

## **The Parish of St David, Exeter**

**Parish Newsletter for Sunday, 27 April 2025**

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#### **Sunday, 27 April 2025, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

9.30am Parish Communion with celebrant, Mike Clark and preacher, Sarah Cumming (with baptism and banns)

6 pm Evening Prayer led by Robert Mitchell

*Tuesday, 29 April, (transferred from 25 April, Mark the Evangelist), 9.00-9.30 am Zoom Morning Prayer. Please join us using this link (usual):*

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Meeting ID: 772 6963 5517

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For services this week at St Michael's and All Angels CD, please see:

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1. We warmly welcome Oscar, who is being baptised this morning, and his family and friends.

2. **Reminder of our Meeting of Parishioners and APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) on Monday 19 May, 7.30 pm, in the church** - do please come if you possibly can. Elections will be held for the two churchwarden positions, and the two vacancies on the PCC that have come up this year. In addition, the year just gone will be reviewed, accounts presented and it is your opportunity to ask questions. Nomination papers are available on the round table at the back of church. Please prayerfully consider whether you would be interested in standing for any of the roles. The annual activity report and accounts will be circulated prior to the meeting via email along with other relevant papers and printed copies should be available two weeks before the meeting.

3. **New training curate** - to repeat the notice given verbally last Sunday: we are delighted to let you know that we are going to have a new training curate join us. Suki Coe served as an LLM in the North West Hampshire Benefice before starting her ordination training. She and her husband, Duncan, are relocating to Exeter soon and Suki will be ordained deacon at Exeter Cathedral on Saturday 28 June. Suki will be appointed on a self-supporting basis and her first service with us will be Sunday 29 June.

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### **Tuesday Friendship Café**

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### **Wednesday Walks**

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### **Knit and Natter**

Please see Glynis for details of future meetings.

### **Men's Breakfast**

The next Men's Breakfast will be advised shortly. Please contact Alan Baker if you would like a reminder [alan.baker1963@outlook.com](mailto:alan.baker1963@outlook.com)

### **Green Matters**

#### **Your Prayers are asked for...**

##### **those who are suffering including:**

Caroline Speed-Andrews; Ann Barnet, Libby Clapham; Andrew Francis; Hazel Gowland; Eileen Jarman, Avril Pattinson; Anne Smith; Helena Walker, Sarah Wood; Clive and Jeanie; Beth; Charlotte, Paul and Grace; Will, Dave

##### **those who have died recently**

##### **In our Parish Cycle of Prayer please pray for:**

The Listeners (Samaritans training initiative for Exeter Prison inmates)

##### **Please also pray for:**

Our church

Our country and its leaders, both political and religious;

Our world, for wisdom for its leaders and a wish for peace not war.

### **Sunday, 27 April 2025, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

#### **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.

#### 1st reading - Acts 5.27-32

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.' But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

#### Gospel Reading - 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.

### [Sermon by Sarah Cumming for the 2nd Sunday of Easter, 27 April 2025](#)

Happy Easter! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Last week we celebrated in style that Jesus is risen from the dead. Now, with chocolate still flowing through our veins, we begin the longer task of grappling with the implications of those declarations of joy-filled faith.

We start today with a Gospel story where the encounter of some disciples with the risen Jesus brings tension for the individual who missed out. I have great sympathy for the bewildering confusion faced by the disciples at this time. The familiar rhythms of their communal life have collided with the horrifying circumstances of Jesus' death. As many of us are painfully familiar, the time after the loss of a loved one can be deeply disorientating. We reach out to make a phone call and then remember... we believe that we have glimpsed the one who we love in a crowded street and the process of grief begins again. So when the disciples pour their excitement at seeing Jesus on the naturally sceptical Thomas, I have every sympathy for his response. Perhaps we can hear him saying, 'Lads, it's a part of grief – I thought I saw him yesterday. We need to let go.' I imagine the conversation becoming more strained as they hold fast to their position until Thomas exclaims that he will rely on physical evidence, thank you very much.

There aren't many occasions when Thomas is singled out from the other disciples and in all of them he is being a bit awkward! Previously he has asked Jesus what he means by saying that they know where he is going (they don't), and today we hear of his scepticism about the resurrection. Tut, tut, we might think, safety insulated by over 2000 years of Christian witness and teaching. Yet he asks the questions we need answering; he speaks for us. Perhaps he also models more important points: that our journey will include times of frustration and misunderstanding, and that Christian faith stands up to robust challenge.

When Thomas finally encounters Jesus, he is met with grace and acceptance, even if the invitation to touch his wounds does seem a bit icky! Thomas turns

from his unbelief to restored relationship and proclaims, 'My Lord and my God!' From his earlier doubt, he is the first person in scripture to recognise the divinity of Christ and declare him to be God. Doubt is transformed into revelation.

Today Jesus brings a challenge to us all – how do we respond to the claim that Jesus is alive?

The underlying message of this encounter is that Jesus welcomes us all. Being a disciple of Jesus is often a fragment of certainty and a lot of muddle. As the disciples found as they ran towards an empty tomb, Jesus doesn't stay put but is found on the road ahead of us, breaking bread, revealing himself through the scriptures, responding to our cries of unbelief.

Today we stand with Oscar as he declares his faith in God. It is always a great joy to baptise someone; to follow Jesus' command to make disciples and baptise – to state our intention to follow Christ, to turn from the things which distance us from God and commit to those things which build up our faith. Oscar, we welcome you on this adventure of faith!

### 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**

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please tell us  
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Please send notices/content/prayer requests or amendments to Hilary  
on [todd.stdandm@gmail.com](mailto:todd.stdandm@gmail.com))

(All readings can be found via Oremus Bible  
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