

Thinking of hospitals

- Revd John Marshall

St. Thomas's hospital was in the news, when it tended our Prime Minister, among others; and we give thanks for all those involved in the NHS and their brilliant work.

St Thomas is portrayed in the St James' church windows. He has his own window on the South side and we can see Thomas when he meets the risen Jesus.

Thomas was missing the first time Jesus visited the disciples after His resurrection. He was not convinced by their testimony and wanted clear proof, "unless I see, unless I touch, I will not believe." But a week later the risen Christ invites Thomas to see, to touch, to reach. Thomas responds "my Lord and my God."

Jesus goes on "Because you have seen me, you have believed, blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

It seems that Jesus was thinking of those who follow on, and that includes us.

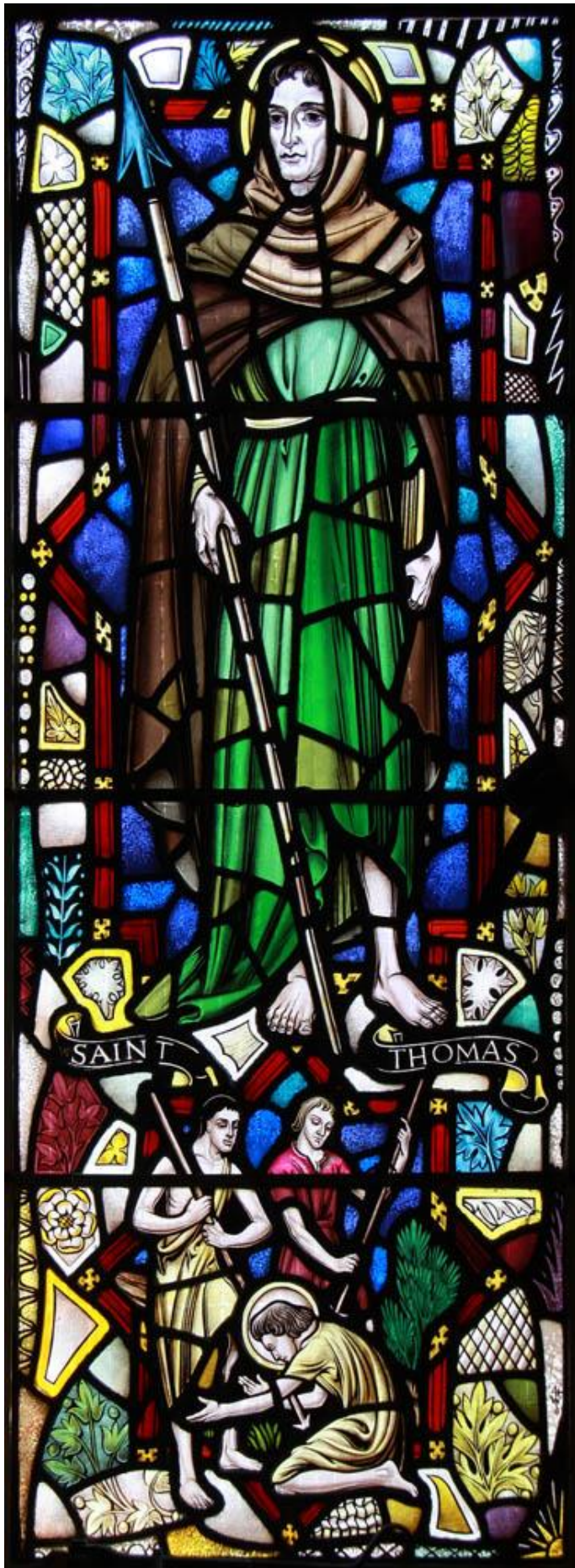
As we remember St Thomas and St Thomas's hospital, we may remember times when we or families or friends have received care there (other hospitals are available) and be grateful.

Bible Reading: Matthew 25:34-40

³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’



Poem: Our Key Workers by George the Poet – you can listen to it here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aggl8gpHluc>

Prayer for frontline workers

A Prayer for the Frontliners

Heavenly Father, thank You for the frontliners caring for, protecting, and serving our communities, our families, and us. Thank You for these servant leaders, called to this work, trained for such a time as this, daily risking their own health and safety for others.

Please protect them from harm. Give them courage and strength. Draw close, Lord, and let them feel Your presence throughout the long hours they are working.

Father, please provide everything they need, both for the people they are serving and for their loved ones. Surround them with people who will help and support them and their families, even as they selflessly care for others.

You said we would face troubles in this world, but also that You had overcome it. Please work together with our frontliners, Lord, to ultimately bring about the best outcome possible.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.