

**CHARLTON BENEFICE  
ST THOMAS DAY 2024  
LIVESTREAMED EUCHARIST  
THE GATHERING**

**MIRIAM – Welcomes us to worship**

**Hymn**

**The Preparation**

*President* In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

*Words of welcome or introduction may be said*

*It's been quite a week. On Wednesday we got a new Bishop of Woolwich - Alastair. On Friday we got a new Prime Minister - Keir. And last weekend we got a new curate – Owen. So it's been a week of new beginnings. A time that points to new possibilities and new hope. This is a day when we greet and pray for Owen as he starts his ministry as a deacon among us, and when we welcome Liz, Isaac and Kaylea into this community and thank God for the blessing we know they will all be to us.*

*And if that's not enough, today we also celebrate Thomas, the man after whom this church is named. Owen will be telling us more about what we may learn from Thomas when he speaks to us later. So even more reason to rejoice during the service, and a good excuse to have a bit of a party afterwards.*

*The president greets the people.*

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus  
Christ be with you  
**And also with you.**

*MIRIAM – We say together*

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy  
Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your  
holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Prayers of Penitence**

*Minister of the Word* The saints were faithful unto death and now dwell in the heavenly kingdom for ever. As we celebrate their joy, let us bring to the Lord our sins and weaknesses, and ask for his mercy.

*MIRIAM – LET’S USE FORM B* **Father eternal, giver of light and grace, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in what we have thought, in what we have said and done, through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We have wounded your love, and marred your image in us. We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light. Amen.**

### **Absolution**

*President* May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*All*

### **The Gloria**

*All* **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### **The Collect**

*The President introduces a period of silent prayer with the words ‘Let us pray’.*

### **ST THOMAS**

*President* Almighty and eternal God, who, for the firmer foundation of our faith, allowed your holy apostle Thomas to doubt the resurrection of your Son till word and sight convinced him:

grant to us, who have not seen, that we also may believe and so confess Christ as our Lord and our God; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **Old Testament Reading – read by Miriam**

A reading from Habakkuk

I will stand at my watch-post,  
and station myself on the rampart;  
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me,  
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.  
Then the Lord answered me and said:  
Write the vision;  
make it plain on tablets,  
so that a runner may read it.  
For there is still a vision for the appointed time;  
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.  
If it seems to tarry, wait for it;  
it will surely come, it will not delay.  
Look at the proud!  
Their spirit is not right in them,  
but the righteous live by their faith.

*at the end of the reading ...*

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

### **New Testament Reading – read by Isaac**

A reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

*at the end of the reading ...*

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

## Hymn

### Gospel Reading – read by Owen

*Reader* Alleluia, alleluia.  
I have called you friends, says the Lord,  
for all that I have heard from my Father  
I have made known to you.  
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *John*  
*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’

*at the end of the Gospel ...*

*Reader* This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Sermon – Revd Owen

### The Affirmation of Faith

*Form B: Affirmation of Faith*

*Minister* Do you believe and trust in God the  
*of* Father,  
*the Word* source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?  
*All* **We believe and trust in him.**

*Minister* Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

*All* **We believe and trust in him.**

*Minister* Do you believe and trust  
in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

*All* **We believe and trust in him.**

*Minister* This is the faith of the Church.

*All* **This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

**Now Roberta is going to intercede on our behalf**

**Prayers of Intercession – led by Roberta**

*President* Let us pray for the Church and for the world, and let us be thankful  
for God's goodness.

*Please sit.*

*After each prayer ...*

*Intercessor* Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

(or) Lord, hear us.  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*After the final prayer ...*

*Intercessor* God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer and make us one in heart and mind to serve you with  
joy forever. Amen.**

Owen is invited to read his license, which the Churchwardens of the Benefice then sign.

WELCOME TO A NEW DEACON

President - Brothers and sisters in Christ, I present to you **OWEN MORGAN** whom our bishop has ordained to the order of deacon within the Church of God and licensed to

serve in this parish. I ask you to accept **his** ministry among us, to welcome **him** into your homes and hearts and strengthen **him** by your love and prayers.

**All: We welcome you, OWEN, as a fellow worker in the service of the Lord. May God richly bless you and make you a blessing among us, and among all with whom you work.**

*Symbols are shared*

Here is a stole – symbol of your office as a deacon. As you take up responsibility in the Church of God, remember that our Lord’s yoke is easy, his burden is light.

Deacon - Amen

Here is the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you now are. Believe what you read, teach what you believe and practise what you teach.

Deacon - Amen

Here are jug and bowl, symbols of the deacon’s vocation to serve, just as our Lord washed his disciples’ feet. Do not be afraid to tackle any task in the service of the community, as an example to us all.

Deacon - Amen

Here is a book of daily prayers. Please be a person of prayer. As you support us by your prayers, so we shall support you with ours.

Deacon - Amen

Receive the keys to our churches. Welcome people into this holy place, help them to unlock the mysteries of salvation, and be open-minded and open-hearted.

Deacon - Amen

President - May the boldness of God’s Spirit transform you, the gentleness of God’s Spirit lead you, and the gifts of God’s Spirit equip you to serve and worship him, now and always, **Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

### The Peace

*President* May the God of peace sanctify you: may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before him at the coming of our Lord Jesus with his saints.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

All Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

### **Preparation of the Table**

*President* Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.  
**All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.**

Wise and gracious God, you spread a table before us;  
nourish your people with the word of life and the bread of heaven.  
**Amen.**

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

*President* The Lord is here.

*All* **His Spirit is with us.**

*President* Lift up your hearts.

*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*President* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All* **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*President* And now we give you thanks  
that your glory is revealed in *Thomas* and in all the saints.  
In their lives you have given us an example of faithfulness to Christ.  
In their holiness we find encouragement and hope.  
In our communion with them we share the unity of your kingdom.  
And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels, praising you,  
and *singing*:

*All* **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth  
are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*President* We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our  
Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that  
broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and  
blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and,  
taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them  
and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;

do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

*All* Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died:**  
**Christ is risen:**  
**Christ will come again.**

*President* Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes, and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms, and bring us with *Thomas* and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.  
*All* **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*President* As our Saviour taught us so we pray.  
*All* **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*President* We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many, we are one body,**



*All* because we all share in one bread.

## **Agnus Dei**

*All* Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

## **Invitation to Communion**

*President* God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

*All* **Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

## COMMUNION HYMN

### **Prayer after Communion**

*President* Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

### **Notices**

### **Final Prayer**

*MIRIAM* **Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.**

**May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.**

**Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

**THE BLESSING  
AND SENDING OUT**

*President* The Lord be with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

*President* God give you grace to follow his saints in faith and hope and love; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*All* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## **FINAL HYMN**

Our worship is over: our service begins.