

Reflection for All Saints Sunday

Who and what are we commemorating at the festival of All Saints? And how does it relate to that of All Souls? It began in the early church as a time to remember those many martyrs who had died for their faith in Christ but who were not celebrated with their own special day. In the medieval church All Saints related to all those who had been deemed to have been admitted straight to Heaven upon death, while All Souls was linked to those Christian souls who needed to be made fit for Heaven by a period of suffering in purgatory. Today, purgatory is not part of the theology of North European protestant churches, and the two festivals are often celebrated as one, over two days.

In our intercessions we are often encouraged to pray for contemporary Christian congregations around the world, reminding us that we are part of a global sister-and brotherhood of those who follow Jesus and His teachings. But these festivals also remind us that we are equally part of a fellowship of believers which has extended over twenty centuries (and counting), starting with those who, first-hand, heard Jesus's teachings and saw the miracles He performed. The vision of Heaven in today's passage from Revelation shows the breadth and inclusiveness of those God has brought into His glory.

We are all saints. We may not always show God's love by our actions and words; too often we fail to heed John's exhortations in today's NT passage. But as we allow the Holy Spirit to make us into the people God wants us to be, we find we become like those Jesus describes as blessed in today's Gospel. That action of the Holy Spirit happens as we live in *this* world; it often involves denying our selfish desires, and sometimes leads to outright suffering and even martyrdom, but we know that it definitely means blessings in this life as well as that after death.

Ian Totterdell, churchwarden

** WINTER MARKET **

Saturday 18th November

We are having a table in the Hall to sell baking, jam, chutney etc. Donations would be wonderful. We will also be selling coffee and tea in the Hall. Volunteers to help in any way would be appreciated.

NEXT SUNDAY 12.11.2023 Remembrance Sunday

10.50 in the Churchyard then into Church for Communion

READINGS: OT Wisdom of Solomon 6: 12-16
NT 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18
GOSPEL Matthew 25: 1-13



CONTACT US

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

Revd Sarah Cumming Assistant Priest 07543604115
rev.sarahcumming@gmail.com

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

Revd Mike Clark Associate Priest
mike.clark@exeter.anglican.org

Phil Baker, Reader 07970 216740
lionelbaker@outlook.com

Revd Terry Litherland 07594633195
tlitherland36@gmail.com

Ian Totterdell Church Warden 01392 848674
07536459096 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

5th November 2023

All Saints Sunday

10.30am in Church

Today

10.30am Sung Eucharist
Hymn Numbers
134 For all the saints
63 Blest are the pure in heart
247 In our day of thanksgiving
4pm All Souls Service

Wednesday 8th November

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 9th November

9.30—11am St Thomas Tots
10.30am-12noon Knit & Natter, 19 Maple Rd
Details from Jenny on 01392 498725

Friday 10th November

9.30am Morning Prayer
10am Staff Meeting

Saturday 11th November

9am Men's Breakfast in the Sawyers



Collect

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; 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**

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.'

1 John 3: 1-3

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.

Matthew 5: 1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.'

Post Communion

God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things: may we who have shared at this table as strangers and pilgrims here on earth be welcomed with all your saints to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

NOTICES

The **Warm Space** is starting on 23rd November. Thanks you to all who volunteered to help.

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

House Group is studying the Book of Proverbs. Meetings will be held at Perridge Close at 7.30pm. Please ring Helen on 410400 for details.

Saturday 11th November, 2.30-5.30pm, at The Forum, Exeter University. Join the Archbishop of Canterbury for an afternoon of reflective conversation about bereavement, grief and finding hope. Tickets are available through the Diocesan website. If you are unable to access the website, please see one of the Staff team.

Thank you to Aga and her team for the **Inter-cultural celebration of All Souls** which was a wonderfully vibrant occasion.

We will be moving into the Hall sometime after Remembrance Sunday. If you have any comments or thoughts please contact the Staff team.

