

Reflection

Today, we are delighted to welcome Bishop Mike who will preside and preach at our service on this Sunday where we traditionally remember the Baptism of Christ.

We will hear of Jesus coming to the Jordan “to fulfil all righteousness,” as he steps into the river to be baptised by John in humility and obedience. The Holy Spirit descends and God’s voice names Jesus as the beloved Son. In our reading from Acts, we hear how Peter recalls that beginning, and how that anointing shaped everything that followed – Jesus’ ministry of healing, his death and resurrection. What began in those clear waters of the River Jordan then transmitted out to the whole world – everyone was given the responsibility “to preach to the people and to testify that Jesus is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.”

As we welcome our Bishop Mike today, we are reminded that through our baptism, we are all drawn into this shared life and mission – we all share the responsibility to tell others about Jesus no matter how good or not we think we may be at it! Baptism is not just something that may have happened when we were younger, but it’s a calling – a calling to be a witness to God’s love, to God’s grace and to God’s forgiveness and we seek God’s peace in this community. Today, we can step out in the power of the Holy Spirit to walk together in faithful obedience, trusting in the guidance of God to lead us onward, as we seek God’s plans for us as a community here in St Thomas in this new year. I pray that we may all be witnesses in this place.

Rev Sarah



NEXT SUNDAY 18.01.26 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

10.30am in the Hall



OT Isaiah 49: 1-7
NT 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9
GOSPEL John 1: 29-42

CONTACT US

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St Thomas, Exeter

11th January 2026

Baptism of Christ

10.30am in the Hall

Today

Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

103 Crown him with many crowns

570 You are the King of Glory

401 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

296 Let all the World in Every Corner Sing

Tuesday 13th January

7.30pm House Group at Helen's house.

Thursday 15th January

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots

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

Friday 16th January

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting

Saturday 17th January

9am Men's breakfast in the Sawyers



Collect

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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 42: 1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Acts 10: 34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread

throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Matthew 3: 13-end

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

Post Communion

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Notices

The House Group Advent Course. Has started

again with the last sessions of our Advent Course. See Ian for details.

Happy New Year to everyone at St Thomas Church as we begin 2026 sure of the presence of God Emmanuel, Christ with us.

A reminder to you all that our church is open Monday -Friday from 10-3 as a quiet space of rest of for private prayer. We would like to extend our church opening to weekends too at a time when this is needed, but to do this, we need people to open and lock up. If this is something you could do – even just once a month – please speak to Sarah.

This morning, we are delighted to welcome Bishop Mike, our Diocesan Bishop of Exeter, who will preach and preside at our service. Welcome Bishop Mike!

Next Tuesday 13 January, there is an information evening at Belmont Church for Safe Families for Good, a UK Christian charity that supports struggling families by connecting them with volunteers for friendship and support, preventing crises that might lead to children entering the care system. I will be going and would love to take a group from St Thomas – there is an immediate need in our community for this support. If this is something you would like to know more about, please contact Rev Sarah and find out more at www.safefamilies.uk.

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.

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.