

News from St Thomas Church: Week c/c Sunday the 18th April 2021



Humbler, Simpler, Bolder...

This Sunday we celebrate Thanksgiving Sunday. Despite all that has happened over the last year it's still good to take time to stop and reflect on all we have to give thanks to God for. Whilst also thinking about what is our response to the many blessings we are given.

We have learned how to gather together in different and creative ways and we give thanks for the ability to be able to do this.

Many are also looking forward to being able to meet face to face and to worship together and to chat after the services. We long to be able to sing

together again in church. However we have all become more aware of the needs of others over the last year and how 'church' as we used to know it doesn't work for everybody. We need to learn to reach out in new ways to include those faces we would not see in church on Sunday mornings.

We gather this Sunday to give thanks to God for new opportunities opening up to us. As we move forwards, Stephen the Archbishop of York calls for the Church to reflect on how we can be Humbler, Simpler and Bolder. Over the coming weeks I ask you to think and pray and share your thoughts and ideas as to how we at St Thomas can respond to his call.

Tracy.x

Bible readings for Sunday the 18th April 2021

1st reading: *Acts 3.12-19*

12 When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? **13** The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. **14** But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, **15** and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. **16** And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

17 "And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. **18** In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. **19** Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out,

2nd reading: *Luke 24.36b-48*

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

36 While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." **37** They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. **38** He said to them, "Why are you

frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? **39** Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” **40** And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. **41** While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” **42** They gave him a piece of broiled fish, **43** and he took it and ate in their presence.

44 Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” **45** Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, **46** and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, **47** and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. **48** You are witnesses of these things.

Collect for the 3rd Sunday of Easter

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.

Notices...

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday each week
10.00am Morning Prayer and 7pm Compline/Night Prayer on our YouTube channel:
'Worship from St Thomas' (<https://bit.ly/2ynuqHq>)

Wednesday morning 10.00am Said Holy Communion in church.

10.00am Zoom Sunday service 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)

12.00 midday - Holy Communion in church. Numbers will be restricted so please
tel 07546 927052 Monday, Wednesday or Thursday during the 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: *Acts 4.32-35*

2nd reading: *John 20.19-end*

All my best wishes to you and yours,

Revd Tracy