Reflection for Safeguarding Sunday

As a Church, our commitment to safeguarding springs directly from our faith in a God who loves all, and our call to follow Jesus who especially cared for the vulnerable and marginalised. In that famous passage 1 Corinthians 13, St Paul writes that love: "always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." This is a reminder to us that love is not a passive endeavour, nor simply the stuff of flowery words. To love the most vulnerable in our community is to protect them from harm.

Please remember that if you ever have any safeguarding concerns, you should raise them with me or with Carolyn or Jane as our safeguarding reps. Most concerns don't lead to anything big or dramatic, but instead help us to respond appropriately and keep an eye on situations. In this way, we can all work together to make sure our church is a safe, happy and hopeful place for all.

Rev Hannah



NEXT SUNDAY 22.11.26 *Christ the King*
10.30am in the Hall
OT Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24
NT Ephesians 1: 15-end
GOSPEL Matthew 25: 31-end

6pm Evening Sanctuary Service in the church

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St Thomas, Exeter

15th November 2026
Safeguarding Sunday

Today
10.30am Sung Eucharist in the Hall
Hymn Numbers
139 For the healing of the nations
366 O God, our help in ages past
May this place be one of nurture (Sheet)
Here in this place new life is streaming (Sheet)

6pm Sanctuary Service

Wednesday 18th November
10am Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 19th November
9.30-11am St Thomas Tots (in the hall)
10.30-12noon Knit & Natter at Jenny's house

Friday 20th November
9.45am Morning Prayer
10.15am Staff Meeting

Saturday 21st November
12pm-4pm Winter Festival
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

Collect

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Micah 6: 1-8

Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.[3]"O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD." "With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

1 John 3: 16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.[9]And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Matthew 19: 13-end

Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." And he laid his hands on them and went on his way. Then someone came to him and said, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honour your father and mother; also, You shall love your neighbour as yourself."The young man said to him, "I have kept all these; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions. Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, "Then who can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible." Then Peter said in reply, "Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first

Post Communion

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

Notices

Today. Table top games evening in the Hall from 6pm

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

Sunday 6th December. **Christingl**e as part of our service.

Sunday 13th December **Carol service and tree lighting**