

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

*An Inclusive Church — All are Welcome*

**Pew Sheet for Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May - 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

10am Family Communion at St Thomas's

*Reading: Everyone is loved by God.*

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

7.00pm Annual Parish meeting followed by the Annual Meeting of Osbaldwick Parish Council at St Thomas. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

9.30am Playgroup — at St Thomas's.

**7.00pm in St Thomas's —** Please spread the word about an open meeting for anyone who would like to contribute to the textile parish map artwork? Jen Dring (artist) will present her plans and discuss how people can get involved. Please tell all your creative friends— All welcome.

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

10.00am Coffee Drop-in — at St Thomas's.

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

10.30am Chairiobics— at St Thomas's

7.00pm Fish and Chips Supper with Quiz

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May - 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

10am Holy Communion at St Thomas's

*Readings: Acts 16: 9—15. John 14: 23—29*

12.00 Baptism Service

**Sunday Reflection**

Every week, the Diocese of York offers a new reflection and prayer resource on video, for personal use. Find the video at: [vimeo.com/dioceseforyork](https://vimeo.com/dioceseforyork).

**Diocesan Prayer diary —** This week join in prayer with the church throughout our diocese for:

**Church of England:** Diocese of Guildford, Bishop Andrew Watson, Bishop Paul Davies.

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark:** Diocese of Viborg, Bishop Henrik Stubkjær.

**South Africa Link:** Hospital chaplains working across Southern Africa.

Find reflections and daily prayers:

[dioceseforyork.org.uk/diocesan-prayer-diary](https://dioceseforyork.org.uk/diocesan-prayer-diary)

**Prayers and Prayer Pointers**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May**

- On this day in 1536, Ann Boleyn, second wife of Henry VIII was executed, as part of a chapter of English history that many of us have studied at school, or watched TV programmes about, but which continues to effect the political and religious landscape in this country.

- Today, there are still many people whose lives are at risk because of the choices and whims of powerful, unchecked, selfish leaders. Join in prayer for all affected by tyranny, bullying and patriarchy.

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

- What can you see from where you are sitting / lying / standing, right now?

- As you look around, try to look with the eyes of God – what would God see? What elements of the view might need prayer?

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

- Why not use a simple mantra today – keep coming back to it throughout the day, as a way to ground your experience of living through your day as part of your journey of discipleship. You might like to write it down and keep it in your pocket so you keep feeling it, or say it aloud every time you stand up or sit down, or set an alarm on your phone to remind you of the mantra every hour...

- You could choose your own mantra that works for you, or use this one: 'Show me your way, O God,'

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

- Living, loving God, today I pray for all affected by illness and pain. Into the cloud of their situation, bring your healing, comforting light, I pray. Amen.

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

- On this day in 1998 the Good Friday Agreement was accepted in a referendum in Northern Ireland, with around 75% of the population voting 'yes'. This agreement was a major development in ending the 'Troubles' and bringing peace to Ireland.

- God of peace, today I pray for all places affected by conflict and war. May those in power learn the lessons of history and recognise that peace is the only way forward and is worth the cost. Bring ceasefire, lasting peace, healing and wholeness, I pray, O God. Amen.

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May**

- Today is Aldersgate day, marking the anniversary of John Wesley's experience of having his 'heart strangely warmed' when he attended a meeting in Aldersgate, London in 1738. - His personal response to this encounter with the Spirit transformed his life, revived Christianity in the UK, and led to the creation of the Methodist Church!

- Pay attention today – what small act of revival might God be inviting you to take, in your own life, in your community, in your church? What is God inviting you to get involved in? Pray about anything that comes up.

## ***The Fifth Sunday of Easter***

**Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father.**

### **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 11: 1—18**

The apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and

bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

For the word of the Lord:

### **Thanks be to God**

### **John 13: 31—35**

When Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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.**