**Collect**

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**Revelation 7: 9-end**

I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.' Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

**1 John 3: 1-3**

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

**Matthew 24: 30-35**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will receive mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.'

**Post Communion**

God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things: may we who have shared at this table as strangers and pilgrims here on earth be welcomed with all your saints to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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## Notices

**Please note** that the Knit & Natter venue has changed for next Thursday. Details on the front of this sheet.

**Sunday 8th November.** There will be the usual gathering at the memorial in the churchyard followed by a joint service here with the Methodist Church.

**Saturday 21st November 12noon to 4pm** we are hosting the St Thomas Winter Festival in the Church, Churchyard and the Hall. We will be serving inexpensive tea and coffee, selling cakes etc in the Hall. Anyone interested in volunteering for this please speak to Ian or Hannah

**Tuesday November 24th from 4pm** there will be a Crafternoon session in the Hall making Advent windows. See Liz and Hannah for details.

## Reflection

Today is All Saints' Day, the day when we especially give thanks for those heroes of the faith whose lives have inspired Christians throughout the centuries. Celebrating the feast of All Saints' began in the fourth century. At first, it was observed on the Sunday after the feast of Pentecost. In the eighth century, a pope dedicated a chapel to All Saints in St Peter's at Rome on 1 November. Within a century, this day was observed in England and Ireland as All Saints' Day.
Do you have an favourite saint? Among the 'officially' recognised saints we have prayerful mystics who inspire us to holiness. And then there are those who have made enormous sacrifices, giving up their own comfort and riches to care for the poor and needy. And then there are courageous martyrs who have proclaimed faith even in the face of death. And of course there are those saints whose stories are marked with myth and legend, but whose stories remind us that good triumphs over evil.

But perhaps your 'favourite saint' isn't among that officially recognised list. Maybe when you think about the heroes of the faith, your thoughts are closer to home. Is there a family member, friend, minister or teacher who especially encouraged you in the faith? Someone who, as you grew up, radiated those things we especially recognise in the saints - courage, kindness, prayerfulness, and trust in God?

Today is an opportunity to give thanks not only for those famous saints of history, but the ordinary quiet folks who have been saints within our own lives too.

*Rev Hannah*




**NEXT SUNDAY 08.11.26 *Remembrance Sunday***
*10.50am at the memorial and then into Church*
**OT** Wisdom of Solomon 6: 12-16
**NT** 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18
**GOSPEL** Matthew 25: 1-13

6pm Evening Sanctuary Service

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# St Thomas, Exeter

**1st November 2026**
**All Saints Day**

**Today**
**10.30am** Sung Eucharist with Baptism
Hymn Numbers
O when the saints go marching in (see sheet)
60 Bind us together
134 For all the saints
13 All hail the power of Jesus' name
**3pm** All Souls Service
**No** Evening Sanctuary Service

**Wednesday 4th November**
**10am** Walsingham Mass

**Thursday 5th November**
**9.30-11am** St Thomas Tots (in the hall)
**10.30-12noon** Knit & Natter at Anne Sturt's house

**Friday 6th November**
**9.45am** Morning Prayer
**10.15am** Staff Meeting

We pray for the family and friends of Faith Helen who is being baptised today.