

News from St Thomas Church: Week commencing the 21st March 2021



This morning whilst out walking my dog, I had the real pleasure of chatting for 5 minutes with a local young farmer. He had come to rescue a lone sheep which he told me was having difficulty seeing. With care and efficiency he got her into his trailer to take her back to the barn for some treatment. We got talking about his work and it was clear from the passion in his voice that he loved what he did. Farming was in his blood, a way of life for all the family. It was part of his identity, where he belonged. He wouldn't change it for the world.

This young farmer's obvious love for farming got me thinking of the words from our reading from Jeremiah below...

These words were written to the people of Israel living in exile, longing to return home to a place where they belonged. Many today are still searching for a place where we can find an identity. Where we can become the person we were created to be. If we listen we will hear deep within our hearts God calling us back home.

“I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts” Jeremiah 31.33.

Tracy.x

Bible readings for Sunday the 21st March 2021

1st reading: *Jeremiah 31.31-34*

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

2nd reading: *John 12.20-33*

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

Jesus Speaks about His Death

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it

again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Collect for the 5th Sunday of Lent

Gracious God
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour’s blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Notices...

Holy Week & Easter 2021

Palm Sunday

10.00am Zoom Sunday service to celebrate Jesus entering Jerusalem.
Zoom link for this and all our Sunday Services
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86792362778>
(You can click on this link directly from the homepage of our website
www.mellorchurch.org)

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week

10.00am Morning Prayer and meditation and 7pm Compline/Night Prayer on our YouTube channel: ‘Worship from St Thomas’ (<https://bit.ly/2ynuqHq>)

Maundy Thursday

Morning Prayer at 10.00am on our YouTube Channel - ‘Worship from St Thomas’ and at 7pm a beautiful Tenebrae Service (extinguishing of lights) via zoom. Details below:

St Thomas Tenebrae Service
Join Zoom Meeting ID: 84514935054.

Good Friday

10.00am Morning Prayer on our Youtube Channel

12.00 – 3.00pm Vigil at the cross outside the church. Due to current restrictions numbers attending for each half hour vigil will be limited.

Please telephone 07546 927052 Monday, Wednesday or Thursday of Holy Week up to 12.00 midday to reserve a timed space at the vigil.

For those unable to come up to church, the cross will be live on our YouTube channel (<https://bit.ly/2ynuqHq>).

After 3.00pm the cross will move into the church which will be open for private prayer.

Easter Saturday

Family activities: Exploring a churchyard trail.... walking a family 'Stations of the Cross' outdoors... Building an Easter garden.

See our website for details.

Easter Sunday

6.30am dawn service from outside church. The service will be live streamed on our YouTube Channel for you to take part at home.

10.00 am A special Easter Morning Service on our You tube channel - 'Worship from St Thomas' (<https://bit.ly/2ynuqHq>)

12.00 midday - Said Holy Communion in church. Numbers will be restricted so please tel 07546 927052 Monday, Wednesday or Thursday of Holy Week up to 12.00 midday to reserve a space in church.

Our church is open for private prayer and reflection everyday during daylight hours. Maybe light a candle in prayer... or just sit and listen to the music... Prayer resources are also available in church for you to use at home.

Looking ahead ...

Readings to ponder over this coming week...

1st reading: *Isaiah 50.4-9a*

2nd reading: *Mark 11.1-11*

All my best wishes to you and yours,

Rev'd Tracy