

## Reflection

Today, the second Sunday of Epiphany, we continue to see how God reveals himself through Jesus to those around him. Today, it's John the Baptist who testifies to who Jesus is, having witnessed the Holy Spirit descending on Jesus when he was baptised.

Last week, Bishop Mike spoke to us of the significance of our Baptism and the responsibility we have as a baptised people - how did that resonate with you?

The result of John's testimony sets off a quiet but life-changing reaction as two of his disciples then follow Jesus as he invites them to "Come and See."

This encounter changes everything. The disciples do not just hear about Jesus; they spend time with him. Through this we can see that spending time with people, building a relationship with them, comes before mission. Only after meeting Jesus and spending time with him does Andrew run to tell his brother Simon, "We have found the Messiah."

That true, life-changing encounter with Jesus naturally led the disciples to witness and tell others about Christ.

You may not think of yourself as a witness, but like John and Andrew, we are all called to help others notice Jesus standing among them. How confident are we to do this?

As a baptised people, this is our calling. Come and See, come and show, and come and share the love, peace and presence of Christ.

Blessings for a peaceful Epiphany 2.

*Revd Sarah*



**NEXT SUNDAY 25.01.26 Conversion of St Paul**

10.30am in the Hall



OT Isaiah 9: 1-4  
NT 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18  
GOSPEL Matthew 4: 12-23

### CONTACT US

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# St Thomas, Exeter

18th January 2026

Second Sunday of Epiphany

10.30am in the Hall

## Today

**Sung Eucharist**

*Hymn Numbers*

13 All hail the power of Jesu's name

428 Purify my heart

26 Alleluia, sing to Jesus

560 Will you come and follow me

## Tuesday 20th January

7.30pm House Group at Helen's house.

## Thursday 22nd January

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots

10.30-12noon Knit & Natter at Jenny Tuckett's house

## Friday 23rd January

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting

## Saturday 24th January

12.30pm Ladies Lunch at the Royal Oak



## Collect

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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**

## Isaiah 49: 1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.' But I said, 'I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God.' And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him for I am honoured in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—he says, 'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.' Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, 'Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

## 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, to-

gether with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## John 1: 29-42

The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.' The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and

followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

## Post Communion

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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## Notices

The Ladies Lunch is restarting again next Saturday at the Royal Oak. Do come and join us. All are welcome.

Can you make a cup of tea? We need you to help with the refreshments after the Sunday service. We always welcome new people willing to read lessons and/or lead intercessions. See Ian for details.

Week of Christian Unity Monday 19th – Friday 23rd January 9am—4pm at the Mint Methodist Church. Drop into the Prayer Room and pray for Exeter and its ministries.

You will know that very sadly, Matthew Murrell died just after Christmas. His funeral will be held on Wednesday 28th January at 2pm at East Devon Crematorium, Whimple, followed by a get-together at Exeter Quaker House from 4-6pm. Matthew's family extend the invitation to the funeral and wake to all members of St Thomas, please do remember them in your prayers.

## Dates for your diary

Tuesday, 27th January 2026. Church Family Bowling. 6.30pm. Please speak to Liz or Sarah for details. All welcome.

Thursday 29th January 2026 Church Community Lunch. Meeting outside the Church at 12.30pm then on to a local hostelry.