

Reflection for 2nd Sunday of Easter

So – a week has gone by since we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus. Possibly you have eaten all your Easter eggs (I have!) But has any other thing survived from that joyful time, just 7 days ago?

In today's readings Peter looks both back and forward from that pivotal moment when Jesus was raised from death. In the first reading, from the book of Acts, he explains how Jesus's death and resurrection had been planned by God from long ago. It had even been foretold by King David (though the full implications of David's prophecy had clearly been missed by most of the Israelites), And there is a sense in which it is linked to our past, and in particular to the wrong things we have done and said. We are told many times, through several different analogies, that Jesus's death on the cross saved us from our sins (and their consequences).

But as Revd Sarah said last week, we were not just saved *from* our sins, but we are also saved *for* eternal life with God. And this is where the looking ahead comes in. Peter, in his letter, talks about that as an inheritance that we will come fully into 'at the last time'. Eternal life won't be just a restoration of what we have now – it will be unimaginably better, and better for all time.

For now, there is no sense in any of the readings that we should just sit and wait for our inheritance to arrive. Jesus sends his disciples out into the world, so that through them many will believe and trust in Jesus even though (like us) they have not physically seen him. Likewise we are called to show our risen Lord to those we meet, not just at Easter but throughout the year.

Ian Totterdell, churchwarden



NEXT SUNDAY 23.04.2023 3rd Sunday of Easter

10.30am Sung Eucharist in Church

READINGS: OT Acts 2: 14a, 36-41
NT 1 Peter 1: 17-23
GOSPEL Luke 24: 13-35



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St Thomas, Exeter

16th April 2023

Second Sunday of Easter

10.30am in Church

Today

10.30am Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

25 Alleluia, alleluia, hearts to heaven and
voices sing

324 Love's redeeming work is done

495 The strife is o'er, the battle done

Tuesday 18th April

7.30pm House Group. See Ian for details.

Wednesday 19th April

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 20th April

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots.

9.30-10.30am Community Larder

10.30am-12noon Knit & Natter

Friday 21st April

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting



Collect

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Acts 2: 14a, 22-32

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. 'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence." 'Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, "He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption." This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

1 Peter 1: 3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the

last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

John 20: 19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained. 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.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Post Communion

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from

the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

NOTICES

Knit and Natter. On Thursdays from 10.30am-12noon at 19 Maple Road. Details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

Community Larder is receiving donations on Thursdays between 9.30 and 10.30am. Please note new day and time. On Sundays there will also be an opportunity to bring donations to the 10.30 service.

House Group 18th April thereafter fortnightly on Zoom. New people are always welcome; see Ian for details.

Food Fight (Food for Sundays) are looking for donations of warm clothing, such as hats, gloves, jackets and socks. They are also happy to receive individual-serving bottles/tetra packs of water or juices. **Volunteers are outside Nat West bank on Sunday mornings from 11am-1pm** so any donations can be dropped off there.

We need a volunteer urgently to be responsible for **Hall party and regular users bookings** from Easter onwards and someone to be responsible for a team opening and closing the Hall after parties. These roles can be combined or split. We mostly operate this system through emails. If you are interested please see Ian for details. It is important that these roles are filled **as the Hall is a significant source of income for the Church.**

We are in the process of updating the **church electoral roll** ahead of our **APCM on 14 May**. If you are not already on the electoral roll and would like to be added, or if you no longer wish to remain on the electoral roll, please speak to Carolyn Bryant or one of the Churchwardens. No further action is required if you are already listed and are happy to remain on the electoral roll. If you have any further questions, please see Carolyn Bryant

Local elections take place on 4th May. Postal votes have to be submitted 12 working days before that date. A Voter Authority Certificate has to be applied for on-line. We are able to help people to obtain the Certificate. Please talk to a member of the clergy team.

Advance Notice Sunday, 23rd April there will be a short PCC meeting after the service to approve the Annual Accounts.