

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus

Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Thomas the Apostle (Trinity 3)
3rd July 2022



Most people are familiar with the phrase 'Doubting Thomas', but what do we really know about Thomas, whose feast day we celebrate this Sunday? The Bible doesn't give us very much to go on. We are told that he was nicknamed 'The Twin', but we don't know whose twin he was. And we have no idea what he did before Jesus called him to be one of his disciples. Everything we know about Thomas' character is found in John's Gospel, where he comes across as being fiercely loyal, willing to take risks and unafraid to ask difficult questions in his quest to find the truth. We don't know why he was absent when Jesus first appeared to the disciples following his resurrection, and the following week must have been long and agonising for him, unable to share in the renewed faith that the other disciples were displaying. On seeing Jesus, however, he falls at his feet and utters the greatest testimony of Christ's divinity found in holy Scripture, "My Lord and my God."

According to Church tradition, Thomas took the good news to Babylon, Persia and finally to India where he died a martyr and was buried in Mylapore on the East coast. Ultimately, his remains were transported to Ortona, Italy, where they reside today.

Jane & Brian

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Thomas the Apostle (Trinity 3) (3rd July 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Readers: Anthony Van der Willigen & Gerry Larnar

9.45 The Parish Eucharist *(in church and online)*

Reader: Wendy Bloomer; Intercessor: James Sanders

Hymns: 6, 790, 766, 822, 631

11.15 Family Praise

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (C. Worship)

Readings: Hosea 10: 1-3, 7-8, 12: Matthew 10: 1-7

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) *Readings: Hosea 11: 1, 3-4, 8-9; Matthew 10: 7-15*

Friday: 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) *Readings: Third Sunday after Trinity*

Next Sunday: Fourth Sunday after Trinity (10th July 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church and online)*

6.00 Choral Evensong *(in church and online)*

For services live on Zoom: Click the blue link on the front page of the church website

The Collect for Third Sunday after Trinity

God our saviour,
look on this wounded world
in pity and in power;
hold us fast to your promises of peace
won for us by your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and
for ever. Amen

The Post Communion Prayer:

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining
and whose power we cannot comprehend:
show us your glory as far as we can grasp it,
and shield us from knowing
more than we can bear
until we may look upon you without fear;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

Habakkuk 2: 1-4

I will stand at my watch-post, and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me, and what he will answer concerning my complaint.
Then the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it.

For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay.

Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith.

Ephesians 2: 19-end

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

John 20: 24-29

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.'

A thought Thomas the Apostle: John 20.24-29 (Sunday 3rd)

The Apostles remembered Jesus saying, Do this in remembrance of me. We gather to share in that story. For us, it is a remembrance of the story handed down from the Apostles to us and we continue to share in the presence of Jesus through the Eucharist. How that happens is a mystery, but in that mystery lies the powerful sense of belonging that draws us back here each week.

This image of the community gathered in prayer for strength and to keep the story alive is a very important one for all of us in the church today.

But we should also learn from Thomas' story that, as a community, we have the responsibility to share the story we've been told and to be a strength to each other and to those around us. We do this all week long, wherever we are, by living faithful lives.

We realize also that it's in the Eucharist that we find the strength to do all this. As we live this out and praying that we see ourselves getting stronger and stronger 'in Christ'.

It's OK to question as Thomas did; that this (our worshipping community) is the place where everyone has gifts and are appreciated; this is a place where all are welcomed, this is the place where we can disclose our 'real selves' and receive God's grace.

Remember, Jesus says to all of us, 'Blest are those who have not seen, but believe'.

A prayer for this time of anxiety:

**God of all compassion, your love never fails.
Help us to listen to the tranquillity
of your presence within our lives,
so that we may grow in the knowledge
that your Son, Jesus Christ, walks beside us,
and your Holy Spirit comforts us
at the heart of our being;
for you are One God,
world without end. Amen**

Please remember those for whom we pray:

Immediate need: Barbara Booth, John Bernardi (priest), Paul Simpson, Martin Packham, Val Thompson, Ralph Wilkins, Martin Simmonds, Becky Parker, George Snashall

Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Joshua and Reggie, Wendy, Ann Went, Julie Sadler, Christopher, Wendy Hibling, Yvonne Godsmark, Carla Spear, Pam Sagar, Eileen Knight, Maureen Griffiths, Carol Cox,

Those in Care Homes: Alan Prebble, Jill Rockey, Jean Simmons, Mary Watts, Ruth Baker, Keith Thompson, Rosemary Pardey, Janet Card

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Betty Woods, Andrew Thurgood, Judith Wood, Wayne Debnam

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 3rd Luke Morris, Peter Marshall, 4th Walter Horn, Kathleen James, Jose Brown, 5th Edna Liddell, Patricia Bullen, Betty Cripps, Diana Jennings, 6th Martha Dutton, Evelyn Graydon, 7th Elisabeth Dunnett, 8th Kenneth Kleinwort, 9th Brian Page