

#### PARISH of COBHAM & LUDDESDOWNE with DODE

**Priest-in-Charge** – The Rev'd Canon Alyson Davie

For Funeral enquiries please contact Alyson Phone no. 01474-812068 email:- alyson@stjohnsmeopham.co.uk

(Rest Day: Friday)

**Associate Priest** – The Rev'd Pam Davies

For Wedding, Baptism and all other enquiries please contact Pam

The Vicarage, Battle Street, Cobham, Kent. DAI2 3DB

Phone no 01474-394515 email:- rev.pamdavies@sky.com (NB new number)

(Current work days are Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday)

Pastoral assistant

Janet Weaver, 36 Highview, Vigo Village, DA13 0RR (01732) 823936

Church Office Phone no. 01474 813495

#### Church Officers of St. Mary Magdalene, Cobham

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SUBMISSIONS Cobham and Luddesdowne News is a community magazine produced by and for the residents of Cobham, Sole Street and Luddesdowne.

Please send material for inclusion by the 15th of the month preceding publication to <a href="mailto:editorialcln@gmail.com">editorialcln@gmail.com</a>

## <u>Cover photograph Adrian Whiteing (Luddesdowne Church)</u>

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### July & August 2023

'In the summertime and the weather is fine' who can forget the 1970 hit by Mungo Jerry – the soundtrack of many a summer day of my youth (although the lyrics would be considered questionable today). Well summertime has arrived and as I write this article the thermostat is hitting the high 20s. With the longer warmer days there will be plenty to do in the parishes. The dates for the Luddesdowne Church open days can be found on p.6. The 8<sup>th</sup> of July will be a busy day for the music lovers amongst us with Cobham Choir performing in the afternoon and then Party in the Park taking place in the evening; details on p.22 and p.32 respectively. You will also find details of a day trip to Windsor being organised for September on p.28.

Additionally, the friends of Cobham Church would like to thank everyone who supported the quiz-night on 22 April. The event raised £630 and there was no doubt that "a good time was had by all"!

Enjoy the sunshine! Tina

## Guided footpaths walk from Cobham to Gold Street (circular walk)

Guide: Jenny Ellett 01474 361977 On: Sunday 23rd July 2023 Meet: 2.30pm at Cobham Church, The Street, Cobham DA12 3DB The walk is free.

Gravesend Historical Society Footpaths Committee walk open to everybodyincluding well behaved dogs. Explore glorious countryside-sensible walking shoes/boots necessary-uneven surfaces and possible stiles as this is a country walk.

#### **Forthcoming**



### TWO WOMEN music events

8 July PARTY IN THE PARK

14 September BOWIESQUE

I2 October
FIL STRAUGHAN
9 November
FLEETWOOD BAC
30 November
ABBA Revival

#### A letter from The Rev'd Pam Davies

Dear Friends



Some people like to be busy; some like travel, but some like to be at home. If we're lucky we can learn to balance these opposites.

On the whole, we live in a noisy world. Do you remember back in 2020 during the first lockdown people commented on how quiet it was with no traffic no aeroplanes just the sound of birds singing, it was totally different. The other day, this occurred to me in a new way. When John describes his visions of heaven (in the first five chapters of Revelation) he uses all the superlatives he can find. The face of Christ shines like the sun, his hair is white as snow, and his eyes are like flames. His voice is like "the sound of many waters". Other sounds in heaven are thunder, and the singing of all the creatures of the world. In other words, these were the loudest noises known the sound of thunder or of a huge waterfall.

Certainly, most of us have the radio or TV on a lot of the time but it wasn't till we had the lockdown did we find stillness and silence. It was fine for a short time enjoying the quiet but as time went on nearly everyone found it difficult. We'd rather have something to occupy our minds. Generally, we often find silence uncomfortable, we feel we need to fill that space. Three years on and the world is just as noisy as it was before the pandemic, One of the most dramatic moments of Revelation (among the dazzling brightness of the visions, the huge crowds and the apocalyptic events) we read "when the Lamb opened the 7th seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour".

Silence in the midst of our busy lives is so very hard to come by as we fill out days with busyness and at the end of the day we find we haven't stopped. One of the most famous verses in the Bible is from Psalm 46 "Be still I know that I am God" God knows we need to be still and find time to be with him because without him we can end up being so busy and going nowhere fast. It just needs 5 minutes at the start of the day to ask God to guide you. Some days are harder than others and God wants to know what is troubling you he also wants to know what you are happy about. Do you talk to him, in other words pray to him?

Continued on Page 5

So my question is - do you find time to be in a space of silence and to be still, so you can bring your day to God? God is always there to walk with you through your life, you just need to find time to talk with Him. You might be surprised what a difference it makes to your life.

