

## Reflection: Easter 6

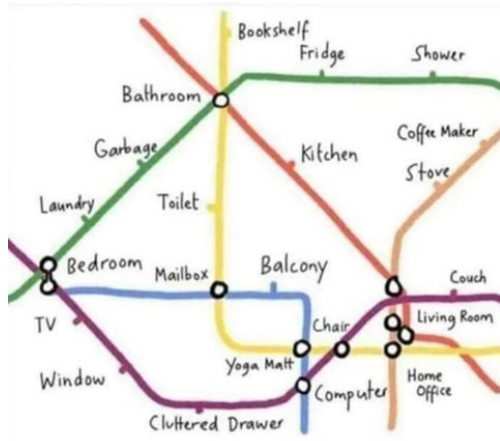
This cartoon caught my eye this week. It is designed to look like the London Underground map with its brightly coloured lines and famous London landmarks, but instead this map is labelled 'chair', 'window', 'TV'. For many of us, these are our current destinations, and my sense is that many of us are starting to get a bit restless. It's worth taking a moment to reflect on what you are missing most, and also what you are hoping for, dreaming of, once the lockdown restrictions start to be eased.

In the epistle, St Peter writes to people who face struggles, although of a different kind, and he is very direct with them. 'You are blessed,' he tells them. You are saved through baptism by the resurrection of Christ, who has angels, authorities and powers under his authority. Share the hope that is in you with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear.

Peter is not denying the struggles they face. We will all face hardship and trials. There will be days of sorrow as well as days of joy. Yet, as we heard last week, we are followers of Christ who is The Way, the Truth and the Life.

Our physical journeys may only be to the kitchen and back, but our journey through eternity is as beloved children of God.  
*Revd Sarah*

Looking at the map for some weekend travel ideas.



Even if you cannot join the service by telephone on Sunday, it would be good to try to say our prayers in some form **at 10.30** that morning, and to be intentionally holding each other up to God, and praying for the wider community of St Thomas.

### NEXT SUNDAY 24th May 2020

**SERVICES** Public worship suspended



#### READINGS

(NT): Acts 1.6-14

NT: 1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11

GOSPEL: John 17.1-11

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# St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 17th May 2020

## Easter 6

So we tried the telephone service on 10 May and while there were a few technical issues, the overall response was good, and that you appreciated hearing each other in worship even if not seeing one another. The best bit for me was the 'chaos' of the Our Father together—a sort of holy cacophony!

Therefore this **service by telephone** will happen again this week: if you want to take part, **please ring 0330 606 0403** with the same **access code 1118606**. To allow for difficulties connecting, we can start this access at 10.15 on Sunday. If you get 'number unobtainable' **please keep trying**. Revd Sarah will manage our calls.

We will use the same Order of Service as last week, with the Easter 6 readings from the pewsheet and a brief talk about the Gospel. Some people will be asked in advance to read or do intercessions. These are not the same as on the regular rota.

**Community Larder** Thank you for continuing donations to St Thomas Church Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10-12.  
*Fr David*



## Collect

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## Acts 17.22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring." Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

## 1 Peter 3.13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is

right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for<sup>e</sup> a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

## John 14.15-21

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

## Post-Communion Prayer

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

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## NOTICES

### Church of England coronavirus prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love, for your name's sake. **Amen.**

*I found this prayer pinned to the noticeboard in Cowick Street. It relates to the VE Day celebration last week, but is appropriate in this pandemic:*

Let us breathe the air of those who have gone; let the air be full of memories, and the memories be full of joy. Let the joy give strength to our bodies and our bodies carry us forward. Let us share what we have, understand those around us, and make memories for others. In Jesus' name. **Amen**

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**Message from Mary Daunton:** "I would like to put on record and I am sure I speak for the whole congregation, very grateful thanks to the 'team' who put the pewsheet and other information together every week. Life would be a lot easier for 'them' if we were all on the internet, we are not, and the time and effort being put in for us postal brigade is our 'life line' to keep us all in contact. Thank you for your tremendous work.

Thank you. We have tried to keep a level playing field between those who have internet access and those who don't. We do not want two classes of people at St Thomas: the Church is not like a train, aircraft or theatre!