

## Reflection

It's such a delight to welcome Rosie and her family to church this morning as she is baptised. Baptism is always such a wonderful occasion, as those being baptised – or in Rosie's case, her parents and Godparents – make promises on her behalf to bring her up in the Christian faith, talk to her about Jesus and pray with her. Baptism is the first step in our Christian life.

On Thursday this week, some of you may have taken part in *On Your Feet Britain* – a national initiative inviting people to get moving and just take some small steps to being active.

When I heard about this on the news, I thought of those first steps of faith that we will be celebrating today with Rosie – the beginning of her Christian journey where we will acknowledge together that Jesus is “the way, the truth and the life.”

Most of the time, faith is quite ordinary – it's about showing kindness, forgiveness and love to our neighbours, knowing that we were loved first by God our creator and we are all made in the image of God. And then, step by step as we grow in faith, we learn more about what it is to walk in the footsteps of Christ.

This week, can I encourage you all to take one small step in your Christian journey, because you never know where it might lead. We could introduce *On Your Feet Christians!* Because the journey of faith is about growing together, one step at a time, knowing that Christ is always beside us.

*Rev Sarah*



**NEXT SUNDAY 10.05.26 Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
10.30am in the Church



OT 1 Peter 3: 13-end  
NT Acts 17: 22-31  
GOSPEL John 14: 15-21

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# St Thomas, Exeter

**3rd May 2026**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**10.30am in the Church with Holy Baptism  
followed by the APCM**

## Today

**Sung Eucharist**

*Hymn Numbers*

15 *All my hope in God is founded*

16 *All over the world*

*Baptised in water (see hymn sheet)*

405 *One more step along the world I go*

## Wednesday 6th May

**10am** Walsingham Mass

## Thursday 7th May

**No St Thomas Tots**

**No Knit & Natter**

## Friday 8th May

**9.30am** Morning Prayers

**10am** Staff Meeting

## Saturday 9th May

**9am** St Thomas Breakfast in the Sawyers. All  
welcome



## Collect

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## 1 Peter 2: 2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: 'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner', and 'A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

## Acts 7: 7-55

Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit. He looked up into heaven and could actually see God in all God's glory, and Jesus standing there, too. "Everyone, look! I am looking right into heaven it-

self and can see the Son of Man at the right hand of God!" Instead of being excited, the people who could hear him covered their ears and shouted really loudly and came at Stephen angrily. Then they dragged him out of the city and picked up rocks and began throwing them at him to kill him. They laid their coats next to the feet of a young man named Saul. Even while they were throwing rocks at him, and he knew he was going to die, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. Let me be with you." While rocks were still hitting him in the head, he got on his knees and cried as loud as he could, "Lord, don't hold this sin against these people who are killing me." And then he died.

## John 14: 1-14

Jesus said, "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God. And trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house. I would not tell you this if it were not true. I am going there to prepare a place for you. After I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back. Then I will take you to be with me so that you may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to Jesus, "Lord, we don't know where you are going. So how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way. And I am the truth and the life. The only way to the Father is through me. If you really knew me, then you would know my Father, too. But now you do know him, and you have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father. That is all we need." Jesus answered, "I have been with you a long time now. Do you still not know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father. So why do you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you don't come from me. The Father lives in me, and he is doing his own work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or believe because of the miracles I have done. I tell you the truth. He who believes in me will do the same things that I do. He will do even greater things than these be-

cause I am going to the Father. And if you ask for anything in my name, I will do it for you. Then the Father's glory will be shown through the Son. If you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it.

## Post Communion

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

## Notices

**We warmly welcome** the family and friends of Rosie Julianne Street to our service today.

**Next Thursday**, there will be no St Thomas Tots due to the hall being used as a polling station for the local elections.

**The interviews for our next Rector** will take place next Saturday 9 May, with the orientation afternoon on Friday 8 May. Please continue to pray for those who have applied, and for our Parish Representatives, Jon and Carolyn.

**Exeter Pride is on Saturday 9th May.** Christians at Pride and Open Table Exeter will be participating in the March together with banners. Open Table will have a stand at the festival in Northernhay. Do join in! Email [exeter@opentable.lgbt](mailto:exeter@opentable.lgbt) for more information.

**Thy Kingdom Come** Sunday 17th May 6pm-7.30pm In the Cathedral. Free tickets must be booked in advance through Eventbrite. See Ian for details.

**Ian**, your Churchwarden, is taking part in the Hospiscare 100 Miles in May Challenge again this year. He will be walking from Bude to Minehead on the Southwest Coast Path. He can be sponsored via <https://justgiving.com/page/ian-totterdell-4> but he is also happy to receive cash donations at services.

**If people** are interested in taking part in a sponsored walk for a good local cause, Exeter Foodbank is holding a short walk on Saturday 4th July. See Ian for details. Please continue to support Exeter Foodbank when shopping in the supermarkets.