

St Thomas's Osbaldwick and St James's Murton
Churches with a heart - at the heart of our communities

An Inclusive Church

Pew Sheet for Sunday 28th April 2024

SUNDAY 28th APRIL 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

10am Holy Communion at St Thomas's

Readings Acts 8: 26—40. John 15: 1—8.

Tuesday 30th April

2pm Parish Fellowship

Wednesday 1st May

09.30 Playgroup (Baby and Toddlers Group)

Thursday 2nd May 10am Coffee Drop-in

SUNDAY 5th MAY 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

8am Holy Communion at St Thomas's

10am Morning Prayer

Readings Acts 10: 44—48. John 15: 9—17.

Sunday Reflection Every week the York Diocese offers a new reflective prayer video for your personal use. This week Sam Nicol, Director for Strategic Transformation, reflects on John 15.1-8 for the Fifth Sunday of Easter, 28th April. For the reflection please go to:

vimeo.com/dioceseforyork.



The Parish of St Thomas Osbaldwick with St James Murton has recently applied to join the Inclusive Church Network.

We believe in **inclusive church** – a church which **celebrates and affirms every person** and does not discriminate against people on grounds of **disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.**

We believe in a Church which **welcomes and serves all people** in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."

Opening prayer

As I come to you today, may I centre myself on you again, O God.

Help me to turn aside from the busy-ness and business of the day, to meet with you again in this space.

Come here, Holy and remarkable God,

By your Spirit I pray. Amen.

Hymn to be used during the service

God, the Maker of the heavens
And the planet that we share
Show us how to live, like Jesus
Lives of gratitude and care
Make us mindful of the footprints
From the lives that we pursue
Make us partners in your mission
You are making all things new

God, the Gardener of Eden
Teach us how to tend this earth
Learning from the changing seasons
Times of fallow and new birth
Lord have mercy when we're careless
Rich resources we misuse
Use our hands to heal creation
You are making all things new

God of labour and vocation
Lord of science, trade and art
Take our efforts and our passions
Make them mirrors of your heart
Every habitat and creature
Loved and valued, God, by you
May our lives reveal your Kingdom:
you are making all things new.

You are making all things new.
You are making all things new,
all things renewed.

Prayer for use after the service.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

As I go out into the remainder of this day, and the week ahead.

May I experience the Creator God, the Christ-light and the Holy Spirit at work. **Amen.**



Collect and Readings for 5th Sunday of Easter

Collect and Prayer for the week

Almighty God, who through
your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the
gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

All readings are from Bible Gateway NRSV

Acts 8: 26—40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the
earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they

were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

John 15: 1—8

Jesus said, 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ
is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.