

APRIL - MAY
2023

Life.



The Resurrection

What does it mean for us today?

Experience Easter

Alan Cottenden Investigates...

Easter Extra

Children's Fun this Easter Time



CHRIST CHURCH BEDFORD

Transformed by Love Seeking to Serve Experiencing Hope

CONTENTS

Thank you to all who have contributed to this edition of Life. If you would like to contribute something to the next edition, the deadline for submissions for the June/July edition will be 19th May 2023.

Please email: Editor@CCBedford.org



You can read this edition online, just go to our website: CCBedford.org/lifemagazine

**3 A Word from Our Vicar
Dream Big!**

6 Tearfund - Lent Appeal

**7 Extra's for Holy Week
What's in store for our
Children?**

**8 What does the
resurrection mean for us
today?**

**11 Experience Easter
Alan Cottenden Interviews**

**15 Christ Church -
Our Vision Statement**

**16 Church Weekend Away
What a Success!!!**

22 Doubting Thomas

**23 Easter Service Times
Come and Join Us!**

VICAR'S LETTER



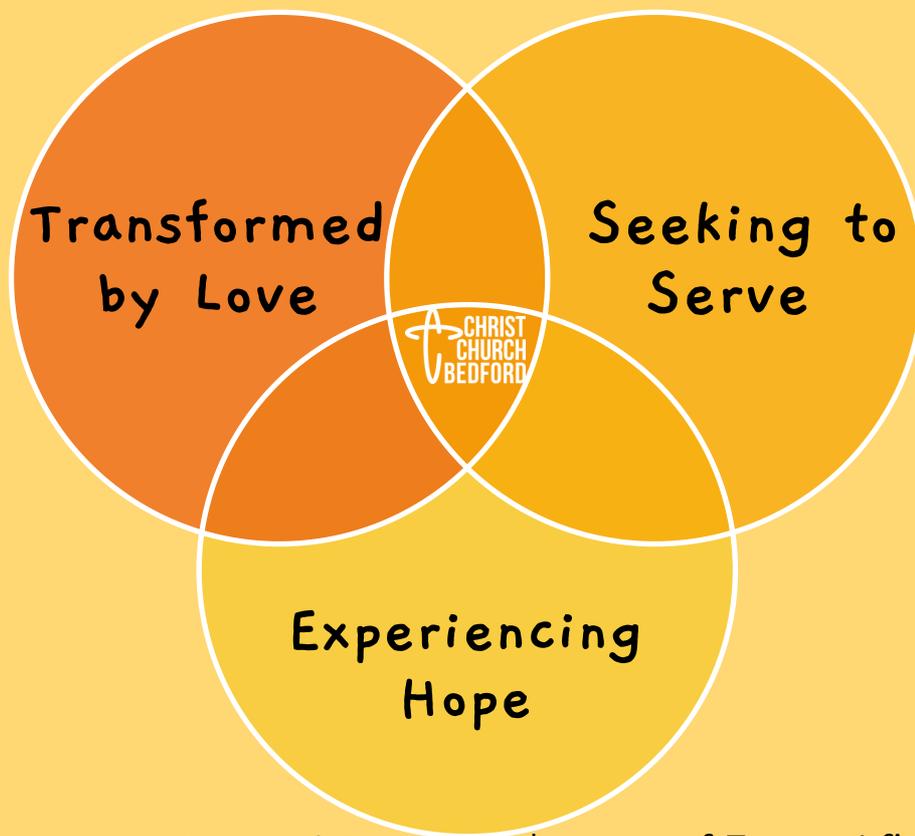
Vision, Bumbling Along, and Easter!

I don't know about you but there are some days where I feel like I am just bumbling along, hopefully doing the right things, but not sure where I am going. And other times the path ahead looks clear and I know where I'm going and how to get there, the calling and destination seems clear. Life can often be like this, a mixture of uncertainty and not knowing, alongside clarity and purpose.

The psalmist wrote that God's word would be a lamp unto his feet, a light for his path. At the start of the year I felt that God gave me that verse from Isaiah 54 about expanding our tent and opening wide the curtains. And I drew three points from it:

- Make space for God.
- Dream big.
- Be welcoming.





