

## Reflection: Easter 7

### Acts 1:6-14

For those who can't live without excitement this "lockdown" must be so frustrating. Even for those who don't "need" that constant buzz, it can be much the same. The Reading from Acts relates to us how the Disciples found themselves in this kind of situation, having to simply wait for Christ's promise to them to come true. Living between times, living between occasions in which our minds and hearts and energy are absorbed in significant matters, can in fact be quite wonderful, a pause that refreshes. We need those periods of waiting, periods in which we can be changed, refreshed, renewed, otherwise we burn out. Isaiah 40:31 "Those who wait for the Lord will renew their strength, they WILL mount up on wings like eagles, they WILL run and not be weary, they SHALL walk and not faint." Not might or maybe but will run and shall walk. Trust in the Lord who is our strength and Redeemer.

Fr Terry



Even if you cannot join the service by telephone or video 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 31st May 2020 PENTECOST**

**SERVICES** Public worship suspended



#### READINGS

(NT): Acts 2.1-21

NT: 1 Corinthians 12.3b-13

GOSPEL: John 20.19-23

#### CONTACT US

**Fr. David Nixon** 01392 667192. Day off: Mondays  
rev.dave@virgin.net

**Revd. Sarah Cumming** 07543604115  
rev.sarahcumming@gmail.com

**Revd. Dr. Eliza Getman** reveliza@gmail.com

**Phil Baker**, Reader 07970 216740  
lionelbaker@outlook.com

**Revd Terry Litherland** 07594633195  
tlitherland36@gmail.com

**Ian Totterdell** Churchwarden 01392 848674  
07961621001  
ian.totterdell@cantab.net

**Email:** parishoffice@stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk

**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/sttexeter

**Website:** www.stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk

**Twitter:** @sttexeter

**Office Tel:** 01392 437486 Thurs mornings (suspended)



# St Thomas, Exeter

**Sunday 24th May 2020**

**Easter 7**

**(Sunday after Ascension)**

Last week, I was told the St Thomas churches were feeding around 100 people per week via the **Community Larder**. Thank you for continuing to donate. Drop-off remains the same: Tuesday & Thursday in the Hall, 10-12. And thank you to Ian and the two young people from Riverside who are enabling this.

We've had two successful weeks of using a phone-only service to **pray together** on Sunday mornings, though I know as one of the people who was 'thrown off' the line, it is not always technically perfect. This week, we're going to try a phone and video service. Those who have the internet will be given a link to open up the video part, those who have a phone are asked to ring one of these numbers: 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196 from 10.15. These are chargeable numbers outside a package. The meeting number is 899 0403 2223 and the access code/password 806191. We will be using the same service format as previously with the readings from this sheet.

*Fr David*



## Collect

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

## Acts 1.6-14

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

## 1 Peter 4.12-14;5.6-11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit

of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

## John 17.1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.

Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

## Post-Communion Prayer

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.**

**The Church of England's Daily Hope** phone line offers hymns, prayers and reflections 24 hrs a day whilst churches are closed. It is particularly aimed at those who are unable to join online services.



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† Please join with me to pray for the repose of the souls of **Bob Mounce** and **Daphne King**. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. Pray also for their families and friends.