

# Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021

## 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

**Welcome to everyone today both in our church buildings and those who join us from their homes.**

This morning's services are **both** live-streamed on **St Thomas'** Facebook page. We hope that our dial-in will also work. You should be able to listen live, or later, by dialling **01706 599309**.

Some safety reminders now we're back in church:

- Please keep face coverings in place over nose and mouth during the service
- The hymns are sung by choir alone
- Please remain in your places until invited to move by a steward
- Please don't wander to chat to friends – sorry
- Please take service sheets with you at the end
- Please disperse quickly at the end of the service and **please don't congregate outside to chat**

### **The Collect**

O God the King of glory,  
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ  
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:  
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,  
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us  
and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### **First Reading Acts 1.15-17, 21-end**

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, 'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David

foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.’

So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.’ So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, ‘Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.’ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

### **Gospel Reading John 17.6-19**

‘I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent

them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Eternal God, giver of love and power,  
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world  
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:  
confirm us in this mission,  
and help us to live the good news we proclaim;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **The Week Ahead & Information**

Today                      St James' APCM follows the service, in church. Please remain  
in your seats!

Monday-Saturday

9am      Morning Prayer *on St Thomas' Facebook page*

5pm      Evening Prayer *on St James' Facebook page*  
(not Saturday)

Wednesday      2.20pm Funeral Service for Rita Fenton RIP *at Accrington  
Crematorium*

Thursday              12pm      Funeral Service for Jillian Howard RIP, *at St Thomas'*

Friday                      9.30am Church cleaning *at St Thomas'*

10am      Funeral Service for Sheila Darbyshire RIP *at St James'*

**Next Sunday – Pentecost – wear something red to church!**

9.15am Eucharist *at St Thomas'*

10.45am Eucharist *at St James'*

### **Pentecost is coming**

Next Sunday (23<sup>rd</sup> May) is Pentecost. We're asking everyone to wear something red as we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the Church's birthday. Get planning your outfits!

## Christian Aid

Thank you to everyone who supported St Thomas' pop-up café on Saturday and to everyone who has already returned a collection envelope. Please return any more envelopes to church by next Sunday. You can also give on-line by visiting [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

## Doorstep Joy

We want to help keep people occupied. Please see fliers and articles about our new outreach programme. We're offering to deliver/collect jigsaw puzzles and reading books to/from your doorstep. The first point of contact is Fr David – 07539 264279 – to get started. Please share this information with anyone you think might appreciate it.

## Food for all

The next Wednesday Lunch is on 26<sup>th</sup> May. Please book with Fr Andrew **by the previous Saturday**. Absolutely **anyone** is eligible. No charge but donations of £5 welcome. Fr Andrew – [andrewinhaslingden@gmail.com](mailto:andrewinhaslingden@gmail.com), 07460 899451

*Our frozen main meals are still available to order. Please let us know of anyone who might benefit from a delivery. Suggested donation of £1.50 per meal.*

## Prayers

Please let Fr David know of anyone who should be included on our weekly prayer list. ([frdavidstephenson@gmail.com](mailto:frdavidstephenson@gmail.com), 07539 264279)

### For your prayers

For the *Thy Kingdom Come* initiative to spread the news of Jesus wide into our communities and to bring more people to faith and active membership of the Church.

For peace in the Holy Land.

In thanksgiving for gradual easing of lockdown restrictions and for all who work to vaccinate throughout the world and for all who work in the NHS.  
For those in India where coronavirus cases continue to escalate.

For Christians of all denominations in Helmsore and Haslingden – for unity and mutual flourishing.

For the sick: Ian, Edna, Charley, Mandy, Wynne, Lizzie, Janet, Allister, Betty, Derek, Rita, Mary, Mother Enid, Margaret, Cees

For all who have died in the past week and all whose anniversaries fall in the coming week. *Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.*