As winter turns into spring and Easter suddenly appears I am challenged again by those three ideas, how can I continue to make space for God? What am I dreaming about, are they big dreams or safe little ones? And there is the continual challenge to be welcoming! Which on days where I've had a good night's sleep and the coffee has kicked in nicely, well it's manageable, but if I'm a bit tired and grumpy well it is a challenge. And then I remember Jesus, facing the horrors of the cross, laying down his life for both his friends and his enemies, and I am reminded that a smile and conversation is the least that I can offer. When I remember the pain and the

beauty of Easter I find hope in the midst of everything that life throws at us. Christ is risen, hallelujah! And so that means what we do here at Christ Church is not in vain if Jesus is at the centre of it.

Over the course of the last 6 months, myself and a lot of other people have been prayerfully beavering away working on a new vision for us here at Christ Church. At the recent Church Weekend Away I presented this vision statement:

"We are a people being transformed by the unconditional love of God; seeking to bless our community, and longing for all to experience the hope we have in Jesus."



For me the thing about this vision is not so much that it is a destination in itself but rather it talks about us in response to God and how we engage with the world around us. We spent some time unpacking some of the values that underpin this vision, and we explored this looking at various bible passages around the short form version of it, which is hopefully a lot easier for us all to remember!



Transformed by Love / Seeking to Serve / Experiencing Hope.

One of the passages we looked at was from 1 Corinthians 12, looking at this idea of the church being a part of the body of Christ. I think this is a vision for all of us, and I am convinced that we all have a part to play, whether great or small. Not all of us are a Pauline (pick your persuasion, I think they're all pretty great!), not all of us are a preacher or teacher, but all of us have a part to play. If we profess Jesus Christ as Lord, then we are a part of the body of Christ. If Christ Church is our home, then we have a part to play. And if your response is - "all I can do is pray", well then I think that is one the most amazing gifts that can be offered. A huge thank you to all those who pray faithfully for Christ Church, this community and me.

Rev. David Thomas

Lent *Appeal*

You can help open up opportunities this Lent

'Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.' (Matthew 7:7)

This Lent, your church can help local churches in more than 50 countries across the world bring life-changing transformation in the name of Jesus.

Donate now and transform lives by visiting tearfund.org/churchlent or scan the QR code.



tearfund.org

Tearfund, 100 Church Road, Teddington TW11 8QE United Kingdom
☎ +44 (0)20 3906 3906 ✉ info@tearfund.org 📱 @Tearfund

Registered office: Tearfund, 100 Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8QE. Registered in England: 994339. A company limited by guarantee. Registered Charity No. 265464 (England & Wales) Registered Charity No. SC037624 (Scotland).
Photo: Thiombiano Dioyadibi Emmanuel Benjamin/Tearfund 00692-(0123)



tearfund

EXTRAS FOR

HOLY WEEK

APRIL - MAY 23



HOLY WEEK BOXES

Children and families can pick up a Holy Week box and a guide, to help you think about the Easter story at home, from church. Each day of Holy Week there is something different to take out of the box. It's simple and fun!



EASTER
FAITH TRAIL

PALM SUNDAY

2ND APRIL 2023

12:15-14:45

The Easter Faith trail starts with a picnic lunch straight after church on Palm Sunday. Bring your lunch along and join us to eat together as we have a big picnic. The faith trail will begin from 13:00 and there will be interactive stations to explore the Easter story. Learn about the last supper through bread making, explore the Bible verses with a game of hopscotch, think about Jesus' trial and the difficult parts of the Easter story through thoughtful activities. We'd love to see your family there.



A wooden cross made of palm fronds is positioned on the left side of the page, set against a light-colored, textured stone background. The cross is made of two simple wooden beams, with the vertical beam being slightly thicker than the horizontal one. The palm fronds are green and have a feathery texture. The overall composition is simple and evocative, symbolizing the Easter season.

WHAT DOES THE RESURRECTION MEAN FOR US, TODAY?

