

Reflection for Christ the King.

This year, for the first time in 86 years, we had the Coronation of a King as our Monarch in this country. Being the person he is, King Charles does seem to have a more humble and less formal showy approach to his role.

As we see the continuing conflict in Ukraine and then the awful happenings in the Holy Land we are left wondering what rules the lives of the perpetrators of all that suffering and destruction of life and property.

When I moved to Devon, a very dear friend gave to me a Christus Rex crucifix which depicts our Lord on the cross in kingly robes with a crown of gold, not nearly naked and bleeding as is usually the case. She said no house should be without one as it reminded us who ruled our lives that Jesus is our King. We have a wonderful Christus Rex East Window in the church which also reminds us of that. The question we need always to ask ourselves is this, "Is Christ the King of my life?"

Phil Baker



NEXT SUNDAY 03.12.2023 Advent Sunday

10.30am in the Hall

READINGS: OT Isaiah 64: 1-9
NT 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9
GOSPEL Mark 13: 24-37



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St Thomas, Exeter

26th November 2023

Christ the King

10.30am in Hall

Today

10.30am in the Hall

Hymn Numbers

270 Jesus is Lord!

548 When I needed a neighbour

13 All hail the power of Jesus' name

Tuesday 28th November

7.30pm House Group *Seeds of Faith*. 6
Painter's Court.

Wednesday 29th November

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

7.30pm PCC Meeting in the Hall

Thursday 30th November

9.30—11am St Thomas Tots

10.30am-12noon Knit & Natter, 19 Maple Rd

Details from Jenny on 01392 498725

3-5pm Warm Space in the Hall

Friday 1st December

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting



Collect

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Ezekiel 34: 11-16,20-24

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Ephesians 1: 15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes

of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Matthew 25: 31-46

‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just

as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’

The responses to the Intercessions

We are your people

The sheep of our pasture

Post Communion

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

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 will run a weekly Advent Course beginning on 28th November and finishing on 19th December. We shall meet at 7.30pm at the home of John Payne, 6 Painter's Court. We will be looking at the film 'Miracle on 34th Street'.

The funeral of **Gwen Matthews** will be held on Thursday 30th November at 3pm in the Church.

Our Methodist minister Julian Albrow and his wife Lesley celebrate their **50th Wedding Anniversary** on the 1st December. There will be a service of thanksgiving at the Methodist Church on the 2nd December at 3pm. All are very welcome.

The next **Hall Committee** Meeting is on 10th December after the service.