Yours in Christ Pam

#### **Alfresco**

We love to dine alfresco (We love to eat outside) Roast chicken on the patio With salad on the side!

For in the warmth of summer You really cannot beat A meal in the open air It is the place to eat!

A barbie or a salad Or a fresh takeaway A picnic in the countryside Just makes a summer day!

The birds a-singing in the trees
Bright flowers feast our eyes
The only thing that's not to like
Is beating off the flies!

By Nigel Beeton





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#### **SOLE STREET WI**

On a beautiful summer's day in the middle of June the ladies of Sole Street WI shimmied into our President's garden for our annual summer garden lunch. This English garden full of this year's abundant roses and early fruits was witness to a very happy occasion filled with much gaiety and lively conversation!

Our scheduled speaker for the main June meeting was Neil Sadler, a retired senior police officer, whose illustrated talk entitled "California Dreaming" describes a road trip in the Western USA. There are fascinating facts about the Golden Gate Bridge, the earthquake of 1906 in San Francisco, the Grand Canyon and "Get Your Kicks On Route 66", the mother road which crosses almost 2,500 miles of the USA.

Weekly walking group continue to meet every Tuesday morning, rendez vous at Jeskyns car park. The craft group have started a new project which embraces the history of Sole Street WI through individual crafted panels in a "memory quilt". We meet in the church room and variously embroider, collage, crochet the patterns which will portray our WI past and present. Members of our WI have also again been supporting the Local Funding Group and providing refreshments for the monthly Thursday "Pop In" at our fondly knick-named "Tin Tabernacle".

The speaker at our next main meeting at 7.30 pm on 25th July will be Susan Shaw. She will be entertaining us with her talk "The Road To Chelsea" which draws from her experiences preparing and exhibiting at The Royal Horticultural Societies Annual Spring Show. We meet in the St Mary's Church Room at the corner of Manor Road, (opposite The Little Shop).

For information on this and all our other activities please contact Yvonne Tel 01747813455.

Molly Isaacs

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Saturday 16th September 2023 - 2:00-3:30pm Cobham Gardeners' Society

# Autumn Show & Plant Sale

Gardening Tips \*Adult & Junior Show Categories Flowers, Vegetables, Preserves & Photographic Tea, coffee & home made cake on sale

Free Entry for Members & Non Members



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#### THE TUESDAY POP-IN

Meetings are held at the Leather Bottle on the second Tuesday of the month from 10.30 till 12 noon; all are welcome to join us for a relaxed chat and coffee.

Next pop-in Tuesday 11 July

CONTACT: MARY PALMER - 01474 816788





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The community has supported us tirelessly from 2013 when the LFG was formed at the request of St. Mary Magdalene Parochial Church Council, and we have now raised £60,390.22. with the promise of £37,500 from grants, including £2,500 from Cobham Parish Council. It was therefore an unbelievable bonus to be advised, as a result of the support of Cobham Parish Council, that we will be awarded a grant of £150,000 from the Benefits Lead, Lower Thames Crossing.

## Our AGM will be held on Saturday 1st July at 2.00pm in St. Mary's Church Room – please come and support us.

Why not declutter at the Sole Street Sale Trail ? (Garage/Boot Fair) on Sunday,  $20^{\circ}$  August.

Tabletop Sales can be held at individual houses or perhaps you'd prefer to join with neighbours to make a Marketplace. I can offer space at Sole Street House.

There will be a charge of £10.00, towards LFG funds, for each participant, however anyone who is donating the proceeds of their sale to the LFG will not need to pay the £10.

Family tickets with a route map will be on sale at St. Mary's Church Room. Contact me on 01474 814560/07557 990944/surowe42@gmail.com

Su Rowe

For details of Local Funding Group Community Coffee Mornings please see page 19





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## 2023 Open Season – OWLETTS

Owletts will open its doors and garden to visitors on the 1st Sunday of every month from April to Sept, 11am -5pm.

#### **North Kent Embroiderers**



Hello Everyone,

The Coronation Banner is now complete, thanks to all those who contributed and to Veronica for stitching it all together. Our last meeting included our AGM and we are pleased to report that we have a full complement of committee members. As Mary is stepping down, our thanks were recorded for the many years of dedicated service given by her to our group in her role as Secretary. We are pleased that Louise

feels able to take on the challenge as her replacement.

After the AGM, in tribute to the Coronation of King Charles III we enjoyed a street party style tea which our members had contributed to. This also included our usual raffle with Coronation themed prizes and a team wordsearch.



Some of our ladies had taken part in the day school led by Jennie Rayment recently. Jennie is a well respected teacher who many have seen on TV. She ensured that the day was not only fun but a great success. Everyone worked hard and many new skills were learnt. You can see the piece that Claire has been working on. Sarah said that despite her initial nerves, the day stretched her abilities and expanded her views on future projects.



