

## **News from St Thomas Church: Week c/c Sunday the 23rd May 2021**



This Sunday we celebrate Pentecost when the disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Before Pentecost became a Christian festival it was already a major Jewish festival and thousands of people from all around the known world were gathered together to celebrate in Jerusalem.

Being able to travel to different countries is exciting. Can you remember being in a busy market in another country and hearing other languages being spoken? Not being able to understand the conversations going on around you can leave you sometimes feeling like your on the outside looking in though. You don't fully belong there.

Have you ever had the experience of unexpectedly hearing someone speak your mother tongue, or your local dialect? Can you remember what that felt like? The surprise? The strangely familiar words and cadences?

Is that, perhaps, one way that God speaks to you? When you feel you are being told something that somehow, and perhaps a little strangely, is not alien, not foreign, but from deep within you, “at home” in you, already in your mouth and in your heart?

As we celebrate the feast of Pentecost – the feast of the Holy Spirit, the feast of God active in the world – pause for a moment to recognise God’s activity all around you, to welcome the Holy Spirit into your life, to accept the light and the life that it brings.

Best wishes,

Tracy

## Bible readings for Sunday the 23rd May 2021

**1st reading: Acts 2.1-21**

### **The Coming of the Holy Spirit**

**2** When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. **2** And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. **3** Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. **4** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

**5** Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. **6** And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. **7** Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? **8** And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? **9** Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, **11** Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” **12** All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” **13** But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

## **Peter Addresses the Crowd**

**14** But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. **15** Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. **16** No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

**17**

‘In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams.

**18**

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
and they shall prophesy.

**19**

And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

**20**

The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,  
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

**21**

Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

**2nd reading:** *John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15*

**26** “When the Advocate[a] comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf.

**27** You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

**4** But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

### **The Work of the Spirit**

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. **5** But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ **6** But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. **7** Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate[a] will not

come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. **8** And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about [b] sin and righteousness and judgment: **9** about sin, because they do not believe in me; **10** about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; **11** about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. **12** "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. **13** When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. **14** He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. **15** All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

### **Prayer for the day**

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,  
ignite in us your holy fire;  
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,  
revive your Church with the breath of love,  
and renew the face of the earth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **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 mornings 10.00am Said Holy Communion in **the Parish Centre**.

### **Sunday Services in church:**

8.30am Said Holy Communion Service

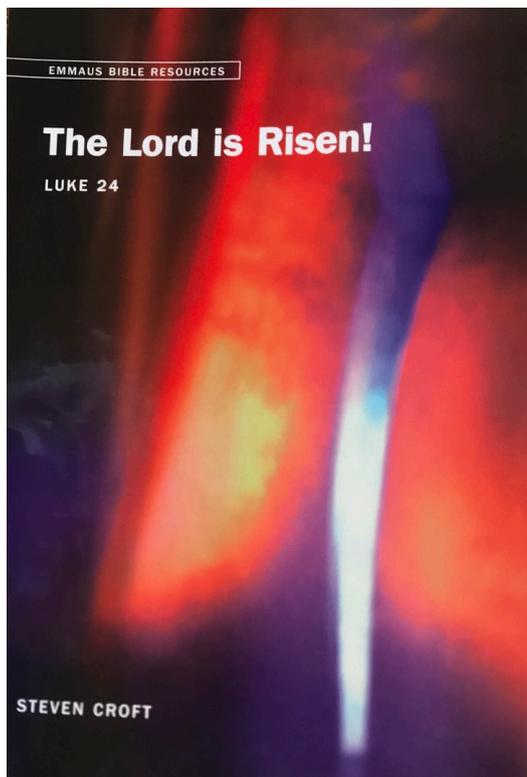
10.00am Sung Holy Communion in Church.

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 from Monday to Thursday from 9.30am - 12.00pm to pre-book a seat.  
Contact : T. 0161 484 5079. Email: [office@mellorchurch.org](mailto:office@mellorchurch.org)

**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.**

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 the parish centre. 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 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 explore how we can relate the experiences of those first disciples with our own experiences 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?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83159650214?pwd=L2FsbEZBOFFXV0czbCtKQlJpVUpCdz09)

[pwd=L2FsbEZBOFFXV0czbCtKQlJpVUpCdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83159650214?pwd=L2FsbEZBOFFXV0czbCtKQlJpVUpCdz09)

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:

When you ask people what enables them to experience God's wholeness, you'll hear a variety of answers. Over the next few weeks, I invite you to experiment with various practices and see how they feel to you. Dedicate some time each evening, maybe after dinner or at bedtime, and evaluate your experience of wholeness during each day.

**Nature.** Plan a walk, run, bike ride, drive, or some other way of having an outing outside in the natural world. Pay attention to the details of creation on your outing and all day long as you do ordinary tasks.

**Prayer response:** At the end of the day, spend some time thanking God for all the details of creation that you observed during the day.

**Read Psalm 104** and notice all the ways God sustains and nourishes the creation.

## Looking ahead ...

Readings to ponder over this coming week...

1st reading: *Isaiah 6.1-8*

2nd reading: *John 3.1-17*

*All my best wishes to you and yours,*

*Revd Tracy*