

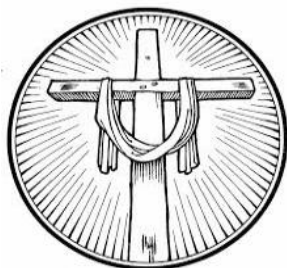
Reflection for Easter 6

By Ian Totterdell, churchwarden

“It’s the economy, stupid” became the de facto slogan for Bill Clinton’s successful campaign to become US President in 1992. His campaign team were to ignore all side-issues and concentrate on what was most important to the voters at that time of economic recession. And maybe the Covid-19 pandemic has led us to consider what we need to concentrate on in our lives, what is most important to us.

This morning’s readings contrast the simplicity of Jesus’s commandments and the requirements of the Jewish Law. “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you” says Jesus. In Acts the Holy Spirit falls on the Roman Centurion Cornelius and all his household as soon as they believe in Jesus, who Peter had just been telling them about; they haven’t gone through any rituals to become Jews or prepare for baptism, they have just responded to the news of Jesus’s sacrifice with faith and love.

John writes that God’s commandments are not burdensome, and indeed obeying them can bring us great satisfaction and joy as we show our love for God and our brothers and sisters. How will you bear fruit for God this week?



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 16.05.2021 7th Sunday of Easter

SERVICES 10am by Zoom, 12 noon in Church



READINGS

OT Acts 1: 15-17, 21-end
NT 1 John 5: 9-13
Gospel John 17: 6-19

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St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 9th May 2021

6th Sunday of Easter

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

Ascension Day is on Thursday 13 May. There will be a Mass in Church at 7pm.

Please note the early time for the Zoom service on **16/5 at 10 o'clock** to allow for the APCM to follow.

The period from Ascension to Pentecost has recently focussed on the project **Thy Kingdom Come**. We are distributing hard copies of a workbook consisting of Bible readings, reflections, prayers and a space for your own writing. Please do use these if they are helpful—you will be part of a global movement. More online info at <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

Here are the **4 Rs** to think about in case you missed them last week

RETURN: what are you looking forward to once lockdown ends?

RETAIN: what do you want to keep from your experience of worship and parish life during lockdown?

RESIST: what don't you want to return to doing?

RENEWAL: what is your hope for the future?

Fr David



Collect

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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**

Acts 10: 44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptising these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' So he ordered them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

1 John 5: 1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood.

And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

John 15: 9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Post Communion

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**

NOTICES

Knit and Natter Update for May 2021

We are still in agreement that these cold east winds are preventing us meeting in the park. We are keeping a close eye on The Roadmap and will

see how we may meet after 17th May. In the meanwhile, we shall continue with the regular Thursday Zoom, from 11.15am to 11.55am, to which all are welcome. All details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

Annual Meeting Sunday 16 May at 10.30am after the service, by Zoom, talk in Church.

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

Community Larder The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays only** from 10am-12noon. The collecting point is in the Church Hall. Judith Southam has **homemade chutneys 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.

The winner of the 'Easter Joy' photography competition was Karen Williams, who has selected the Royal British Legion as her chosen charity. The U14s prize was won by Seren Woodland.

200 Club If you would like to join the 200 Club please see Andrew Withers. The draw recently took place and the winners are:

January: Helena Withers & Dan Wright
February: Ian Totterdell & Christine Sturman
March: Nigel Byott & Trevor Smith
April: June Farmer & Phil Baker

Mary would like to say a big thank you for all the cards, flowers and words of condolence received in memory of Chris. Beautiful funeral service which we were so lucky to be able to have. God bless you all.

