



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

**Sunday 3rd July 2022
Thomas the Apostle**

Today we're marking the feast of Thomas the Apostle, a disciple whose legacy has been this moment of doubt that we read in today's Gospel. The phrase, 'a doubting Thomas', has passed into our language. So whatever else he was, his legacy is an encounter with Jesus that is a move from doubt to faith, and I think it's an important one as we consider our own journey of doubt and faith.

So, first of all, Thomas doubts. He can't believe that Jesus has risen, unless he sees the proof: sees the marks in his hands, touches his side. And it's worth recognising that his doubt is entirely reasonable. Dead people don't come back to life as a rule. If someone tells you they did, wanting some proof is no bad thing! It's also worth recognising that our own faith will be entwined with doubt, and in search of proof to hang it on, and that too is no bad thing.

We will have our doubts about the truth of an ancient story that can seem hard to believe. Doubts about the power of a good God in a world filled with suffering. Doubts about the experience of prayer or the encounter with God. Doubts about whether the whole thing can hold up to scrutiny. But rather than lament the fact, perhaps we might celebrate that doubt is exactly what deepens and enriches our faith. It's what keeps us searching and questioning, and learning. Doubt is what keeps our faith from encrusting into a static crust of false certainty and instead allows it to evolve as we do. Doubt is what makes our faith robust enough to last, instead of the brittle shell of an unquestioned and unquestioning faith that crumbles and falls when cracks begin to appear.

But it's also worth noticing what happens as Jesus appears. He offers what Thomas needs to believe, and Thomas responds, 'My Lord and my God.' The faith he discovers isn't one of intellectual assent to a proposition, but of relationship and encounter with the living God. So as our doubts and questions lead us onward in faith, perhaps we also need to ask what relationship of trust, what encounter with the living God, undergirds, and supports our faith. There will be as many stories of faith as there are people. So, what draws you back to keep searching for more of God? What – who – is it that you have discovered that keeps you turning back to this faithful relationship? Thomas found his answer as he saw the risen Christ, how do you find yourself saying: 'My Lord and my God.'?

Reading: Habakkuk 2.1-4

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.

Gospel: John 20.24-29

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.'

TODAY

8:00am: Said Holy Communion

9.30am: 3rd Sunday After Trinity Rev'd Canon Jean Skinner presides as Rev'd Gerard Rundell preaches

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wed 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**

Sat 10am – 12pm: **Saturday Café**

Thurs 2:00pm: Community Room: **Prayer and Praise**

7:30pm: Church: **Gosforth and District Choir Concert**

8.00pm, Community Room: **Men's Group**

Fri 7.00pm - 9.00pm, Community Room: **Art Exhibition**

Sat 10.00am - 12.00pm, Community Room: **Art Exhibition**

- Sun 10th** 9.30am, Church: **4th Sunday After Trinity**: Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and preaches from Amos 7.7-17 , Colossians 1.1-14 , Luke 10.25-37
- Sun 10th** 2pm (or 3pm at St Matthews's) **Team Walk** from St Columba's to St Matthew's.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thurs 14th July 2.00pm, Community Room: **Film Club**

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live broadcast link <https://bit.ly/3Trinity22>

TEAM PARISH WALK - from St Columba's Wideopen to St Matthew's Dinnington on Sunday 10th July. The walk goes past the Big Waters Nature Reserve along easy paths, and is about 2.5miles long. We plan to leave St Columba's at 2pm, and arrive for refreshments at St Matthew's around 3-3.15pm. If you don't fancy the walk, but would like to join others from the Team for tea, do come straight to St Matthews. You can then either walk back to St Columba's or arrange lifts to drive home.

ART EXHIBITION - the first joint art exhibition by St Aidan's Art Group and Café Sculpture Art Group since 2019 because of Covid Lockdown will be in church on Friday evening 8th July from 7.00pm - 9.00pm and Saturday morning, 9th July from 10.00am - 12.00pm. Entrance on Friday is £3, wine and nibbles provided and free on Saturday. Monies raised will go to Daft as a Brush.

MEN'S GROUP - The first meeting since lockdown of the monthly Men's Group will be at 8.00pm on Thursday 7th July in the Community Room. There will be a quiz and details and discussion about the Autumn programme up to Christmas. The meeting is open to all, whether church attendees or not.

BISHOP OF NEWCASTLE – please pray for the appointment of the next Bishop, which will take place on 18th – 19th July. Prayer cards are available on the entrance table in the foyer.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP - The Bible study group has resumed on Zoom with a series looking at the gospel according to St Luke. Our first session introduced Luke's gospel and further sessions on Monday 4th and 11th July at 7.30 pm will look at Luke 3 and 4. All welcome, whether or not you have been part of the group before. Contact Ken Newitt (kmnewitt@outlook.com) for further details. Meeting ID: 892 9413 7288 Passcode: StABSG Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89294137288?pwd=Zlo5WS9odDdybkJGQm1wd2ptL293dz09>

SUMMER CONCERT - the Gosforth and District Choir are holding a summer concert on Thursday 7th July at 7:30pm in church. Entrance £6 (concession £5), with proceeds going to Ukraine.

A BELATED THANK YOU - for all who helped in any way during Christian Aid week – the total raised was £3,155.00 which was truly amazing, Dorothy

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 – Our Bishop Mark, Archdeacon Rachel Wood, Pauline Pearson, Acting Area Dean. Those who assist in our worship: lesson readers, intercessors, servers, Eucharistic assistants and sacristans

For the community – Catherine McKinnell, our MP, Newcastle City Councillors, North Gosforth Parish Council

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

For those in particular need - Gladys Johnston, Esther Wooler.

For those on their anniversaries: Lewis Ternent, Fred Stout, Phyllis Atkinson, Jennie Barritt, Don Croft, Kenneth Page, Maisie Smith

CONTACTS: Church Office: 0191 236 7952

Team Rector: Revd Gerard Rundell 07394 792277 rev.g.rundell@gmail.com

Administrator/Newsletter: Janice Charlton 0191 236 7952 infostaidans@gmail.com

Honorary Assistant Priest: Revd Ben Pullan 07977320895 brpullan@gmail.com

Associate Priest (Great Park): Revd Ruth Hewett 217 0367 ruthhewett@icloud.com

 [St Aidan's Church Brunton Park Newcastle www.staidanschurchbruntonpark.co.uk](https://www.staidanschurchbruntonpark.co.uk)