Rowan Williams (previously Archbishop of Canterbury) has written a clear and inspiring short book titled “God with us”, the meaning of the cross and resurrection, then and now. I want to share some of what he says because he is so clear that the resurrection of Jesus is a living reality in our lives today. Because we have a loving relationship to the very much alive Jesus, he is our daily friend on life’s journey, not a treasured memory of someone long gone.

The resurrection announces that God’s new world has arrived. And it

has arrived because of the depth and power of Love lived out in Jesus’ life on earth. The cross is not an episode at the end of Jesus’ life, but the fulfilment of what that life has been all about. That life of total service to his Father, and to us, is already a life that death could not control. Jesus cried out on the cross “It is finished”, complete, done. Sin, your sin, my sin, is crushed and powerless so that “sin shall no longer be your master” (Rom 6:14) The resurrection then is not an optional extra or a happy ending, it is the inescapable bursting through of the reality of

who Jesus is - it shows the quality and the indestructability of the Love that has been at work all through His life.

And we are part of God's new world - the community changed for ever by the forgiving, powerful love of Jesus. **And that means that you and I really matter.** It was God's idea to make us human like we are. Human yet made for a relationship with Jesus. And that's never going to change. The resurrection shows there is no power that can change how God sees us; no sin that is too deeply rooted that cannot be faced up to and forgiven. And there is no power that can change our destiny. We will flourish because our future is God's future - rooted in the character and victory of the risen Jesus.

And that victory has dramatically changed what is possible in the world. In all sorts of human situations, it is possible for things to be different. **The way things happen to be is not the way things have to be.** One of the wonderful things we can say to people in any

situation is, "there's more to you than you think". We can know God personally - we can live differently. Jesus says, "do not be afraid" (John 16:33) because we often fear being defeated by our own bad habits, we fear being ignored, we fear being, well, irrelevant. But our church can show there are ways of living together that are not competitive, not exclusive and not fearful. A place where everyone matters and everyone can change. **Our church can show something of what God's new world looks like!**

Jesus describes his new world as a place where God has made his home in the hearts and minds of everyone who loves Him. (John 14:23) If you live with someone you get to know them pretty well and God is saying, look - I'm living with you, so we can get to know each other pretty well. Every time we open ourselves in prayer and worship, the Spirit is bringing Christ alive in our hearts. **As we seek to listen, to meditate, to imagine; we invite Christ to be active in our lives to go on changing our view of ourselves, our view of our potential, our view**

of the future – a radically different reality because the risen Jesus has demolished all opposition to his new world.

We live in a world where people don't believe genuine change is possible. Where any spiritual experience just keeps us going in an environment where we're a very very small cog in a big wheel. A world where it's assumed we're moving towards a death that is simply the end of the story.

The resurrection stands in sharp contrast to this contemporary pessimism. The resurrection energises us to be people of optimism and hope. Change is possible - change is happening. Every one of us is precious - every one of us can experience the love and power of the resurrection in our individual and corporate lives.

And as we respond, Christ uses us to speak to a world that desperately needs the good news of the resurrection.

Written by: Michael Bishop





Experience Easter

Written by
Alan Cottenden

What's your experience of Easter? Perhaps you remember the first time you really believed that God raised Jesus from the dead, or there's a particular service or other event that spoke to you powerfully, or maybe you have an Easter tradition. Here's what four folk from the Christ Church family told me when I asked them.

Pip Francis: I arrived here from Australia in August 2019 so my first two UK Easters were under lockdown. This year I'll have my first opportunity to gather in-person with my UK church family to celebrate and I'm really looking forward to the contagious joy of us declaring to one another, "He is risen; he is risen, indeed!" Back in Australia I belonged to quite a diversity of churches at different times - Uniting Church, Baptist, Anglican, Pentecostal - each with its different ways of celebrating Easter but, whatever the approach, I always struggled with the dark, sombre feel that Good Friday services sometimes had. How do you engage properly with the realities of Good Friday without either losing sight of

the joys of Sunday to come, or visiting them prematurely? During one of my lockdown Easters I hit upon a great YouTube video that tackles exactly this challenge brilliantly. Its title says it all: "It's Friday but Sunday is coming". It takes just over a minute to capture the devastation and despair of the disciples after Jesus' crucifixion but, every few seconds, it interjects "...but Sunday is coming!" If you want to watch it it's at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8gx6_rGLz20. (It's an oldie, but a goodie!)

