



The Team Parish of Christ the King
St Aidan's Church Brunton Park
Sunday 12th April 2026

2nd Sunday of Easter

People are often defined for good or ill and once someone gets a reputation it's hard to shift it. We can all have a tendency to put people in to boxes defining them in two dimensional categories.

Biblical figures have fallen prey to the same treatment. John the disciple whom Jesus loved, Peter who denied Jesus and today we have Thomas forever defined as doubting Thomas.

But the truth is no-one can be reduced in this way either by the best or the worst of a particular trait, and we should be wary of caricatures which diminish the scope of human identity.

Today we will explore the positive attributes of doubt.

As Bishop Guli writes in her book Stations of the Resurrection. Doubt is Not the enemy of faith. Certainty has that place, certainty keeps our minds closed and reduces the possibilities. Doubt opens up our minds to possibilities of exploration leading to a deeper understanding.

Jesus story continues after his death through the lives of the doubting disciples. People of great faith appear briefly in the gospels and drop out of the story. It is the company of doubters that Jesus liked to hang out with. These are the people he recruited for his mission. The people of great faith he lets go to get on with their lives.

It is the doubters who will form the community that becomes his church.

Acts 2. 14a, 22-32

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd in Jerusalem: 'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore, my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy

One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence." 'Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, "He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption." This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.'

John 20. 19 – end

¹⁹ 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.' ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin) one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ 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.'

²⁶ 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.' ²⁷ 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.' ²⁸ Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹ 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.'

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ 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 2nd Sunday of Easter Rev'd Canon Jean Skinner will preside and preach.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon	Bible Study Goup	
Wed	10.00am	BCP Midweek Eucharist
Thurs	2.00pm	Community Room Coffee and conversation
Sat	10.00am	Saturday Café
Sun	9.30am	Easter 3 Rev'd Gerard Rundell will preside and preach

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday May 1st Beetle Drive

Sunday May 10th – 16th Christian Aid Week

Saturday May 16th Christian Aid Big Breakfast - Community Room

NOTICES

TODAY'S SERVICE LINK <https://bit.ly/StAidan2026Easter2>

THANK YOU – to all those who gave donations towards the cost of the Easter flowers in church.

SACRISTANS – HELP NEEDED – In the past there were four couples sharing sacristan's duties but we now only have Chris and Pauline Watson and Pat Page. We would like to expand the team to lighten the load on them. Duties involve ensuring all items including candles, altar bread, wine, and linens are prepared for the Eucharist service, and offers a chance to learn more about what goes on in the vestry behind the scenes! Training would be given to anyone interested in learning what is involved. Please speak to one of the sacristans or church wardens if that sounds like something you could do.

Living on God's Good Earth: April

Generous God

Some of you may know the offertory prayer used in lots of churches: 'all things come from you and of your own do we give you'. As the world springs into life, God's abundant generosity is easy to see. So, this month's challenge is to think about how we can be generous in response. What might we offer to help protect and restore God's many gifts to us? At Saturday Café this year, one of our chosen charities is Northumberland Wildlife Trust. Perhaps there is a similar charity or organisation you could support, as a way of giving thanks for all God's goodness.

SUNDAY SERMONS

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 Our Prayers:

For the church- Janice and all involved in family outreach events and work with children and young people. Bible Study, prayer groups, Eco church

For the community- Our sponsored child Ivonia. For her and her country Mozambique, facing serious threat from climate change. For the work of World Vision and the conservation and education work of Wild Impact in Mozambique.

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

For those in need – Esther Wooler, Sue Bates, Christine Crompton, Charlie Bennett, Lindsay Miller, Marion Newitt, Joyce Richardson.

For those who have died, and, on their anniversaries, – Arthur Fenning, Morris Robinson, Stephen Eden, Benita Brown, Raymond Edwards, David Dawson



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