

Reflection for the Third Sunday of Easter

It's great to be back among you all after a very restful week off! And this morning, I can't help reflecting that, after all the drama of Holy Week, the walk on that road to Emmaus feels surprisingly ordinary. We hear of a quiet conversation taking place on a long road between two weary disciples trying to make sense of everything that had happened. I imagine they too needed a break after everything they'd been through.

Perhaps that feeling isn't unfamiliar. After a week away, I am returning with fresh eyes and renewed energy, grateful for rest but very aware that the world, this community here in St Thomas and your church haven't stood still. The news continues, challenges remain, and people are still searching for hope and meaning in uncertain times.

And yet, the Emmaus story reminds us that Christ meets us not only in the extraordinary, but in the everyday – in our ordinary walks, talks, our sharing of fellowship and time together. It is often only when we pause that our eyes begin to open and we notice Christ among us. Even when we don't know it, recognise it, or want to acknowledge it, Christ is with us.

And so as we continue this Easter season, may we find joy in the simple, ordinary moments, and pause to recognise the risen Christ alongside us, sending us out from here with renewed hope as His disciples.

Rev Sarah



NEXT SUNDAY 26.04.26 Fourth Sunday of Easter

10.30am in the Church



OT 1 Peter 2: 19-end
NT Acts 2: 42-end
GOSPEL John 10: 1-10

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St Thomas, Exeter

19th April 2026

Third Sunday of Easter

10.30am in the Church

Today

Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

532 *We have a gospel to proclaim*

474 *The day of resurrection!*

287 *Just as I am*

563 *Ye choirs of new Jerusalem*

Tuesday 21st April

7.30pm House Group at Helen's house.

Wednesday 22nd April

2pm Young at Hearts

Thursday 23rd April

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots

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

Friday 24th April

9.30am Morning Prayers

10am Staff Meeting

Saturday 25th April

12.30pm St Thomas Lunch at the Royal Oak.
All welcome.



Collect

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; 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

1 Peter 1 17-23

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd in Jerusalem: 'Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.' Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Luke 24: 13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road,

and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Post Communion

Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Notices

Please continue to hold our search for a new rector in your prayers and pray that the Lord will be calling the right person, preparing those who are involved in the selection process to have good judgement and discernment and that the Lord will prepare us to work with our new rector when they are installed later this year.

Christianity Deanery Synod – of which we are a part – will be meeting on Tuesday 21 April. Please pray for Liz, our Deanery Synod rep who will be attending with Rev Sarah. The Diocesan Synod met in March and at that, Bishop Mike highlighted 3 things – 'Prayer works,' 'Generosity begets generosity' and 'Loved people love people.' I thought these were relevant points this Easter season to encourage us in our Christian mission.

On Thursday, we celebrate St Georges Day. While it's right to honour our saints and their goodness, this can also be a time when patriotism can become exclusionary. Please pray for those who feel oppressed and marginalised by extreme views, and that the misuse of the St George's flag and any Christian symbols or language that could be used to provoke division, does not cause harm.

Noticing Nature Walk through Pines Garden and the Wisteria arch. Saturday 2nd May at 11am. Meet at the Church Hall.

The APCM is on Sunday 3rd May after the service. There are vacancies on the PCC, Deanery Synod and for Churchwardens. Forms will be available in Church. For more information please see Jenny Thomas, Ian or Sarah.

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 for more information.