

A Voice from Heaven. Mark 1:9-11.

How thrilling it would be to hear God speak to us directly from heaven. What might he say? What words would we expect to come directly from God?

To our surprise, we find God repeating himself, by restating what he has already said in Scripture (verse 11). He could have spoken fresh words to give his heavenly endorsement of his Son, but rather he uses Scriptural testimony to give approval for Jesus. If we are to understand Jesus properly, it is through understanding the fulfilled promises of the Old Testament about him.

- "You are my Son" from Psalm 2. This is a psalm about the King (God's anointed or Messiah) being crowned. In his baptism Jesus is anointed with God's Spirit and identified as God's Son, the anointed King.
- "whom I love, with you I am well-pleased" from Isaiah 42:1, the first of the 'Servant Songs' in Isaiah. These passages (Isaiah chapters 42, 49, 50, 53) speak about the servant of God who is obedient and suffers for his people's sins even to the point of death.

Together these Old Testament passages form a witness to Jesus and to the type of ministry he will have: God's King with the very authority of God himself, and also the obedient suffering servant of God, who will give his life for his people.

God the Holy Trinity is identified and involved with this moment of baptism; the Father speaks and the Spirit descends as the Son is baptised. Yet Jesus also identifies with sinful humans like us; he undergoes John's baptism of repentance, though he himself had no sin requiring repentance. He begins his ministry by taking the place of sinners in baptism and ends his ministry by taking their place at the cross.

To ponder: 'This is God's Son, with him I am well-pleased.' Do these words find an echo in your heart and mind today?

Welcome to the Parishes of St Peter and St Thomas

www.stpetersheversham.org | www.stthomasmilnthorpe.org.uk

Services for Sunday 15th March 2020

St Peter's Heversham

- 9.30 am Parish Communion.
After this Service, Prayer Team members are there to chat with you or listen in confidence and will gladly pray with you. If you need prayer at any other time, contact Rev'd Colin.
- 4.30 pm Parish Fellowship.

St Thomas' Milnthorpe

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP).
11.00 am Morning Praise with Holy Baptism and Sunday School.
4.30 pm Parish Fellowship for our 3 parishes at St Peter's.

NEXT SUNDAY, 22nd March ~ *Mothering Sunday*

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) at St Peter's.
9.30 am All Age Service at St Peter's.
11.00 am All Age Service and (flexi) Sunday School at St Thomas'.



To celebrate Mothering Sunday, there will be flowers for all the ladies at St Peter's (9.30 am) and St Thomas' (11.00 am).

Census

This is the last Sunday that we're asking everyone to complete **one small census form at each Service that you attend**. Simply

- tick the one box that applies to you, and
- leave the form in the designated place.

All replies are anonymous.

This survey is to help the churches in our Mission Community to take a snapshot of their life and attendance. Thank you for your co-operation.

This week in our Parishes

Monday 16th March

No Open the Book until further notice because of the coronavirus outbreak.

Tuesday 17th March

12.30–2.00 pm Heversham Lent Lunch at Eversley Coach House, Leasgill, LA7 7EY (see notice)
1.00 pm Parish News editorial meeting at Jane Cushnie's home.

Thursday 19th March

2.00 pm Holy Communion (BCP) at St Thomas'.

Friday 20th March

No coffee morning at St Thomas'.
No Lent Lunch at St Thomas' (see notice)
2.00–3.00 pm The Beatitudes: Lent Discussion Group at St Thomas' (see notice).

Saturday 21st March

8.00 am Prayer meeting at St Peter's. Everyone welcome.

Notices

STOP PRESS ~ Kent Estuary Youth (KEY)

Tim Farron is running the Coniston 14 in aid of the KEY Project. He would greatly appreciate your support through his Just Giving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tim-farron-coniston14>

Lent soup lunches in Heversham

- **Tuesday 17th March, 12.30–2.00 pm at Eversley Coach House, Leasgill LA7 7EY**
- **Friday 27th March, 12.30–2.00 pm at 9 Haverwood, Woodhouse LA7 7LN**

Everyone welcome. Proceeds to St Peter's Lent charity.

Lent soup lunches in Milnthorpe

The Church of England and Public Health England have advised churches to suspend all catering events until further notice because of the coronavirus outbreak. Sadly, **Lent lunches at St Thomas' have been cancelled.**

The Beatitudes: Lent Discussion Group

Fridays 20th, 27th March and 3rd April, 2.00–3.00 pm at St Thomas'.
Led by Rev'd Bryan Kerr. Everyone welcome. It'll be lovely to see you.

St Thomas' Lent shopping trolley

The trolley is in the Church Centre during Lent, to collect your donations for Milnthorpe Food Bank. Tinned meat, veg, soup, fruit and puddings, coffee, cereals, long-life juice and milk, biscuits, rice and sugar are welcome. www.milnthorpefoodbank.org.

St Thomas' Church OPEN

St Thomas' Church is open most days 10.00 am–3.00 pm to view the building-extensions display of plans and info. Everyone is welcome.

St Thomas' Electoral Roll

Electoral Roll forms are at the back of St Thomas' Church. If you're not already on our electoral roll, we encourage you to complete a form and give it to Margaret Barrow. Thank you.

Dates for your Diary

Window on the World

Monday 23rd March, 2.00 pm at Linda Cooper's home.

We will receive updates and pray for Barnabas Fund. Please join us if you can. Info will be in St Peter's afterwards to assist you in your prayers.

St Peter's Annual Meeting

Sunday 29th March, after the 9.30 am Service at St Peter's.

Everyone is invited to attend. Nomination forms for the election of Churchwardens, Deanery Synod Representatives and PCC members are in the Dallam Chapel. At the end of the meeting there will be a short presentation to launch the consultation on the Design Brief for the exhibition, and the opportunity for open discussion and questions.

Notices for Sunday 22nd March

Email to Diane Carney.

Deadline Tuesday 17th March, 6.00 pm.

Rev'd Bryan's weekly Reflection is overleaf...

St Peter's PCC Jottings

The PCC met on Monday 9th March. Amongst the items of business, it agreed to:

- Complete a refresh of the website to bring it up to date.
- Publish the new edition of the Church Directory after the annual meetings (Sunday 29th March).
- Ensure that we are meeting the current guidance for coronavirus hygiene.
- Allocate the 2019 tithe in line with the recommendations from WoW.
- Move towards instructing the essential repair work to the external wall of the north aisle at a cost of around £70,000.
- Continue to offer the Living with Loss group every second year.
- Launch a consultation on the Design Brief for the exhibition.
- Initiate the required Quinquennial Review of the building.
- Consider establishing a 'Friends of St Peter's'.

The draft Minutes are available in the Dallam chapel or from peter@heversham.com