

I doubt it! A thought about doubting

The Christian Church has, perhaps like never before, accepted those who openly declare uncertainty and scepticism and are willing to search for other interpretations of their faith. If there ever was an age when people simply believed what they were told then today is not that day.

Nowadays children are encouraged to question, express their doubts and find out for themselves. We even speak of 'healthy doubt' and 'healthy scepticism'.

It may well have been that the gospel writers who struggled to see the Jesus way as a valid faith option after his death and burial personalized and personified all their doubt in Thomas. Even modern preachers speak of us being "a Doubting Thomas" thus personifying him with our doubts, with us wrestling with faith. Today we encourage this.

The John 20:1-18 passage about Jesus' resurrection appearance and about Thomas not being present would seem to have been written for future generations and for those who would not see a risen Jesus. This passage seems to have been written for those who may find faith in Jesus hard to accept. This passage seems to be written for all who would come afterwards...

all who would find the Jesus story and faith in his way a difficult (improbable?) option.

Perhaps by us revealing the wounds and the scars of following the Jesus way of love, forgiveness and acceptance of all we will help people to believe. Perhaps as we reveal that Jesus' love never dies, that his love is stronger than death and that his love never ends people will believe. Perhaps as we the followers of Jesus continue to bear witness to the Jesus way and through our loving, forgiving, caring and generosity others will see and be able to touch the things of God through our believing.

Kenneth