I still remember vividly the moment of amazement when first I began to grasp - as I was growing up - the significance of what happened at Easter. Stuart Townend expresses it wonderfully in his song, "How deep the Father's love for us"

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TuFe9zkOBbc>). Though, as a

Christian, I know that Jesus died for US, I find I sometimes forget that US includes ME. The realisation of what Jesus did for me PERSONALLY is so clear in the song.

More trivially, we have a lovely family tradition back in Australia of the Easter Bunny leaving eggs on our doorstep on Easter Sunday morning. I'm rather hoping that his services will extend to the Northern Hemisphere again this year!

Richard Janes: I became a Christian in 1985 - despite a non-Christian background - when I was a student at Leicester University. Coming to grips with the Easter story was central to me coming to faith. The Christian Union was hosting a mission with the evangelist, J John, as the main speaker and I remember him taking us through the possible explanations for the resurrection, such as the authorities hid Jesus' body or the disciples "saw" Jesus as part of a group hallucination. I was fully convinced that Jesus rising from the dead provided the best explanation of the facts: that was the evening when I took the first step in a life of following Jesus. Another vivid Easter memory for me from my time at university was the first Easter after I came to faith when a group of us Christian students hiked up a nearby hill for an open-air service on the Sunday morning. It was a beautiful sunny spring day and the sense of new life was tangible.

After joining Christ Church in the 1980s, a memorable Easter for me was in 2016 when a group from local churches re-enacted the events of Passion week in Bedford - Liz Kang'ara described her memories of it in last year's magazine. It started with the Palm Sunday procession in the town centre and finished with Jesus' rising from the dead near the Castle Mound, where I was part of the Bedford Community Gospel Choir that



celebrated the Resurrection by singing Oh Happy Day. Very powerful.

I know that many people struggle with Good Friday and can't wait for Easter Sunday but, by temperament, I actually prefer the quiet reflection of Lent, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday to the exuberance of Easter Sunday. I think that Lent pancakes beat Easter eggs! Of course, knowing that, as Tony Campolo says, "It's Friday but Sunday's comin'!" makes all the difference. I wonder what it was like for those first disciples who - from the gospel accounts - don't seem to have been expecting the resurrection at all, despite what Jesus had told them. Had they politely nodded when He said that He would rise from the dead? But now they had seen Him killed in front of their eyes and some women had told them that His tomb was empty. What was going on?

Martin and Claire Sweet: One of our most memorable Easters was one we celebrated in Nairobi, Kenya in 2012 with Andrew, our middle son, and his wife Janet. They were working there for 6 years with Wycliffe Bible Translators and it afforded us an opportunity to experience the familiar Easter services through a different cultural lens. It was very special to celebrate with hundreds of Kenyans at All Saints Anglican Cathedral in Nairobi, giving us a vivid fresh perspective which we still remember! On Good Friday we gathered with

over 100 others for a service which lasted 4 hours as we spent the time reflecting and meditating on the familiar story, something we had never done before! Then, on Easter Sunday, together with a large gathering in the cathedral's second service, we enjoyed an amazing exuberant celebration. There was a robed choir – in which Janet was the only white person – for a service that mixed traditional Anglican liturgy and hymns, a few contemporary worship songs plus lively contributions in Swahili. To us it was a special blend of the formality of declaring the great Easter truths, with an informal friendliness that made us feel welcome and included.

Life in Nairobi is very mixed, with both affluent families living in gated communities and poor living in some of the largest slums in Africa. Through the liturgy, prayers and worship, we began to learn that Kenyans seem to have an awareness of being dependent on God in a way that we here in UK can miss. It allowed us time to reflect on not only how easy it is for us here in England to imagine that we are self-sufficient, but that we can lose sight of both the significance of Christ's sacrifice and our dependence on God for everything. For us it was a precious opportunity to learn not to take the Easter story for granted, but use it each year as an opportunity to gain fresh perspective.

