

Sunday 22nd May 2022

6th 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 321

St James 408

Collect

Risen Christ,

by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:

help your Church to obey your command

and draw the nations to the fire of your love,

to the glory of God the Father.

First Reading Acts 16.9-15

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days.

On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us.

GRADUAL HYMN

St Thomas 85

St James 346

Gospel Reading *John 5.1-9*

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralysed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, ‘Do you want to be made well?’ The sick man answered him, ‘Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Stand up, take your mat and walk.’ At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath.

OFFERTORY HYMNS

St Thomas 106

St James 353

COMMUNION HYMNS

St Thomas 500

St James 310

Prayer After Communion

God our Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:
may we thirst for you,
the spring of life and source of goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

FINAL HYMN

St Thomas 362

St James 413

The Week Ahead & Information

Today

We especially welcome the family and friends of the late Christine Bradley to St James’ this morning. Today’s flowers are in her memory.

Following the Parish Eucharist at St James’, bacon butties will be available.

11.15 Holy Baptism of Verity & Jaxx at St Thomas’

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'*
12pm Eat & Meet Lunch *at St James'*

Wednesday 11.15 Funeral for Lily Dust RIP *at St Thomas'*
7pm Choir Practise *at St James'*

Thursday 10am Eucharist *at St Thomas'*
Ascension Day 2.30 Thursday Friends & Food *at St Thomas' Hall*
7pm Architect Meeting *in the Refectory* (* see note)

Next Sunday – 29th May – 7th Sunday of Easter (5th Sunday)
9.15 Parish Eucharist *at St Thomas'*
10.30 Sunday Brunch in aid of Christian Aid
at Clough House
10.45 Parish Eucharist *at St James'*

Jubilee Celebrations

St James', 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!

If any members of the congregation would like transport to/from the concert, please speak to one of the clergy, Julie Goodwin, Shirley Adams or Marjorie Charnley.

If you are able to come and help clean and polish the balcony at St James' on Saturday 28th May at 10am, you would be very welcome!

The **Helmshore Community Jubilee Picnic** with **Valley Sounds** is on Sunday 12th June at 2.30pm in the grounds of St Veronica's. £5 per family, £2 per individual. Pay at the gate or see Maggi in church.

St James' Mothers' Union are having a **Jubilee Tea Party** on Tuesday 2nd June at 2pm in the Church Hall. All members, and others, are very welcome to attend!

Rejoice at Whalley Abbey with the Archbishop of York on Friday 27th May at 7.30pm. Doors open at 6pm for the open-air Eucharist at 7.30pm. A chance for the whole diocese to gather and celebrate together with the Cathedral Youth Choir, St Thomas', Lancaster, worship band, brass band and Blackburn Asian Christian Choir. Wear something red/orange/white and bring a rug or folding chair. www.whalleyabbey.org

St Thomas' Architect Meetings

The PCC are seeking to appoint a new architect to help us look after our church building and particularly to work with us to find a way forward with our leaking spire and tower. There are two evenings (the first this Thursday at 7pm) for potential architects to meet us and introduce themselves. PCC members are attending but if you would also like to come, please let Fr David know. (The next evening will be Tuesday 7th June, 7pm).

Revised Coronavirus Precautions

With cases of Covid in Rossendale significantly reduced, we plan to reintroduce the chalice to our Eucharist services from the Sunday 5th June. We hope that those who wish to will continue to feel able to come forward, to the altar rail, to receive Communion in one kind only. The chalice will be offered to those who wish to receive from it. It will continue to be that intinction (dipping the consecrated wafer into the wine) is not permitted. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to Fr David.

Pentecost

Sunday 5th June – the end of the Easter season. Please come to church on that day wearing something **red** as we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit on the church's birthday. As we celebrate our parish, why not invite someone to come to church with you who hasn't been for a while, or who has never been!

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, Ken, Mother Enid, Margaret, Christine, Lola, Alec, Adrienne, Arnold

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.*