

## **News from St Thomas Church: Week c/c Sunday the 2nd May 2021**



My favourite meal of the day is breakfast. In May 2019 my husband and I spent a week in Florence, Italy. One of my lasting memories of that beautiful city, funnily enough is not of the great art works we saw in the Uffizi Palace but of a simple bakery we found where each morning we enjoyed a simple and inexpensive breakfast. We'd get up early when the sun was not yet too hot and uncomfortable and wander through the back streets and just enjoyed seeing Florence waking up. The church bells were calling people to prayer around the city as they had done for centuries. We discovered this little bakery by chance. Noticing a queue outside a small shop we wandered past and the gorgeous smell of freshly baked bread and pastries made us stop and call inside. We received a warm welcome and seeing that we could also stop and eat and buy a fresh coffee we bought our breakfast of warm pastries and steaming

coffee. Balancing on high stools we tucked in. The pastries and coffee were heavenly. It was lovely to just relax and soak up the Italian chatter and obvious banter as locals queued to purchase their bread and cakes for the day ahead. Good food, people and conversation go hand in hand. It's repeated through out the scriptures. One of my favourite stories is the breakfast BBQ on the beach with Jesus and his disciples a few days after Jesus' resurrection. Simple, honest food shared with friends. A space made for conversations and fellowship to take place where food and kind words feed the body and also the soul.

Best wishes,

Tracy

## Bible readings for Sunday the 2nd May 2021

**1st reading:** *Acts 8.26 - end*

### **Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch**

**26** Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) **27** So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship **28** and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. **29** Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." **30** So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" **31** He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. **32** Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

**33**

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

**34** The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" **35** Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

**36** As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" **38** He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went

down into the water, and Philip[c] baptized him. **39** When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. **40** But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

## **2nd reading: *John 15.1-8***

### **Jesus the True Vine**

**15** "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. **2** He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. **3** You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. **4** Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. **5** I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. **6** Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. **7** If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become[c] my disciples.

### **Prayer for the day**

Risen Christ,  
your wounds declare your love for the world  
and the wonder of your risen life:  
give us compassion and courage  
to risk ourselves for those we serve,  
to the glory of God the Father.

### **Notices...**

Below are the list of services for May 2021:

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 mornings 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](http://www.mellorchurch.org) )

12.00 midday - Holy Communion in church. Numbers will be restricted due to current Covid 19 regulations.

**Many people have expressed how they miss singing the hymns in church. At the end of our 12.00midday service we will all go outside church with our choir and sing together our final hymn. If you are able, wrap up warm if the weather is cold and come and sing with us. All are welcome.**

Choral Evensong- 16th May 2021 at 6.30pm

### **Pentecost Sunday on the 23rd May 2021**

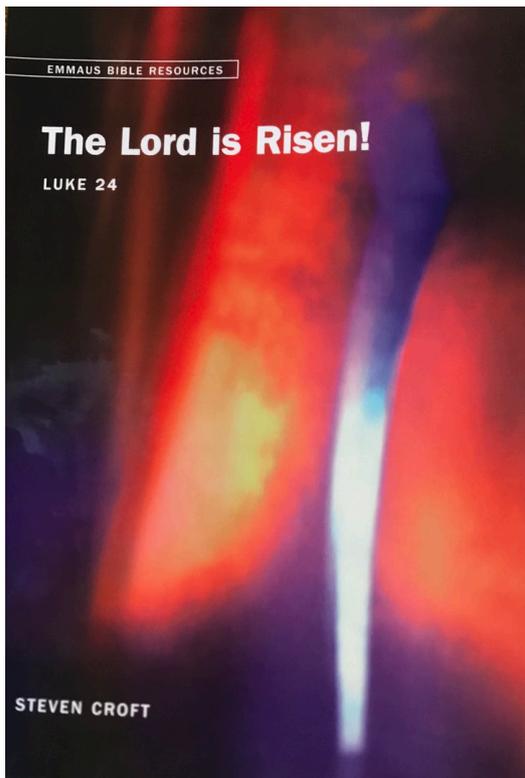
8.30am Said Holy Communion in church

10.00am Sung Holy Communion in Church. This service will be live streamed and available to join in with on our YouTube Channel 'Worship from St Thomas'. Numbers will still be restricted in compliance with current Covid19 regulations so please do contact the Parish Office to pre-book a seat.  
Contact : T. 0161 484 5079. Email: [office@mellorchurch.org](mailto:office@mellorchurch.org)

**From Pentecost Sunday we will no longer be holding 10.00am Zoom Sunday services.**

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.

The Monday Prayer Group will be meeting again from 10.30 - 11.00am in church. All are welcome to come along and join them for a half hour of quiet prayer.



*The 50 days from Easter to Pentecost are a unique period in the history of the Christian faith. **'The Lord is Risen!'** takes us on a journey through Luke that strengthens, challenges, deepens and renews our Christian discipleship.*

*'In this vivid retelling of Luke's story, the reader starts to see these encounters as a pattern for their own encounters with the risen Christ' writes Dr Bridget Nichols, Lay Chaplain to the Bishop of Ely.*

Revd Tracy Ward is inviting you to a Zoom meeting to informally explore together the life changing event of the resurrection and its impact on those first disciples and their world. Together we will share how we can relate their experience with our own today.

**Topic: Bible Study- 'The Lord Is Risen' based on Luke 24**

Time: This is a recurring meeting on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm starting the 5th May 2021.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83159650214?pwd=L2FsbEZBOWFFXV0czbCtKQlJpVUpCdz09>

Meeting ID: 831 5965 0214

Passcode: 828467

If possible please purchase a copy of the book 'The Lord Is Risen' by Steven Croft and read through the first chapter 'The First Day - Luke 24.1-12' prior to our meeting.

## Things to try this week:

### Thankfulness.

Carry around a piece of paper with you all day and make notes of things you're thankful for. See how many you can list: ten, thirty, fifty? Make a point of expressing thanks to the people you meet all day if appropriate.

Prayer response: At the end of the day use your list to express thanks to God. Read Psalm 103 and allow the words of the psalm to shape your thankfulness to God.

## try this Easter Word Search:

E B U N N I E S L J E S G J T  
K A E V I L A T U O L P E G R  
D N S C L X Z P A E V S V L L  
F B R T K R X R P L U E X E S  
V Q J O E A V S L S O M V K E  
U Q Y S Z R O C T B V C C U L  
S J S T B G V K H Q L Q O L P  
P W K A R J E E B E I D X H I  
R M W J B V U C W U W E U A C  
I S I Q O S M V S E G G S B S  
N O I T C E R R U S E R M J I  
G T K A X U Q V K T O O N D D  
Z W S Z F C V U U R T R E L S  
I D D L G H X K S I A U C P R  
B P O W Q W B S D E X F X L X

ALIVE  
BUNNIES  
CHOCOLATE  
CROSS  
DISCIPLES  
EASTER  
EGGS  
GOSPELS  
JESUS  
LOVE  
LUKE  
RESURRECTION  
SPRING  
TOMB

**Looking ahead ...**

Readings to ponder over this coming week...

1st reading: *Acts 10.44 - end*

2nd reading: *John 15. 9-17*

*All my best wishes to you and yours,*

*Revd Tracy*