Claire: Until I arrived at Christ Church

here in Bedford it had been some time since I had been involved in an Anglican church. The churches I had belonged to over the years generally paid less attention to the festivals and seasons of the Anglican church year, but I have found these seasonal prompts helpful and refreshing as they shine the spotlight on different aspects of my faith. As a retired primary school teacher, one particular time I remember was a moving presentation by the year 6 children and it showed me how God speaks through the Easter story in any context.

Martin: Until I retired, I was CEO of a Christian charity working with primary schools in SE London (similar in context to Impact here in Bedford). Every year I enjoyed the build up to Easter since the Religious Education syllabus of each local authority required children to learn about Easter and explore what it means for Christians! This gave us an amazing opportunity to explain the things Christians celebrate and hold dear to children, many of whom have little or no knowledge of God and His love as seen in Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. Whilst it would never have been appropriate to 'preach the gospel', I still remember the way the children always listened intently as we told and explained the Easter story. They seemed to sense that we were sharing something special, to be respected. For me, it was a yearly reminder not to take the familiar Easter story for granted, as every time I took a lesson or an assembly, I seemed to gain fresh perspective myself.

"We are a people being transformed by the unconditional love of God; seeking to bless our community, and longing for all to experience the hope we have in Jesus."

**CHRIST CHURCH
OUR VISION STATEMENT**

CHURCH WEEKEND AWAY '23

Collated by
Kay Berrington,
with contributions from
Christ Church Members

Well, the 2023 Church Weekend Away has happened with 140 staying for the whole weekend and 14 visiting for a day. It was a busy weekend with a whole range of things to do but more importantly it was an opportunity to draw close to God, to one another and learn more of the Vision for Christ Church. Huge thanks to everyone for the below contributions and to the many people who encouraged, prayed, supported and worked hard both before and during the weekend to help make it a brilliant CWA for us all. The feedback from the weekend has been overwhelmingly positive but let's hear more about the weekend from some of our church family...





Kathryn - As a family, our time on the CWA was time well spent. Baby Samuel enjoyed the endless opportunities to people watch those around him and to be looked after by members of our church family (thanks to Kara Rees and Janet Mills!). Sophie joined in the children's groups with much enthusiasm (thank you Ruth and team!) and found the whole weekend so enjoyable that she took some convincing to leave! Darren and I found the weekend to be a wonderful time to connect with church friends both old and new. We came away feeling better connected to our church family and with a renewed sense of the importance of meeting together with others who love, believe and trust in Jesus.

Anne & Keith - As two people, new to Christ Church, we were encouraged that going on the CWA would help us to get to know more people whilst also giving us a sense of the identity of the church and its desire for a fresh impetus as it moves into the future with David as vicar. The weekend did just that. Coffee breaks and meal times proved a good opportunity to chat and to share histories with those we found ourselves alongside, whilst those conversations and the formal sessions introduced us to the Christ Church community of established believers that is currently exploring a new vision. We are very grateful for the very warm welcome we have received from the whole church as new arrivals.



Julie - So how was the Church Weekend Away for you?

I approached the weekend with some trepidation, being a relative newcomer to Christ Church. Kay had been very persuasive and I'd signed up, thinking it would be good to get to know some people better. But this would also involve them getting to know me, and would I fit in? Who would I know? What would we do?

Thankfully, I really didn't need to be apprehensive, it was a lovely weekend.

It was so good to all be together, such a wide age range, such a lot of people, all part of the family of God at Christ Church, each one valued, each one loved. The weekend helped us all feel we belonged, and it was touching to see the help and support offered to those who needed it and to witness the many conversations as we chatted together about our lives. It was delightful to have children of all ages present, uninhibited, trusting, enthusiastic. Thank you to the parents for sharing them with us.

I probably most enjoyed the sessions when we opened the Bible and thought about our call to be disciples, beloved by God, sharing in God's mission. It was good to reflect on the passages and share our thoughts, and to pray for one another. I find such times thought provoking and energising.

