



Team Parish of Christ the King St Aidan's, Brunton Park

Sunday 24th April 2022
Second Sunday of Easter

We make judgements based on evidence. One thing we know is that death is the final word. Dead people generally stay dead. Thomas – having missed the first chance to see the risen Christ – is sceptical. And he muses about what it might require for him to believe in this most unlikely situation. “I’d have to see with my own eyes the nail holes in his hands; I’d need to touch those holes with my own finger. Better still, I’d want to stick my whole hand right into his side where the sword pierced him!” But when Jesus returns, Thomas doesn’t need to try any of these. ‘Without faith, no evidence is sufficient; with faith, no evidence is necessary.’

John is writing to an established Christian community, as he says “so that you may believe (– or as the tense used suggests -) so that you may keep on believing”. This makes sense in that he is furthering and bolstering a faith already present. He reminds us that Jesus knew that whilst it was one thing for Thomas to believe with Jesus standing right in front of him, it would be quite another for people like us to believe without such undeniable physical proof standing in the same room. But in knowing Thomas’s critical scepticism and hearing his unequivocal response, ‘My Lord and my God!’, we too find our faith strengthened

*Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.*

First Reading: Acts 5.27-32

When the temple police had brought the apostles, they made them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.' But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

Gospel: John 20.19-31

When it was evening on the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

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.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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TODAY

9.30am: Parish Eucharist Second Sunday of Easter with Rev'd Pauline Pearson Leading and Preaching from Acts 5.27-32 and John 20.19-31

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tues 10.30am: **Tynemouth Crematorium, Funeral for John MacLeod**
Wed 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**
Thurs 10.00am to 4.30pm, Church: **Silverline First Aid Course**
2pm: **Chat and Craft in the Community Room**
Fri 5.00pm: **Food for Thought via Zoom (see codes below)**
Sun 1st 8.00am: **Said Holy Communion**
9.30am, Church: **Parish Eucharist Third Sunday of Easter**
Rev'd Gerard Rundell Leading and Preaching Readings: Acts 9.1-6 [7-20] and John 21.1-19

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thurs 5th May, 2pm: **Prayer and Praise in the Community Room**

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live broadcast link is <https://bit.ly/2ndEaster22>

FUNERAL OF JOHN MACLEOD – will take place on Tuesday 26th April at 10.30am at Tynemouth Crematorium (NE29 9NJ). Afterwards there will be refreshments, from 11.30am at the Lighthouse Room, Spanish City (NE26 1BG). All are invited.

TRANSFORMATION EXHIBITION - Sarah has created a series of linoprints of Angels, representing the phases of transformation experienced after church related abuse. It has a hopeful message. The exhibition is at Newcastle cathedral from 19th April to 23 May 2022 and is part of a larger project to be launched this year called 'If I told you what would you do?', which aims to help the church respond better to those affected by church related abuse.

APCM – The APCM, for the Team Parish, will be on Wednesday 27th April, 7pm, at St Cuthbert's Church, all are welcome. Paperwork is available for those who would like to read through. If there aren't any copies left, please ask Janice and we'll print some for you.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT –return on Friday, running as a weekly service via Zoom (see link below), at 5pm except on 3rd June (Queen's Jubilee). On the 3rd Friday of the month it is held church with the Youth Group.

ZOOM CODES – all our Zoom sessions will use only the following details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFDsm1KOURtQT09> Meeting ID: 757 377 8713 Passcode: StAidan

BOOKING ZOOM MEETINGS: if you would like to use the St Aidan's Zoom account for a church meeting, please contact Janice

CHURCH CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS – face masks are optional, please sanitise your hands on entering church, and maintain at least a one metre distance.

USED STAMPS –if you have any used stamps, please save them and put them in the box at the back of church to raise fund for St Oswald's Hospice.

CHURCH OPENING – church is now open during the day, every day. Please come in at any time for some quiet time or prayer.

FOOD BANK – a little reminder that we still collect for the foodbank. There is a box at the back of church for donations.

DONATIONS - to make a donation to St Aidan's, please use the following link <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/8a599239-a9bd-4136-8b4b-1dcabb0a2c65>

For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer

For the church – Particularly churches in our Deanery: Fawdon, Kenton and Kingston Park Parishes. In our church for Food for Thought and those leading it

For the community – especially Great Park Consortium and ongoing development of the Great Park Town Centre

For the world – Particularly during the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, for her people, refugees and the Ukrainian community in the UK, and our own national and political life.

For those in particular need - Gladys Johnston, Sheila Lonie

For those who have died and those who grieve – John Macleod, Carol Fox, Robert Ray - On their anniversaries: Brian Donkin, Edna Pargeter, Doris Wilson, Andrew Ewing, Joan Kendrick, Peggy Harrison, Harry McDonnell

CONTACTS

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