

Sunday 8th May 2022

4th 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 474

St James 117

Collect

Risen Christ,

faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:

teach us to hear your voice

and to follow your command,

that all your people may be gathered into one flock,

to the glory of God the Father.

First Reading Acts 9 36-end

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

GRADUAL HYMN**St Thomas 243****St James 378****Gospel Reading *John 10.22-30***

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

OFFERTORY HYMN**St Thomas 293****St James 393****COMMUNION HYMNS****St Thomas 117, 48****St James 282,274****Prayer After Communion**

Merciful Father,

you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,

and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:

keep us always under his protection,

and give us grace to follow in his steps;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FINAL HYMN**St Thomas 518****St James 485**

The Week Ahead & Information

- Today** St Thomas' APCM follows on directly from the Parish Eucharist in church
- 12.30-5 Final chance to see the East Lancashire Quilt Exhibition at *St James'*. The café will be open until 4pm.
- Monday-Saturday** 9am Morning Prayer on *St Thomas' Facebook page*
- Monday** 8.45 Tea, Toast & Tots drop-in at *St James'*
-10.30
- 6-8pm Rainbows & Brownies in *St James' Hall*
- Tuesday** 9.30-11 Thomas' Tots in the *Church Hall*
- 10am Eucharist at *St James'*
- 11am Funeral for Denzil Morris RIP at *St Alban's Church, Broadheath, Altrincham WA14 5NX*
- 12pm Eat & Meet Lunch at *St James'*
- 2pm Mothers' Union in the *Refectory* – a talk about refugee families. All very welcome.
- Wednesday** 7pm Choir Practise at *St James'*
- Thursday** 10am Eucharist at *St Thomas'*
- 2.30 Thursday Friends & Food at *St Thomas' Hall*
- Saturday** 10-1 Pop-up Café for Christian Aid at *St Thomas' Car Park*
- Next Sunday – 15th May – 5th Sunday of Easter**
- 9.15 Eucharist at *St Thomas'*
followed by bacon butties in the *Hall*
- 10.45 Eucharist at *St James'*
followed by the *Annual Meeting*
- 11.15 Baptism of Finley at *St Thomas'*
- 3.30 Evening Prayer (BCP) at *St Thomas'*

APCMs

St Thomas' meeting is TODAY. St James' is NEXT SUNDAY.

Nomination forms for Churchwardens, PCC and Deanery Synod reps are available at the back of 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. A few places only remain so sign up TODAY!

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'). Please remember to bring some extra cash (or your card) to help our scouts raise funds to get them to the World Scout Jamboree.

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, Christian, John, Jean, Olivia, Stephen, Mother Enid, Margaret, Christine, Lola

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.*