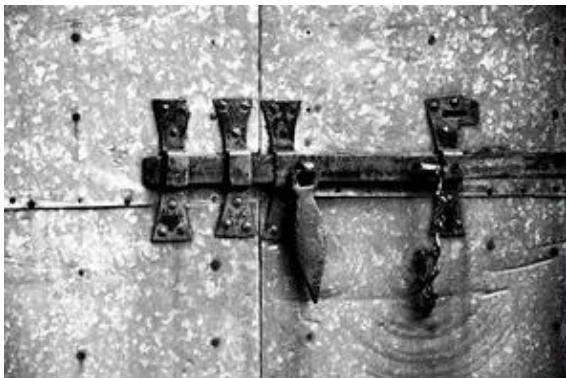


Reflection for Easter 2 John 20 19-end

One of the joys of preaching is the way in which it requires you to focus on a text. It is not uncommon to find a phrase or idea which was completely unnoticed before. The practice of Lectio Divina encourages a four-step approach to reading scripture: to read; meditate; pray; contemplate; to study the text not simply as an academic exercise, although that is valuable, but as a living word.

If you read today's gospel reading in this way, what do you notice? Take a moment to imagine yourself in the locked room. How does it feel to hear the turning of the key in the lock behind you? What do you notice in the fear of the disciples? When Jesus enters the room, what might you experience? These are the first words which Jesus speaks to his closest friends after the resurrection; what stands out? Next look at the words spoken by Thomas. Perhaps you could highlight them and consider how an encounter with the risen Jesus changes his perception. How might it change yours?
Revd Sarah



Codes for the Zoom worship at 10.30

These are codes for Sundays from 11.04.21 until the end of June

Meeting ID: 843 1587 4178

Passcode: 180903

Telephone numbers (as previously) 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

NEXT SUNDAY 18.04.2021 3rd Sunday of Easter

SERVICES 10.30am by Zoom, 12 noon in Church



READINGS

OT Acts 3: 12-19
NT 1 John 3: 1-7
Gospel Luke 25: 36b-48

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St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 11th April 2021

2nd Sunday of Easter

**10.30 by Zoom (phone-in available)
12 noon Mass in Church**

Many thanks to all those people who made Holy Week and Easter possible, and to everybody who volunteered to take part in different services via Zoom: this is something we definitely don't want to lose in the future, so some reflection on how we continue this might be helpful.

Note that we have **new Zoom codes** for Sunday worship, given in the box on the left, with a link also to be sent by email. We are keeping an active eye on what is possible in terms of worship and meeting, and how best to react to it.

As we continue to celebrate the resurrection, do continue to say **Happy Easter!** People may look at us a bit strangely but it's a reminder that the Easter Season goes on for fifty days—more excuses for continuing with chocolate too!

Fr David



Collect

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Acts 4: 32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

1 John 1.1-2.2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we

have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

John 20: 19-end

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Post Communion

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

NOTICES

Knit and Natter Update for April 2021

We shall hope to meet in the park as last year. This looks like being after Easter when we hope the weather will be warm and dry! Meanwhile, we continue our Zoom meetings on Thursdays 11.15am to 11.55am thanks to Vanessa. All details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

Annual Meeting Sunday 16 May by Zoom, talk in Church.

Community Larder The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays only** from 10am-12noon, and is allowed to continue operating during the period of lockdown. The collecting point is in the Church Hall. Judith Southam has **home-made chutneys and marmalade for sale** The jars are labelled with a full list of ingredients. All proceeds will be given to the Community Larder. Please continue to be generous.

House Group. Tuesday evenings. Please contact Ian Totterdell for Zoom details.

Electoral Roll revision Carolyn Bryant is revising the roll this year in advance of the APCM. Because of the current restrictions, we will assume that folk wish to continue on the roll unless they specifically tell us otherwise. If you are not on the roll and wish to be, contact the Parish Office by email or phone, Fr David or Ian Totterdell.

200 Club If you would like to join the 200 Club please see Andrew Withers.

A Huge thank you to the Rector and his team for providing for us all the services during Holy Week and Easter Day. All provided under very difficult circumstances.