The programme was wonderfully varied though, and Sunday morning's 'It's a knock out' competition was great fun, as we faced various challenges in teams and discovered our strengths



and weaknesses, our team even came second which was a bonus! I really appreciated the music jam session too – all abilities welcomed and included, it was wonderful to sing along with some improvised sax, and as always, good to get to know each other through the medium of music!

Janet - Thank you so much to all those who contributed to the Church Weekend Away. I was able to slow down, step back and freshly engage with God, through prayer, worship and conversation. I came as one person and left a completely different one; more valued, more loved and more part of the church. Praise the Lord.



Kara -This was our first time on a Church Weekend Away and I have to admit that on the lead up to it I felt like it wasn't what we needed, we were in the middle of an extremely busy term, our children were recovering from illness and we were all exhausted! I also suffer from social anxiety so the thought of being stuck in a building with a hundred people, that I had to talk to all weekend was overwhelming to say the least!

Well, I couldn't have been more wrong! It turned out it was just what we all DID need! I can honestly say it felt like God swept me up in his arms for the weekend and carried me. It was such a calm and safe environment, with no pressure to do anything, and the freedom to retreat to your room when everything got too much (which it turned out it didn't!) It had the perfect mix of fun, chilled time, worship, prayer and getting to know the rest of the church family. It was so nice to have the time to do this.

Best bits for me were - Having the time to get to know more of the church family and feel like a close community. Not having to cook, wash up, tidy up or clean! Seeing my children so relaxed and happy.

What I learned - That church family is really important. We are all broken but we can support and encourage one another through prayer. That we shouldn't try to achieve things without Jesus.

Funniest thing - That's a tough one - it would have to be between Andrew Maltby's comedy sketch at the 'Church Has Got Talent' show or watching the Woodhouse boys try and roller skate!!





Megan - I went to the Church Weekend Away with my two toddlers, and had the best time. Although I was by myself, everybody was so helpful and caring, giving me a hand where I needed it. It made me realise how much of a family church can be! It was a joy watching my two children become more confident with everybody. I particularly enjoyed meal times, sitting with different people each time, and getting to know those I'd not had much of a chance to get to know previously. The funniest part would have to be the talent show - everybody did such an amazing job! I especially enjoyed Michael's poem (which should be shared with everybody who wasn't there, as it was so hilarious!) Thanks to all involved in the organisation of the weekend, it was wonderful.

Pauline, Dominic and Eileen - We all thoroughly enjoyed the CWA. There was a broad range of activities available, or the chance to just have some rest and quiet time if preferred. Most importantly, there was the opportunity to chat to many of the Christ Church family that we may not know very well. It was also very valuable to spend time together in worship and to reflect on how we can adopt and apply the new Christ Church vision.

As a family with some mobility issues, we were very grateful at how responsive the leadership team were in allowing 'speedy boarding' at mealtimes for those who would find standing in line difficult. Thanks for your understanding with this- it made life much easier!



Steve - I've been asked how the Church Weekend Away was for me? I have reflected, and detect a youthful thread emerging.

I admit to some pre-weekend angst. I had volunteered to help lead a children's session involving organizing a puppet show entitled "The Bus Stop Samaritan", where the main protagonists were a beaten-up businessman and a punk rocker, as the Samaritan. So, crouched with an iPad camera in one hand, script on one knee and an iPhone with recorded sound effects on the other, 5 children aged 4 to 9 performed with huge hand puppets nearly their size, with cardboard ambulances and buses entering stage left & right - *what could possibly go wrong?* We had predictable mayhem, but a lot of fun creating it, and hopefully the children learnt about being kind to each other as well.

When it came to the talent show I wondered if Whistling Willie would reprise his 2017 performance? But, in his absence, the youngsters again stepped up to the plate. Reinhardt's dancing robot was very clever and Aqualina's California rap heralded the arrival of a new star. Honourable mention should go to Nigel Gallagher who only learnt to play guitar and join Oasis, post-retirement.

Kiki and Elton Russell dazzled in their red wig and fluorescent shirt, respectively, although I suspect the shirt, if not the wig, was borrowed from Steve Welsh.

