

Parish of St. Thomas, Apostle & Martyr, Ipswich

26th September 2021—Harvest Festival

Collect:

Creator God, you made the goodness of the land, the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons; as we thank you for the harvest, may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A reading from the Book of Joel (2:21-27)

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things!

Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before.

The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (6:25-33)

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

This is the gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Notices:

Harvest Festival: We are donating food to FIND and also the local Women's Refuge. **For this final week, we ask you to bring toiletries for men, women and children.**

Not only are we collecting food for harvest we are also collecting for **TWAM**, who do amazing work sending tools around the world where they will have a second life and help change the world. If you have anything you would like to donate, please bring it to our Harvest service.

Macmillan Coffee Morning: 30th September, 10am at Whitehouse Baptist Church. We are hoping to go as a group from St. Thomas, so please support us and come along!

Christmas Cards: For the last two years good quality Religious Christmas Cards have been on sale for church funds during October. We will again have a good selection in church for four Sundays starting on 10th October. They will be in packs of 5 cards of the same design for £2.50 and all proceeds go to church funds - so we hope you will take a look and think about using some real Christmas Cards again this year.

Pet Blessing Service: save the date! Sunday 3rd October, 4pm, we are planning to have a pet blessing service. Bring your animals along! We will also be collecting donations of pet food at the service.

Servers: if you're interested in joining the team of servers at the Eucharist, we are doing a training session in September. Speak to Malcolm or Rachel if you might be interested!

Deanery Online Conference: on 16th October from 9.30am to 3.30pm. Do join for this if possible. We may be able to all gather in church to join on Zoom together!

Baby Loss Service: 17th October at 6pm, to mark Baby Loss Week. All welcome.

Halloween: this year we are having a children's tent in the car park to invite children to Messy Church. We are looking for volunteers to help us. Please let Rachel or Emma know if you can help.

Advent Quiet Day: at the cathedral, led by Revd. Jackie on the 29th November. Please save the date!



Zoe Lowe (26th)
Helen Pratt (30th)

Church Website:

<http://stthomasipswich.org.uk/>

Sunday Worship & other Worship resources on the Church Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/stthomasipswich/>

This Week:

Sunday 26th September (Harvest Festival)

10am: All Age Eucharist with Facebook livestream

Monday 27th September

11.30-1.30: Church open for prayer

4.15pm: STPC Evening Prayer—contact Malcolm for more details

Tuesday 28th September

6.30-7.30pm: Zoom Meditation Group. Contact Lucy for details & link: lucydrake22@gmail.com

Wednesday 29th September

10am: Eucharist

Thursday 30th September

11.30-1.30: Church open for prayer

4pm: Bible Basics on Zoom (contact Revd. Cat for more details)

Sunday 3rd October (Trinity 18)

10am: Eucharist with Facebook livestream

4pm: Pet Blessing Service

Please pray for:

Those with chronic or long-term illness: Rosemary, Eric, Jenny, Kathy, Andrew, Peggy, Margaret, Natacha, Samantha, Theresa, Judi

Those undergoing treatment or currently ill: Gloria, Leslie, Angela, Helen, Pat, Katie, Tommy, Daniel

Those who have recently died, and their families mourning their loss: Marion Derrett, Tom Baker (Zoe's dad)

Contacts:

Priest in Charge: Revd Rachel Revely

m: 07429 325559 **Email:** rachel.revely@outlook.com

Rachel's days off: Fridays and Saturdays

Assistant Curate: Revd Cat Connolly

m: 07530 412988 **Email:** revcatconnolly@gmail.com

Cat's day off: Mondays

Assistant Curate: Revd John Irwin SSM

m: 07957 579680 **Email:** rev.john@irwin.ch

John's Parish days (normally): Wednesday and Thursday

Lay Evangelist: Malcolm Gibbs **m:** 07906 663530

Director of Music: Simon Clark BA FLCM FRCO

m: 07961 859344 **Email:** sussexsi@aol.com

Church wardens: Roger Elmer **m:** 07810 274586

Stephen Marginson 01473 258791

If you would like to chat, you could also ring:

Mary Bullass 625135

Gloria Elmer 745590

Rev Jackie 07962 172639

Rev Pat 464748

Rev Canon Chris 462109