Several pieces of our embroidery have been on show at the 'Bringing People Together' art exhibition in the St George's Arts Centre, Gravesend and later at the Gravesham Fringe Festival. We are pleased to be able to publicise our group in this way and to have welcomed several new members this year.

If you would like to join our group or would just like to find out a bit more about us then please pay us a visit - look at our website <a href="https://northkentembroiderers.co.uk/">https://northkentembroiderers.co.uk/</a> or email us at: <a href="mailto:info@northkentembroiderers.co.uk">info@northkentembroiderers.co.uk</a> or contact our Chairman, Eileen on 01474 324734 Happy stitching, Karen



#### **BELL RINGING by Peter Hartley**

Sir Michael Morpurgo remarked towards the end of Coronation Day what a remarkable experience it had been to be in Westminster Abbey for the Annointing and Crowning of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. The congregation, many there at the express wish of The King, shared in Their Majesties dedication to service, and rejoiced in the sights and sounds of an ancient ritual given all the significance and relevance of today for tomorrow.

Listening again to the radio recording of all the music and words and sounds of a day of splendour with vows of humble service has been a chance to share in the Abbey congregation's amazing memories. All the music was chosen by The King drawing on his extensive musical knowledge and the willing participation of musicians and singers who enjoy His Majesty's royal patronages. For two hours before the Coronation Service the gathering congregation thrilled to a glorious concert and then there was the music and fanfares of the two hour Ceremony. Ten musical commissions from The King were thoughtfully woven into the four hours of rich and varied sound.

At the moment of the crowning of The King we heard a mighty fanfare, the Abbey bells did ring, and Gun Salutes were fired in London and also at Saluting Stations at home and abroad and by Ships at Sea. What a remarkable thought that the moment of crowning in an ancient Abbey in an ancient ceremony could cause sounds to travel around the World.

I know that ringers everywhere made every effort to ring their bells for the Coronation. Many of the approximately 5,000 English ringing towers will have rung. Then there are in Wales 228 towers with rings of bells, in Scotland 21, Ireland 37, Channel Islands 10, Isle of Man 2, Africa 13, Australia 56, Canada 8, New Zealand 8, USA 46 and about another 100 ringing towers in the rest of the World.

After the Coronation Service the Westminster Abbey ringers rang a 3 hour Coronation Peal of 5,040 changes of Cambridge Royal on their 10 bells. In Cobham Byron Aldous, Macy Aldous, Christian Antrobus, Juliette Antrobus, Stuart Edwards, Florence Hemp, Peter Hartley, Martha Hyde, Mike Hyde, Otto Hyde, Nigel Pagram, Sue Pagram and Simon Williamson all rang on Coronation Day. Only Monty Ferrara was unable to ring due to a recent shoulder operation.

Then on Sunday on our own six bells Peter Hartley I, Simon Williamson 2, Byron Aldous 3, Mike Hyde 4, Stuart Edwards 5 and conductor, and Christian Antrobus 6, rang our Coronation Quarter Peal in 46 minutes of I,260 changes of Grandsire Doubles. All people of good will had shared in a memorable Coronation weekend and a most significant moment in the long history of the monarchy and our new Carolean Age.

## Church Services during July



Sunday 2nd July
10:30am Family Service, Luddesdowne

Sunday 9th July
10:30am Holy Communion (BCP), Cobham

Sunday 16th July
10:30am Holy Communion, Luddesdowne

Sunday 23rd July
10:30am Holy Communion, Cobham

Sunday 30th July
10:30am Holy Communion, Luddesdowne

9:30am 5th July - Holy Communion, 12th, 19th and 26th Informal Morning Prayer

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#### COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNINGS 10.30 – 12.00 Everyone is welcome

<u>Day</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Contact</u>	
13th July 10 <sup>th</sup> August	Local Funding Group Su 814560 Fundraiser Ukraine drone equipment -£1000		
	Or if you prefer -Red Cross /Ukraine		
Contact Su if you wis		nake a donation.	
I4 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Local Funding Group</b>	Su 814560	
12 <sup>th</sup> October	Scrabble and Board Games	"	
9 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Local Funding Group</b>	"	



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#### **MEOPHAM LIBRARY WRITING GROUP**

**Meopham Library Writing Group** meets again on *Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July* **2023** *at 10am* until midday. Each month, members are invited to write a short story, poem or an article based on a writing theme, as well as taking part in a writing challenge and occasionally a Rolling Story.

The next writing group meetings will be on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 7<sup>th</sup> September and 5<sup>th</sup> October.

If you are interested in any kind of writing, either as an experienced writer or a beginner, you are very welcome to join the writing group. Recording special memories for your family and writing stories or poetry is very enjoyable and writing can also be therapeutic when facing difficult times in life.

