

Sunday 29th May 2022

7th Sunday of Easter

Welcome to everyone in church today and to those joining via Facebook.

We continue with receiving Holy Communion in one kind only, at a standing station. Please see the note about this changing from next week.

Please join us for refreshments, after church, in the Hall. At St Thomas' you'll be able to make purchases from our Fair Trade stall.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

St Thomas 103

Collect

Risen, ascended Lord,
as we rejoice at your triumph,
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,
that all who are estranged by sin
may find forgiveness and know your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

First Reading Acts 16.16-34

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, 'These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.' She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, 'These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.' The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an

earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.' The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' They answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.' They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

GRADUAL HYMN

St Thomas 94

Gospel Reading *John 17.20–end*

'I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. 'Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.'

OFFERTORY HYMN

St Thomas 432

COMMUNION HYMN

St Thomas 391

Prayer After Communion

Eternal God, giver of love and power
your son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom;
confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Week Ahead & Information

Today

We especially welcome the family and friends of Reuben Westlake who is to be baptised at St James' this morning during the Eucharist.

Monday-Saturday

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

Monday 8.45 Tea, Toast & Tots drop-in at *St James'*
-10.30

Tuesday 9.30-11 Thomas' Tots in the *Church Hall*
10am Eucharist at *St James'*

Wednesday 7.30pm Choir Practise with All Saints, Clayton, at *St James'*

Thursday 10am Eucharist at *St Thomas'*
11-1 Refectory Café open at *St Thomas'*
2pm Mothers' Union Jubilee Tea at *St James'*
2.30 Prayer Group at *St Thomas'*

Saturday 6.30 **Jubilee Celebration Concert** at *St James'*

Next Sunday – 5th June – Pentecost

Remember to wear something red to church!

9.15 Parish Eucharist at *St Thomas'*
10.45 Parish Eucharist at *St James'*
3.30 Holy Communion (BCP) at *St Thomas'*

Best wishes to Helen Melling and Thomas Moffatt who are to be married this coming Friday at a rural setting near York. Many of our congregation will remember Helen who attended St Thomas' Sunday School and was one of our Rose Queens. We send our prayers and best wishes to the happy couple!

Jubilee Celebrations

There's a little time remaining to get your ticket for the celebration concert at St James' next Saturday. Doors open at 6pm as the church bells ring and the bar will be open. The concert begins at 6.30pm. Over 300 tickets have already been issued! Tickets are FREE but you must book in advance.

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.

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 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. The second evening is on Tuesday 7th June at 7pm in the Refectory. PCC members are attending but if you would also like to come, please let Fr David know.

Revised Coronavirus Precautions

With cases of Covid in Rossendale significantly reduced, we plan to reintroduce the chalice to our Eucharist services from next Sunday and communion at the altar rail. 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!

Christian Aid

Thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising this year – and especially our coordinators! St Thomas' have raised £770.80 (including £180 for the Clough House Big Breakfast). If you haven't yet donated and would like to, please visit www.christianaid.org.uk/give/ways-to-donate

Prayers

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

For your prayers

For the sick: Ian, Charley, Mandy, Lizzie, Janet, Asia, Derek, Rachael, Mike, Christian, John, Jean, Olivia, Stephen, Dorothy, Ken, Mother Enid, Margaret, Christine, Lola, Alec, Arnold, Alicia

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.*