

Sunday 1st May 2022

3rd Sunday of Easter

Welcome to everyone in church today.

Welcome, too, to those joining our livestreams via Facebook.

Please take note of our on-going Covid-safety measures:

* **Face-coverings are recommended, but optional**

* **Sitting away from others is still suggested**

* **Holy Communion is administered, standing, in one kind only**

* **Please join us for refreshments, after church, in the Hall**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

St Thomas **563**

St James **124**

The Collect

Risen Christ,

you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:

strengthen us to proclaim your risen life

and fill us with your peace,

to the glory of God the Father.

First Reading Zephaniah 3.14–end

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

GRADUAL HYMN**St Thomas 228****St James 375****Gospel Reading Acts 9.1–6**

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.'

OFFERTORY HYMN**St Thomas 45****St James 104****COMMUNION HYMNS****St Thomas 287 327****St James 294****Prayer after Communion**

Living God, your Son made himself
known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

FINAL HYMN**St Thomas 425****St James 437**

The Week Ahead & Information

Today	12.30	Holy Baptism of Lola <i>at St James'</i>
	3.30	Holy Communion (BCP) <i>at St Thomas'</i>
Monday-Saturday	9am	Morning Prayer <i>on St Thomas' Facebook page</i>
Monday	8.45	Tea, Toast & Tots drop-in <i>at St James'</i>
	-10.30	
Tuesday	9.30-11	Thomas' Tots <i>in the Church Hall</i>
	10am	Eucharist <i>at St James'</i>
Thursday	10am	Eucharist <i>at St Thomas'</i>
	11-1	Refectory Café open
	2pm	Mothers' Union <i>at St James'</i>
	2.30-3	Prayer Group <i>at St Thomas'</i>
Friday	12.30-5	Quilt Exhibition & Café <i>at St James</i>
Saturday	10-5	Quilt Exhibition & Café <i>at St James</i>

Next Sunday – 1st May – 3rd Sunday of Easter

8am	Eucharist <i>at St Thomas'</i>
9.15	Eucharist <i>at St Thomas'</i> <i>followed by the Annual Meeting</i>
10.45	Eucharist <i>at St James'</i>
12.30-5	Quilt Exhibition & Café <i>at St James</i>

Thank you to everyone who helped make St James' Spring Fair such a success (including those who helped to set up and tidy up!)

APCMs

The Annual Meetings this year, as previously, follow on from the Parish Eucharist. St Thomas' is on Sunday 8th May and St James' is on Sunday 15th May. Everyone on the Electoral Roll is invited to attend. Everyone is encouraged to come to church and to stay on to celebrate all that our churches have been doing in the last year.

Please check your entry on the Electoral Roll and let Maggi (St Thomas') or Julie Davis (St James') know of any changes **before** the meeting.

Nomination forms for Churchwardens, PCC (St Thomas' only) and Deanery Synod reps are available at the back of each church. These should be completed and handed to PCC Secretaries (or Fr David) **before** the meetings.

Christian Aid at St Thomas'

We will be popping up our pop-up café on Saturday 14th May, 10-1, to raise funds to support Christian Aid. Joanne Smithson would be very grateful of any bakers who would be able to bake for the stall, full or half cakes and individual bakes all gratefully received. Please could you let Joanne know if you are able to donate any baking – or sign up on the sheet in church.

Also - Sunday 21st May 10.30am Sunday Brunch (Big Brekkie) at Clough House after church, £7.50 per person, see Lowri to book or sign up in church. Places limited, so book early to prevent disappointment.

Volunteers

Our outreach, mission, ministry and evangelism is part of our Christian duty. We rely on members of the Church volunteering to help do God's work in our parishes. Please have a look at the sign-up sheets in church and work out how you can help.

Jubilee Celebrations

We're all invited to come together at St James' on Saturday 4th June, from 6pm (concert at 6.30), for a magnificent concert and jubilee party! Guests include the Rossendale Male Voice Choir, Chameleon Quartet and vocal artist Courtney. Tickets are FREE but you must book in advance. See Marjorie Charnley (St J) or Wardens (St T) or our online platforms. Food and licensed bar!

Bacon butties after church

The next dates for bacon butties after church will be 15th May (St Thomas') and 22nd May (St James').

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, Derek, Rachael, Mike, Lily, Christian, Baby Theo, John, Jean, Olivia, Mother Enid, Margaret, Christine

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.*