When it came to the "It's a knock out" activity, I was put in charge of the Target Challenge; the aim being to lob rings and frisbees into distant hoops. A few teams were threatened with a yellow card for disruptive behaviour but the highlight was Kirstie, who after unsuccessfully demanding concessions from me on account of her blindness, promptly threw her first ring 15 metres into the furthest and smallest hoop to achieve the only maximum score of the afternoon!

My memory highlight was probably our final worship session. DT was summing up his series of talks on the Vision for Christ Church: the pillars of Transformation, Welcome & Hope. He did this whilst his lectern furniture was under attack from Joshua, Noah & Grace, in the midst of a sea of their waving flags. After starting to thank God for the weekend, DT was distracted by Joshua at his feet and asked him "what we should thank God for?" "Jesus", young Joshua exulted, without hesitation; a fitting finale to a wonderful church weekend. The Vision is all about Jesus and I think he would have enjoyed being there with us.

THE APOSTLE THOMAS

Thomas, one of the twelve apostles chosen by Jesus (See Matthew 10:3, Mark 3:18 and Luke 6:15), was born in Galilee. It is largely from John's gospel that we glean the little we know about him.

In the narrative concerning the illness and death of Lazarus, we read: "Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'" (John 11:16) Thomas was known as Didymus, because he was a twin. We know nothing about his twin brother or sister.

It was Thomas who prompted one of the famous sayings of Jesus. "Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus answered, **'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.'**" (John 14:5-7)

The most famous reference to Thomas is after the death and resurrection of Jesus recorded in John 20:24-29: "Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord!' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.' A week later, his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them.

Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, **'Peace be with you!'** Then he said to Thomas, **'Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.'** Thomas said to him, 'My Lord and my

God!' Then Jesus told him, **'Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'**" Thomas was also one of the seven disciples to whom Jesus appeared by the Sea of Galilee. (See John 21:2).

The final reference to Thomas in the Bible is in Acts 1:12-14, after the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven: "Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers."

Thomas wrote a gospel, which was not accepted into the Canon of Scripture. He is believed to have travelled to India and established the Christian Church there. Legend has it that he was speared to death in India in 72 AD. Personally, I think that Thomas, being referred to as Doubting Thomas, has been judged rather harshly over the centuries. Is it any wonder that a thinking person who had not yet seen the risen Lord should want more than the testimony of his colleagues and of women, who were not regarded as reliable witnesses in those days? After all, we are considering nothing less than the greatest miracle of all times: the resurrection of the Messiah following His death by Crucifixion.

Written by Elizabeth Mortimer



COME AND JOIN US IN PERSON & ONLINE*

Holy Week and Easter

3rd - 9th April 2023

Wednesday **10am Holy Communion**
8pm Final Lent Course *

Maundy Thursday **8pm Holy Communion ***

Good Friday **10am Family Gathering**
8pm Journey to the Cross *

Easter Sunday **9am Holy Communion**
10.30am All Age Worship *
7pm Easter Celebration



Sunday Services

9am & 10:30am Morning Worship

7pm Sundays@Seven

Wednesday Service

10am Holy Communion



CONTACT US

Vicar: David Thomas

07778034481

Vicar@CCBedford.org

Vicar's PA - Vikki Thomas

VicarsPA@CCBedford.org

Office Manager: Pauline Grimley

01234 327150

Office@CCBedford.org

Bookings Administrator - Dawn Hire

07788687011

Centre@CCBedford.org

Children's Minister: Ruth Hulme

07554537757

Children@CCBedford.org

Youth & Social Media Lead - AJ Wade

Youth@CCBedford.org / Comms@CCBedford.org

18 - 30s Pioneer: Laura Jewell

18-30s@CCBedford.org

Church Wardens - Kay Berrington & Andrew Russell

Warden@CCBedford.org

Site Manager: Vandon Grimley

Site@CCBedford.org



@CC_Bedford



@christchurchbedford



@ccbedford.org



@ChristChurchBedford



www.ccbedford.org

CHRIST
CHURCH
BEDFORD

Join us at Christ Church
Denmark Street, Bedford

