be an opportunity to bring donations to the 10.30 service.

**House Group** Fortnightly on Zoom. New people are always welcome; see Ian for zoom details.

**All Souls** We are compiling a new list this year. If you would like your loved ones to be remembered please add their name(s) to the list at the back of the church.

**Macmillan Coffee Morning.** Thank you to everyone who helped, in any way, to make it a success. The total raised was £222.00. Pat Metford.

