

St. Mary's, Stoke D'Abernon  
Second Sunday of Easter

all the  
BELIEVERS  
WERE OF  
one heart  
and mind  
and they  
shared  
EVERYTHING  
they had

April 11th 2021

# A Message from Godfrey

It is Easter evening, the first day of the week, the day of the resurrection, the day they saw the empty tomb, the day Mary Magdalene announced, "I have seen the Lord." The disciples are gathered in the house, the doors are locked with fear. A week later they are in the same place. It is the same house, the same walls, the same closed doors, the same locks. Nothing much has changed.

Jesus' tomb is open and empty, he is loose in the world but the disciples' house is closed and the doors locked tight. The house has become their tomb. Jesus is on the loose and the disciples are bound in fear. One of their number is not there when Jesus appeared to them. Thomas was not there, we are not told why he was not there or where he was, he was not there when Jesus came amongst them and greeted them by saying, "Peace be with you."

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

It could be argued that this was the beginning of the Church as we know it because Jesus was giving them quite explicit instructions. His breathing of the Holy Spirit can be seen as a direct commissioning for them to go and forgive sins, to carry on the teachings of Jesus.

On his return, Thomas was told that Jesus had appeared to them but he found this difficult to believe,

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."

I have a certain sympathy for Thomas and I think he has been badly labelled by history as Doubting Thomas. I wonder how would we have reacted if we had been placed in the position that Thomas found himself? We do not really know much about the Twelve apart from Peter, John and Judas who feature quite often but Thomas appears three times, this being the final gospel mention, and sadly the one that has been his legacy for eternity.

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> 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." Jesus had invited Thomas to place his fingers into the wounds on his hands and his side. The gospel does not say if he did but only that his response to seeing Jesus was to proclaim one of the great sayings of Easter, "My Lord and my God!".

Perhaps, as part of the idea that these post Resurrection appearances are the beginnings of the Church as we know it, that there is a reminder about faith in the words that followed and a reminder for the Church as to its real purpose today is to search out those who "have not seen and yet have come to believe."

We must be seen as a church that helps all to come to believe, who can help bring people to declare the words of Thomas who should be known, in my opinion as Thomas the Proclaimer who was able to proclaim, "My Lord and my God."

That should be the question that is on our lips this morning as we meet to review and plan for the future. How do we become a Church that encourages others to come along and proclaim with us those wonderful and inspiring words, "My Lord and my God."

Thoughts and prayers,

Godfrey

# Bible References 11<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Year B	Psalm	First reading	Second reading
<b>Second Sunday pf Easter</b> April 11 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 133	Acts 4 : 32 - 35	John 20 : 19 - end
<b>Monday</b> April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 2 : 1-9	Acts 4 : 23 - 31	John 3 : 1-8
<b>Tuesday</b> April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 93	Acts 4 : 32 - end	John 3 : 7 - 15
<b>Wednesday</b> April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 34 : 1-8	Acts 5 : 17 - 26	John 3 : 16 - 21
<b>Thursday</b> April 15 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 34 : 1, 15 - end	Acts 5 : 27 - 33	John 3 : 31 - end
<b>Friday</b> April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 27 : 1-5, 16-17	Acts 5 : 34 - 42	John 6 : 1-15
<b>Saturday</b> April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 33 : 1-5, 18-19	Acts 6 : 1-7	John 6 : 16 - 21

**Hyperlinks to Guildford Cathedral Services :**

<https://www.guildford-cathedral.org/worship/services>

St Mary's, Thorpe website :

<https://www.stmaryschurchthorpe.co.uk/>

## Collect 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021

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**



# Parish Notices

## Sunday Services at St. Mary's

We are delighted to announce the resumption of services of communal worship at St. Mary's starting on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April. Services will take a similar form to those practiced before the latest lockdown.

A single Said Communion service will be held on Sunday mornings starting at 10:00am. Communion will be in one kind and offered at the Chancel steps. Initially, the services will be without musical accompaniment or hymn singing. This situation will be reviewed in line with Government regulations and Diocesan guidance. Strict social distancing measures will continue to be observed. The maximum number of worshippers admitted will depend on family groupings but is expected to be of the order of 35-40. Duty Wardens and Sidesmen will be on hand to assist with seating arrangements.

**In support of the Government's Test and Trace programme, worshippers will again be required to pre -register their attendance and give a contact telephone number to a Duty Warden on arrival.** Service attendance records will be retained for 21 days and then be destroyed.

In order to assist us in observing social distancing guidelines and avoid the potential disappointment of being refused entry we ask all worshippers who wish to attend on successive Sundays to notify the Parish office **each week**, either by telephone on 01932 866005 or by email at:

[admin@stmarysstokedabernon.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarysstokedabernon.org.uk)

## Revision to opening Hours for Private Prayer

With the re start of communal worship, St. Mary's will remain open until 2pm on Sundays for private prayer. The church will no longer be opened on Thursdays. Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April will be the last weekday that the church is opened for private prayer.

## **Hall Opening**

We are again taking provisional hall bookings for events, consistent with Government guidelines, from 17<sup>th</sup> May. Please contact Polly with your enquiries about hall availability for private or group functions admin@stmarysstokedabernon.org.uk or Tel. 01932 866005

## **Parish Communications**

The weekly Parish leaflet will continue and be issued on regular email distribution to those on the electoral role and others who have specifically requested it. Similarly, the St Mary's website will be updated as appropriate to advise of any changes to services or other significant news.

The St Mary's Chat WhatsApp Group will continue to allow people to share their prayers and thoughts and for Godfrey to post his personal messages.

## **APCM**

This year's APCM will again be held via zoom on Sunday 18th April at 11.30am. (following the Sunday service).

Zoom details:

Topic: St Mary's Church Stoke d'Abernon APCM 2021 Time: Apr 18, 2021 11:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82737902255?pwd=TG1aWFNRC25YbEFFRitxTlZlc05hdz09>

Meeting ID: 827 3790 2255 Passcode: 486475



If you are struggling with loneliness and need someone to talk to, or would like help with groceries or anything else, please don't hesitate to call Polly in the Parish Office on 01932 866005 in the first instance.

## **Chair Yoga will continue on zoom**

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckcO-trzljEtGrmiE7-BsHIGkmVpnJCXR>

(If you cut and paste this into your browser it will automatically link you)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Meeting ID; 858 5729 6019      Passcode: 35 44 47

# Hey! Don't forget the ...

Here is the list of items most needed for our Foodbank. Please can you help us by buying an item and putting it in one of our collecting bins? Thank you for your help.

## **URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS**

- **Sponge puddings**
- **Pasta sauce**
- **Tinned vegetables (not sweetcorn, tomatoes or pulses please)**
- **Tinned meat**
- **Razors for men**
- **Shampoo**

