

Sunday 23rd January 2022

The Third Sunday of Epiphany

Welcome to everyone today in church.
Welcome, too, to those joining our livestreams via Facebook.

We continue with increased safety measures in church:

Face-coverings in church are mandatory.

Please choose to sit away from others as far as possible.

There will be no Offertory procession.

Holy Communion will administered, standing, in one kind only.

There will be no refreshments after church for the moment.

We want everyone to feel, and to be, safe. Please help us to keep this possible.

We very much hope to relax some of these measures from February.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

<i>St Thomas</i>	551
<i>St James</i>	473

The Collect

God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord.

First Reading *Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, -10*

A reading from Nehemiah.

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with

understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

GRADUAL HYMN

St Thomas **467**

St James **186**

Gospel Reading Luke 4.14-21

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

OFFERTORY HYMN

St Thomas **122**

St James **388**

COMMUNION HYMNS

St Thomas 391

St James 302

Prayer after Communion

Almighty Father,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
may your people,
illuminated by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped,
and obeyed to the ends of the earth;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

FINAL HYMN

St Thomas 172 (omit v2)

St James 345

The Week Ahead & Information

Monday-Saturday

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

Monday 10am Tea, Toast & Tots meeting *at St James*

Tuesday 10am Eucharist *at St James'*
7pm Scout Executive *in the Refectory*

Thursday 10am Eucharist *at St James'*

Friday 9.30 Church cleaning *at St Thomas'*

Next Sunday – 30th January – Presentation of Christin the Temple

9.15 Eucharist *at St Thomas'*

10.45 Eucharist *at St James'*

3.30pm Christingle *at St Thomas'*

St Thomas' 200 Club

Thank you to all who have already responded to the new version of our 200 Club. You can hand completed forms in at church today. If you'd like to join the Club, please ask for an application form.

Thomas' Tots

We are hoping to re-introduce a church baby and toddler group at St Thomas'. It will run on Tuesday mornings in the Hall. If you would like to be involved in any way, please ask Fr David for more information, or contact Cheryl Murnane (07818 117154).

The **Refectory Café** will re-open on Thursday 3rd February.

Eat & Meet Lunches will resume from 8th February.

Thursday Friends & Food will be in St Thomas' Hall, at 2.30pm, on Thursday 10th February.

Post Plan B

From the beginning of February, we hope to relax some Covid safety-measures in church. This will continue to depend on local infection rates and advice from both Church and Government. From 6th February face-coverings will be optional and we will re-introduce refreshments after services and social events. We will continue to offer Holy Communion in one kind only for the time being. If you have any concerns or questions, please speak to one of the clergy or Churchwardens.

Bacon butties after church

St Thomas', 6th February & St James', 27th February.

Alistair and Alex, two of our local Scouts will be raising money to help pay for them to attend the World Scout Jamboree in Korea in 2023, by providing bacon butties after church each month throughout the year. Please bring some extra cash with you on those days, enjoy a bacon buttie and help them to reach their combined total of £8000!

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 sick: Ian, Charley, Mandy, Lizzie, Janet, Asia, Danielle, Derek, Jean, Rachael, Mike, Mother Mo, Bishop Julian, Mother Enid, Margaret, Philip, Connie, Genevieve, Marie, Denzil

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.*