



3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

St James' Church  
www.stjamesexeter.org Exeter

**Rector**

Fr Henry Pryse 01392 431297  
Day off: Thursday

**Parish Office** 01392 420407  
office@stjamesexeter.org  
Charity register number: 1128877

**Notices**

**Big Cream Tea**

Contributions to this event, which will take place on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May, would be most welcome. There is a list at the back of the church to offer scones or jam. Donations of cash towards the bouncy castle may be handed to the churchwardens or to Liz Holland.

**Here Before You Know It!**

Our summer fête will take place on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June. Rachel Martindill is eager to hear from anyone willing to run a stall this year, or to volunteer help in any way.

**TODAY**

4.00 pm Celebrate Together  
6.00 pm Evening Prayer & Benediction

**This Week**

Morning Prayer is said at 8.30 am  
Online: Wed only this week  
In the church: Tue, Thu, Fri

**Mon 4<sup>th</sup> May** John 14: 21 – 26  
2.30 pm Viewing of *The Chosen*  
7.00 pm Choir practice

**Tue 5<sup>th</sup> May** John 14: 27 – 31  
2.30 pm Churchwardens meet

**Wed 6<sup>th</sup> May** John 15: 1 – 8  
12.00 noon Eucharist  
3.30 pm Messy Church

**Thu 7<sup>th</sup> May** John 13: 16 – 20  
7.30 pm Fr Brian's house group

**Fri 8<sup>th</sup> May** John 15: 12 – 17

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> May** John 15: 18 – 21  
9.30 am St Mary's JSO Church

**Next Sunday: 10<sup>th</sup> May**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter** John 14: 15 – 21

*Christian Aid Week begins*  
8.00 am Holy Communion  
10.00 am Parish Eucharist  
12.30 pm Holy Baptism

**Collect**

*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.*

**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.*

10.00 am Music *Music Setting: Mass of St Thomas (by David Thorne)*  
**Processional hymn 228 Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing**  
**Offertory hymn 282 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds**  
**Recessional hymn 86 Christ is Made the Sure Foundation**

Sharing God's love through worship, fellowship and service

### First Reading: Acts 7: 55-60

Standing before the high priest and the council, Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

### Second Reading: 1 Peter 2: 2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation – if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: 'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner', and 'A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

### Gospel Reading: John 14: 1-14

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.' Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'





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**Processional hymn 228**

**Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing**

**Offertory hymn 282**

**How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds**

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