

## Reflection for 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity

Today's Gospel reading is choc-full of different incidents, coming one after another. Some show that Jesus was already, quite early in his ministry, getting known for being a healer. But there is already some opposition from the pharisees, because Jesus (and his possibly-reluctant disciples) dines at the house of Matthew; although Matthew had just been called by Jesus to be a disciple, he would still be known in his town as a tax-collector – and such people had a reputation for being collaborators with the Roman occupiers, and frequently corrupt as well.

Together, the incidents recorded here show God's nature, and that the work of bringing the Kingdom of God to our world will not be constrained by human ideas of exclusion and privilege. Unlike the pharisees (and earlier, the teachers of the Law) Jesus is willing – happy, even – to share a meal with those excluded by society; and there is no hint that he does so out of duty, instead Jesus shares God's love for all people. Later, when the woman with bleeding is healed through her faith and her encounter with Jesus, he does not treat her as the ritually-unclean outcast as the society of the time would have, but instead as a person worthy of respect. And finally, as a hint of the resurrection to come, God's power over death is shown through Jesus bringing the leader's daughter back to life.

We may look aghast at some of those excluded by the society of Jesus's time, whether by their own actions (e.g. tax-collectors) or by misfortune (the bleeding woman). But our society also excludes people for various reasons. How can we, called to carry on the task of bringing God's Kingdom to our community, learn first to see these restrictions and then to find ways to go beyond them to reach those on the edges of our society?

*Ian Totterdell, churchwarden*



**NEXT SUNDAY 14.06.26 Trinity 2**  
10.30am in the Church



OT Exodus 19: 2-8a  
NT Romans 5: 1-8  
GOSPEL Matthew 9: 35-10: 8, (9-23)

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# St Thomas, Exeter

7th June 2026

**First Sunday after Trinity**

*10.30am in the Church*

### Today

**Sung Eucharist**

*Hymn Numbers*

*266 Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult*

*135 For I'm building a people of power*

*478 The God of Abraham praise*

*560 Will you come and follow me*

### Wednesday 10th June

**10am Holy Communion (BCP)**

### Thursday 11th June

**9.30-11am St Thomas Tots**

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

### Friday 12th June

**9.30am Morning Prayers**

**10am Staff Meeting**

### Saturday 13th June

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



## Collect

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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**

## Hosea 5: 6-6

I will return again to my place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face. In their distress they will beg my favour: 'Come, let us return to the Lord; for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth.' What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets, I have killed them by the words of my mouth, and my judgement goes forth as the light. For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt-offerings.

## Romans 4: 13-end

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to

those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

## Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-26

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.' While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, 'My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.' And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disci-

ples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, 'If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.' Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, 'Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.' And instantly the woman was made well. When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute-players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, 'Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread throughout that district.

## Post Communion

Eternal Father, we thank you for nourishing us with these heavenly gifts: may our communion strengthen us in faith, build us up in hope, and make us grow in love; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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## Notices

**This week**, we welcome **the Venerable Andrew Beane** who will preach and preside at our service of Sunday worship.

**Ian**, your Churchwarden, has completed his Hospiscare 100 Miles in May Challenge this year. He wishes to thank everyone who has generously sponsored him. Today is the last chance to donate cash but his online page will remain open for several weeks. <https://justgiving.com/page/ian-totterdell-4>

**The Annual Accounts** will be presented at An Extraordinary APCM on Sunday 14th June following the Eucharist service.

**We are** intending to hold a number of **Summer Crafternoons** over the next few months. Full details to follow or speak to Liz.

We were very pleased to hear that **the Rev Hannah Alderson** has been appointed as our new Rector. Please pray for Hannah and her family as they prepare to move into our community.