

11th April 2021

I think that we are somewhat unfair to the apostle Thomas by calling him 'Doubting Thomas'. Perhaps a more apt name for him should be 'Honest Thomas'. At least one knew where you stood with him. He was transparent. If he disagreed he said so. If he didn't understand he asked questions, but he was open and loyal to the core.

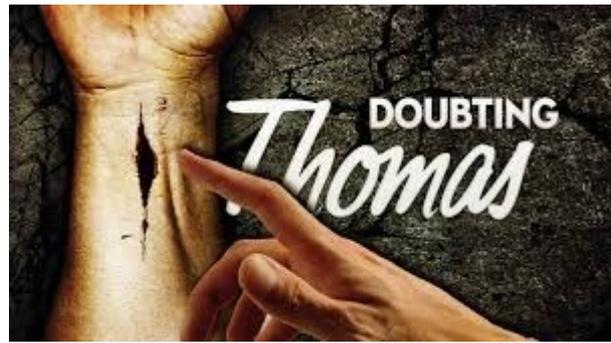
In the situation his fellow disciples find themselves in, from our Gospel reading this Sunday John 20. 19-end, they must have been totally exasperated with Thomas. Nothing they could say to him would convince him that they had seen the resurrected Jesus, and the more they said the more he resisted them.

Now, Thomas could have pretended to believe their story about seeing Jesus alive and well following his crucifixion. He could have gone along with them in their excitement. In fact, it would probably have been easier for him to have kept quiet, to say nothing, to accept everything they had to say without question. But that wasn't his way and so he expresses his feelings and doubts with courage and honesty, an honesty that some would find difficult to deal with today.

'Honest Thomas' shows us that when doubts come, it's better to face them rather than to pretend they don't exist. There's little point in pretending anyway because God already knows, so honest questioning can bring us closer to the kingdom of God than any pretence of faith.

Like Thomas then, let our honesty in admitting our doubts, be the last stepping-stone to bring us face to face with Jesus and help us cross the chasm of doubt into true belief.

Jan



Church Keys



Thank you so much to all those who have contacted us about the various keys they have for the church, however, we believe some people have yet to get in touch. It is

important that we know where all the keys are so, if you have not already done so, please contact the church office at 01630 653505 or stmarysmarketdrayton@gmail.com or Avril Innocent at avrilinnocent@btinternet.com Thank you.



Prayer



Please pray for the people of northern Ethiopia, and Mozambique particularly the innocent civilians caught up in struggle between government and regional forces.

Wyn Faulkner would value your prayers.

Regular Services

To join any of our regular Zoom services, click on the links below. If you need a copy of the liturgy for any of the services, please contact the Church Office.

Sunday 10.30am ZOOM (Morning Worship)

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09>

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

Readings: Psalm 86; 2 Corinthians 1.2-7

Wednesday Morning Prayer 9.00am ZOOM

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09>

Meeting ID: 899 4327 8704 Password: 730701

Thursday Evening Compline 7.00pm ZOOM

Zoom link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78321229825?pwd=R2lUZUJjMDRnTGhINIFPejRLTW5Xdz09>

Meeting ID: 783 2122 9825 Password: 3164610

You can join any of the above meetings by phone using any of the following numbers and the meeting IDs and passwords above: 0203 481 5237 / 0203 481 5240

0131 460 1196 / 0203 051 2874



Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required



Coffee—No Stock

Rice Pudding—No Stock

Sponge Puddings / Slab Cake—No Stock

Tinned Spaghetti—Low Stock

Cooking and Pasta Sauces—Low Stock

Biscuits Low Stock

Dry Cat Food

Long Life Cartons of Fruit Juice

Cleaning Products

Laundry Washing powder

Local Supermarket vouchers-Morrisons/Lidl/Aldi/Asda/Sainsburys

Donations can be dropped off at the Parish Rooms on Tuesdays and Fridays 9-11am. If you are unable to bring donations to the Parish Rooms or to the drop-off points in our local supermarkets, please contact Catherine McBride or Carol Corney, who can arrange to have someone come and pick up your donations.

Staying in Touch

Our Church Office is not staffed at the moment, but e-mails and phone messages are being picked up regularly:

Phone: 01630 653505 **E-mail:**

stmarysmd@btinternet.com

We will continue to post information to our website and Facebook page:

Website: www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

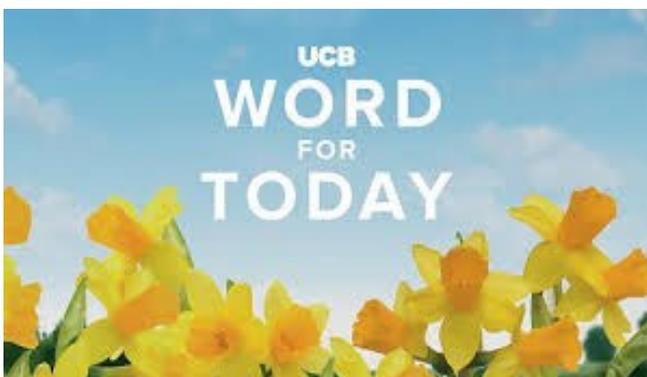
Facebook: @StMarysMarketDrayton

Vicar: Catherine McBride

E-mail: vicarofstmarys@gmail.com

Phone: 01630 656943

If you do not wish to continue to receive these newsletters, please let us know.



Copies of the UCB Word for Today booklets covering May, June and July 2021 will be available in the church from Sunday

Lichfield Diocese Christian Aid Coronavirus Appeal

If you would like to donate to this appeal please follow this link for details <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/news/give-thanks-for-your-vaccination.php>