

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

**Sunday 27th April 2025
2nd Sunday of Easter**

Not seeing, not believing; believing, not seeing.

The lectionary instructs us that the reading from Acts must be used on this second Sunday of Easter. There is good justification for this, because the appointed passage shows Peter and his companions doing exactly what Christian disciples ought to be doing; namely bearing witness to the life-changing resurrection of our Lord. They do this courageously, ignoring the very considerable physical danger to themselves.

This obligation to bear witness did not die out with the Apostles, but is also laid upon his church today. To our shame we have to recognize that sometimes through human weakness that witness can be veiled somewhat, and the rest of the world perceive it more as a dying ember than a flame.

The other important thing this passage reminds us of is that these apostles were actually eye witnesses to the resurrection: they had seen Jesus crucified, and the darkness descend over Calvary. But over and above all that, they had met him again and saw that he was indeed alive. John tells us that on the Sunday evening he appeared to his disciples, spoke with them and blessed them.

One person was missing from that group: Thomas was not there, and the gospel passage for our service today tells of his struggle to believe without having seen. In a sense his doubts are also ours; and our Lord's words to him come also to us: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Acts 5. 27-32

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, 'We gave you strict orders not to teach 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. 30The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. 31God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.

John 20.19-end

When it was evening on that day, 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.' 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.

TODAY 9.30am: **Easter Eucharist** Rav'd Raymond Devenney presides and preaches

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tues-Fri 8.55am, Church: **Morning Prayer**

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

Thurs 2.00pm, Community Room: **Prayer and Praise**

8.00pm, Community Room: **Men's Night Social Evening -Games**

Sat 10.00am, Church and Community Room: **Eco Fest**

No Saturday Café or Kids Zone

Sun 9.30am: **Easter 3 Family Service** Rav'd Dr Hannah Malcolm presides and preaches

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Sat 3rd May 10.00am **Eco Fest**, Church and Garden
Sat 17th May 10.00am **Big Brekkie**, Community Room
Sun 18th May 11.30am **AGM**, Church

NOTICES

TODAY'S SERVICE LINK: <https://bit.ly/StAidan2025Easter2>

ECO FEST Saturday 3rd May 10am to 1pm will take place in Church the community room and the grounds outside (weather permitting) Please note that there will be no Saturday Café in the community room but refreshments will be served in Church. There will be no Kid's Zone

CAKES APPEAL – we will be providing a cake stall at the Eco Fest, funds raised will go to St Aidan's Church. Donations of cakes and other produce would be very much appreciated. Please speak to Susan Armstrong

WALKING SHOES AND SMILES – at the ready! Christian Aid week is coming: 11th – 17th May. Can you help please? See Dorothy for more details.

REFRESHMENTS ROTA – there is a new rota at the back of church for Saturday Café and Sunday morning refreshments. If you feel you are able it would be appreciated if volunteers could add their name to the rota especially for Sunday mornings. Thank you, the Church Wardens.

Living on God's Good Earth: May *No Mow May*

April showers bring May flowers – that is, if we don't mow them all down... Did you know that 97% of Britain's meadows have been lost since the 1930s? May is a crucial month for pollinators like bees and butterflies. Leaving some parts of your garden un-mown over the month of May (and longer) can give wild flowers and insects a chance. Even the smallest patch can make a difference! Check out <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/> for more details.

SUNDAY SERMON'S

For anyone who would like one, written copies of the Sunday sermon are available from the preacher on request. Please contact either Gerard, or the preacher of the day, to be sent a copy.

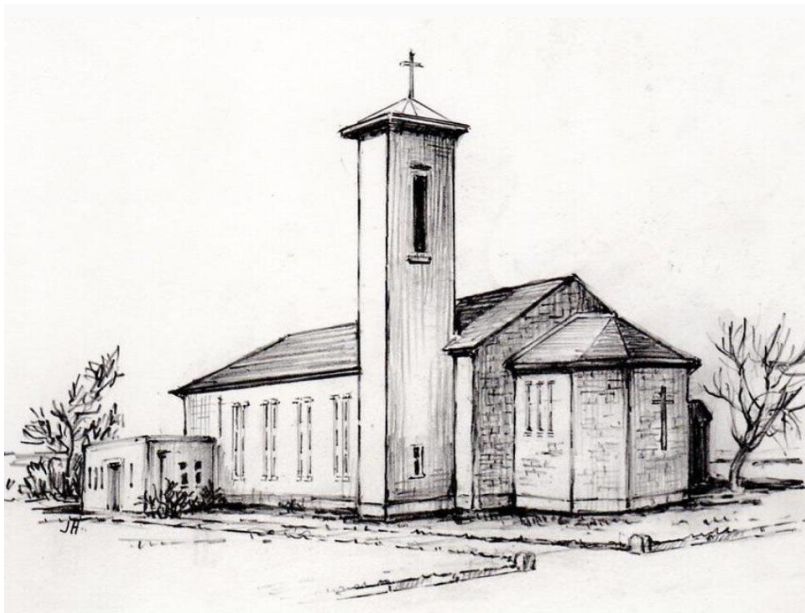
For the church – Gerard Rundell, Hannah Malcolm, Ray Devenney and Jean Skinner. Lay ministers Ken Newitt and Bernie Troughton, The Pastoral Care Team.

For the community – Our shared outdoor spaces and the wildlife who live there, especially efforts to protect and restore the Ouseburn.

For the world – all countries facing hardship and conflict. For our own national and political life

For those in need – Esther Wooler, Martin Seaton, Sue Bates, Sheila Lonie, Christine Crompton, Charlie Bennett, Mavis Bennett, Joan Graham

For those who have died – Peter Kenney, and on their anniversaries Peggy Harrison, Harry McDonnell, Kenneth Gray, Geoffrey Long. Edward Keating.



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