

## Reflection Conversion of Paul

Paul was likely born sometime between 5 BC & 5 AD in Tarsus, Cilicia (modern day Turkey). Right from the word go Christianity was a Missionary enterprise otherwise why does it still survive? Paul or Saul as he was originally known was that much of an avid opponent of this group of followers of Jesus, someone who had been publicly executed on trumped up charges, and yet Jesus appeared to this one man, Saul, with such compelling grace that completely transformed persecutor into the most devoted champion of this faith that he tried to exterminate. Never underestimate the influence you might have but remember it Jesus who transforms people.

*Fr Terry*



**NEXT SUNDAY 01.02.26 *Candlemas***

10.30am in the Hall



OT Malachi 3: 1-5  
NT Hebrews 2: 14-end  
GOSPEL Luke 2: 22-40

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# St Thomas, Exeter

**25th January 2026**

**Conversion of St Paul**

**10.30am in the Hall**

**Today**

**Sung Eucharist**

*Hymn Numbers*

*532 We have a gospel to proclaim*

*133 Firmly I believe and truly*

*231 I heard the voice of Jesus say*

*30 And can it be*

**Tuesday 27th January**

**6.30pm** Church family bowling

**Wednesday 28th January**

**2pm** Young at Hearts

**Thursday 29th January**

**9.30-11am** St Thomas Tots

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

**12.30pm** Church community lunch

**Friday 30th January**

**9.30am** Morning Prayer

**10am** Staff Meeting



## Collect

Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul: grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your 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**

## Jeremiah 1: 4-10

The word of the Lord came to me saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.' Then I said, 'Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.' But the Lord said to me, 'Do not say, "I am only a boy"; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.' Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, 'Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.'

## Acts 9: 1-22

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' The

Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.' All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?' Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

## Matthew 19: 27-30

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

Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame,

filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: by the power of the same Spirit strengthen us to witness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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## Notices

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.

**Please note that the time of Matthew Murrell's funeral has changed from 2pm to 3pm on Wednesday 28th January 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.

Last chance to sign up for Bowling night on Tues 27th Jan at 18.30 at the alley by the Quay! £3 per person, whether adult or child but you can also just come along to mingle without bowling, even if it will be a little noisy. Please let Liz or Sarah know by 12pm on Sunday 25th Jan if you want to bowl and if you need help with transport.

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

All clergy in this Deanery (Christianity Deanery) will be meeting this Tuesday at our Deanery Chapter to discuss our local mission and ministry, address any practical issues and support one another in prayer and fellowship. Your prayers for your clergy are most welcomed and appreciated.

Would you like to know more about what goes on in our Diocese and wider church? If so, do subscribe to the weekly newsletter Roots and Shoots, available through the Diocesan website. This week, Bishop Mike has announced that Exeter Diocese has been successful in our bid for funding to support Mission and Ministry in the Diocese as part of the Pray – Grow – Serve 2035 Plan. Do have a look on the Diocesan website for more information or speak to Rev Sarah.