

St Matthias & St George Parish Church.
A member of "Christ the King" team ministry.
Week commencing Sunday April 11th 2021, 2nd Sunday of Easter

But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2 v 1-2

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Good and Safe practice for Services in Church

As we return to church it is important to note that there will be measures in place to keep everyone safe. These include:

- * Letting Glenn know, before Sunday, if you intend to come on Sunday to worship
 - * Maintaining the 2 metre Social Distance
 - * Leaving Church immediately after the service has finished
 - * Wearing a mask at all times
 - * Keeping conversation to a minimum
- Churches have been allowed to remain open and it is our responsibility to follow the measures in place at the moment.

Please note - additional online services.

As well as the 4pm Eucharist in church, Fr Glenn will continue to stream Sunday Evening Prayer at 6pm on our Facebook page.

- Mthr Victoria continues to offer Compline on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday at 9pm. Just press ctrl+ and click on the following link

<https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/church-online/weekly-online-services>

- You can also watch Rev Ruth Wilson offer **Evening Prayer from the Methodist Manse at 5.00 pm on Mondays.** Just click Control + [here](#) to view

Weekday services will resume this week as follows:

Tuesday 10 am Astwood Bank –**Traditional Language**

Wednesday 10 am the Bridge Hall

Thursday 10 am St Peter's, Crabbs Cross.

We pray for those who are sick: Philippa, Rosie, Alex, Jean, Margaret Emms, Marion, Alexei, Dora, Margaret Savage, Nesta, Heather, Carol, Carla, Carole, Tim, Jon & Naomi, Pastor Robin Baker, Colin, Steven, Margaret Andrew, Brian.

We pray for the soul of **Hazel Richards** whose funeral was held last Thursday and hold Brian and his family in our prayers.

Prayer Chain: If you have someone you wish to be prayed for, please contact Pauline Jones on 892650 who will then contact other members of the Prayer Group.

Churches Together in Redditch (CTiR): During April, CTiR is asking us to pray for Ipsley Parish Churches Together which comprises – St Peter's Ipsley; St John's, Greenlands and Christchurch, Matchborough. (<https://ipsley.org>).

They give thanks for • Worship on-line and in-church • The different opportunities to meet with God over the past year. During April please pray for • *Those affected by COVID who continue to be ill* • *Those whose work is uncertain* • *Those who are going hungry* • *The safe roll-out of COVID injections for all* • *The safe easing of restrictions across Redditch* • *Learning from our experiences during the past year* • *Wisdom and discernment as we explore "what next" and seek new outreach and mission opportunities* • *Leaders old and new seeking God's will together* • *The safe opening of our churches* • *New and old ministry opportunities* • *Sarah as she prepares to move to Matchborough as Community Missioner* • *Youth leaders and young people as they grow in their discipleship*

St Thomas: 'Today we hear in the Gospel reading about St Thomas, apostle and martyr of the faith, but possibly remembered most for having 'doubted' Christ's resurrection until Jesus shows him his wounds, whereupon Thomas cries "My Lord and my God".

When we have our own doubts – about God, about God's love, about God loving us, even about God's existence, we can remember Thomas, and take courage. We can even pray to Thomas, that God may help us with our doubts. And of course even Jesus – the human Jesus – had his doubts. Remember the garden of Gethsemane? What were Jesus' words? "My father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me....".

And the cup of suffering that Jesus knew lay ahead of him was betrayal and an unjust trial and death by crucifixion. And what was his agonised cry of dereliction from the cross as recorded in Mark? "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

These words spoken by Jesus in Gethsemane and on the cross could not have been uttered unless he had doubts – doubts in God's will for his life, and doubts in God's abiding, faithful presence. But although assailed by doubts at these times of extremity, Jesus did not let the doubts prevail. He won through to a place of renewed faith and trust. So it's normal and ok to have doubts. It is all part of being human. And it is important that we acknowledge our doubts, because it is only when we acknowledge them that we can be on the road to overcoming them.'

Taken from a homily by The Revd Sister Margaret Anne McAlister.

Thomas, also called "Didymus" meaning "the twin" is mentioned in all four gospels. He impulsively offered to die with Jesus on the way to Bethany, but was dubious about where Jesus was going and the way there.

A prayer notice board is available for requests at the rear of the church. Please write on it prayers for those who are sick or who need our prayer support for any reason.

Sunday Stars: The new **April** letter from Irene is now available online. Please make sure any young people you know are aware of this.

Please give notices for inclusion in next week's Spotlight to **Richard Porteous** by next Thursday on 01527 542620 or at richardporteous@yahoo.co.uk
Log onto our website for more information
www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk

His questioning elicited from Jesus the famous saying, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life".

Tradition tells us that Thomas went to India to preach the gospel. He was martyred by a spear or lance and buried at Mylapore, near Madras. As many as 46 ancient churches in England were dedicated to him. His feast used to be kept in the West on 21st December. But in the Syrian churches and in Malabar 3rd July was believed to be the date of his death in the year 72. This date is kept as his feast day in the Roman Catholic Church and by some Anglican churches, though generally his feast day in the Anglican Church is December 21st.