

Sunday 1st August 2021

9th Sunday after Trinity

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

Keeping us all safe in church

- Please keep face coverings in place over nose and mouth as you enter/leave church. You can remove them once in your pew
- Social distancing is no longer mandatory **but encouraged**
- Sharing the Peace will still be socially-distanced
- Hymns are congregational (except for during Communion)
- A steward will still invite you to move forward for Communion and to leave at the end of the service
- Please take the readings and notice sheet with you to use during the week
- **Please remember that not everyone will want to be physically close to others and respect their preferences.**

The Collect

Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
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.

First Reading Exodus 16.2-4, 9-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. Then Moses said to Aaron, 'Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, "Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining."' And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, "At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God."' In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, 'What is it?' For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, 'It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

HYMN *St Thomas* **53**
 St James **368**

Gospel Reading *John 6.24-35*

So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat."' Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.' Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

OFFERTORY HYMN	<i>St Thomas</i>	26
	<i>St James</i>	271

Prayer after Communion

Holy Father,
 who gathered us here around the table of your Son
 to share this meal with the whole household of God:
 in that new world where you reveal the fullness of your peace,
 gather people of every race and language to share in the eternal banquet of
 Jesus Christ our Lord.

HYMN	<i>St Thomas</i>	501
	<i>St James</i>	461

The Week Ahead & Information

Today	11am	Baptism of Freya <i>at St Thomas'</i>
	3pm	Baptism of Harriet <i>at St Thomas'</i>

Monday-Saturday	9am	Morning Prayer <i>on St Thomas' Facebook page</i>
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Tuesday	10am	Eucharist <i>at St James'</i>
	11am	Funeral service for Clarice Greenwood <i>at St James'</i>
	1pm	Funeral service for Bryan Catlow <i>at Accrington Crematorium</i>

Thursday	10am	Eucharist <i>at St Thomas'</i>
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Friday	9.30am	Church cleaning <i>at St Thomas'</i>
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Next Sunday – 10th Sunday after Trinity

9.15am	Eucharist <i>at St Thomas'</i>
10.45am	Eucharist <i>at St James'</i>

Covid Restrictions

We have begun our easing of restrictions in church from today. Please take a flier with more information if you didn't get one last week. Please note that we will continue to have some pews closed to allow people to socially distance if they feel vulnerable.

School Holiday Lunch Bags

We have been able to help a number of families this last week by providing packed lunches to children who would usually receive Free School Meals. Please refer other families to us if they need some support. They should speak to Fr Andrew (07460 8994451).

Volunteers BBQ

To thank everyone who has helped with our food ministry and outreach we are holding a *thank you BBQ* on **Saturday 14th August** in the ground of St Thomas' Church Hall.

Prayers

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

Names of those on the parish prayer lists will also be pinned to the prayer boards in each church.

For your prayers

For the inclusivity of the Church, welcoming and valuing people of all backgrounds and lifestyles

For all working in tourism, hospitality and travel throughout the world

For all who are nervous and uncertain as we emerge from Lockdown

For the sick: Ian, Edna, Charley, Mandy, Wynne, Lizzie, Janet, Betty, Derek, Asia, Graeme, Shirley, John, Gerald, Rita, Mother Enid, Margaret, Philip, Connie

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.*