

## ST THOMAS'

**TEAM VICAR.** The Revd Kirsty Clarke has been appointed to be Team Vicar in the Shaftesbury Team and will be licensed to her new post by the Bishop of Sherborne in a special service at 5pm on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September in St James' Church. Do come along to welcome her. Or come to her first service at St Thomas's 11:15 a.m. 22 September.

**CHANGE OF SERVICE TIMES:** with Kirsty as our new vicar, we would like to enable her to come to both our communion services. To achieve this, we are going to try having all our services at 11.15 am., starting from September. Matins will be on the first Sunday, communion on the second and fourth. It is proposed to have coffee before one of the services and to shorten Matins slightly by the omission of one hymn. Please let a member of the PCC know your views as this is for a trial period.

**STUDY GROUP** John Fuller is offering a study group on Paula Gooder's excellent book Everyday God. There will be an initial meeting at John's house, 11 Ratcliffe Gardens, on Wednesday 11th September to discuss this, with a view to the group meeting in October/November. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact John on 850079

**SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE:** Jon Dakin and Rodney Atwood will once again be taking part in the Dorset Historic Churches' Ride and Stride on 14 September, to raise money for our church and projects at others in Dorset.

**SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE** for those killed or injured on Dorset roads at Wimborne Minster on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 11am led by Bishop Karen and Dorset police chaplains. Everyone welcome.

**DEANERY EUCHARIST** will be at St Mary's Gillingham Sunday 22 September at 11am. Preacher: The Ven Penny Sayer, Archdeacon of Sherborne. Followed by a shared lunch (bring your own packed lunch).

For pewsheet notices please contact Rodney Atwood on 01747 855255 or email: harrietatwood@hotmail.com

## WELCOME to St Thomas's Church, Melbury Abbas

If you are new to the church or visiting, please introduce yourself to one of the team so we might get to know you better.

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Team Office is open Mon - Fri 9am - 12pm  
Tel: 853060 email: [office@ShaftesburyCofE.org.uk](mailto:office@ShaftesburyCofE.org.uk)  
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THE SHAFTESBURY TEAM  
St Thomas's, Melbury Abbas



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**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September – 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**11.15am Parish Communion**

**5.00pm Licensing Service for Kirsty Clarke at St James'**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September – 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**No service at St Thomas'**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**11.15am Parish Communion**

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## Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## First reading: *Deuteronomy 30.15-20*

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

## Second reading: *Philemon 1-21*

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow-soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith towards the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful

both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a slave but as more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

## Gospel reading: *Luke 14.25-33*

Now large crowds were travelling with him; and he turned and said to them, ‘Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, “This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.” Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

## Post Communion Prayer

God of all mercy, in this eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing: grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.