For more information, please ring **01474 813379** or just turn up at Meopham Library on the first Thursday of the month.

#### 1st South Street Boys Brigade and Girls Association Company

Boys and girls aged 5-18 years are invited to join us at **South Street Baptist Church,** Wrotham Road, DA13 0QJ(next to Hope Scout Camp), for team games, table tennis, cooking, painting, craft, nature study and outdoor activities. We meet every Friday evening during term time, from 6pm until 7.30pm and the weekly subscription is £2. Please ring 01474 813379 for more information.

Last month, we went camping at the Boys Brigade Honey Hill Camp in Maidstone, which has adventure playgrounds and a climbing wall. We have also visited the Water Activities Centre in Tonbridge, to learn about canoeing, kayaking and stand up paddle boards with a team of qualified leaders. Please visit: www.thewac.org.uk

The BBGA Company will be taking part in a **Family Service on 23**<sup>th</sup> **July** at 10.45am until about midday at South Street Baptist Church. All are welcome.

Families with babies and children under five are invited to **SONG TIME** which meets every Monday morning during term time, from 9.45am until I I am. There are lots of toys, art, craft and singing. Entry is £I for each family. The **Family Games Afternoon** is on **Saturday 15**<sup>th</sup> **July** from 2pm until 4pm. There will be table tennis, board games, tea and cakes. All are welcome and admission is free.

For more information about all our family activities please visit:

www.southstreetbaptist.org.uk



#### July Summer Show

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June we held our Summer Show, which was a great success. The RHS Judge said it was one of the best Summer Shows he had seen. We had 149 exhibits, 36 more than last year, it was great to see many of our new members enjoying exhibiting and winning prizes. There were plenty of visitors who enjoyed homemade cake and tea in the sunshine. The plant sellers sold out! So, a successful day all round. Our next show is our Autumn Show on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September.

In the meantime, Summer is progressing....July is often one of the hottest months of the year and a great time to sit out and enjoy your garden. Keep plants looking good by regularly dead-heading, and you'll enjoy a longer display of blooms. Make sure you keep new plants well-watered, using grey water where possible, and hoe off weeds, which thrive in the sunshine.

#### Top 10 jobs this month

- 1. Check clematis for signs of clematis wilt
- 2. Care for houseplant while on holiday
- 3. Water tubs and new plants if dry, but be water-wise
- 4. Deadhead bedding plants and repeat-flowering perennials, to ensure continuous flowering
- 5. Pick courgettes before they become marrows
- 6.Treat apple scab
- 7.Clear algae, blanket weed & debris from ponds, and keep them topped up
- 8. Order catalogues for next year's spring-flowering bulbs
- 9. Give the lawn a quick-acting summer feed, especially if not given a spring feed
- 10. Harvest apricots, peaches, and nectarines For further details of membership and all Gardeners' activities email <a href="mailto:cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk">cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk</a>



#### Luddesdown & District Rights of Way Group.

We are a small friendly group that usually walks from The Cock Inn, Henley Street, Luddesdown, Gravesend DAI3 0XB, at 11am on Wednesdays. We walk at a gentle pace for some 90 minutes in beautiful country-

side. Occasionally we lead weekend walks.

With four Socials a year in Luddesdown Village Hall and a twice yearly Newsletter, we would be delighted if you joined us for a walk or two. Becoming a member costs £7 per person a year.

Please contact Walks Co-ordinator Janet Ferguson, preferably by email janetferguson@hotmail.fr . Or Chairman Gerry Minister on 01474 813 376.

#### Gardening for a Wilder Kent – Feeding Birds

Why feed birds in your garden? Feeding birds allows you to get really close to some amazing wildlife. You might think great if tits, robins and finches are nothing to shout about, but the more kent you look, the more you see their fantastic colours and interesting wildlife behaviours. We can all benefit from sharing our lives a little bit more with wildlife.



Over the past 50 years the numbers of many so called 'common' birds have dramatically declined. Research is being conducted as to why, but changing agricultural practices with less hedgerows, more pesticides and a lack of insects in the summer have taken their toll. Sometimes when we look out of the window, it is difficult to believe that song thrushes, sparrows and starlings are all struggling to survive in the countryside, but they are. These, among many others, are now red listed as birds of extreme conservation concern. By supplementary feeding, you can make sure your garden supports lots of different birds. If enough gardens provide food, water and shelter in a neighbourhood, it creates essential corridors for wildlife to move along and live in.

You can feed birds right through the year if you want to:

In winter food is hard to find, so supplementing a bird's natural food can be essential to their survival

In spring adults are busy trying to raise chicks. Not only do they need to hunt all day to find the right food for their young, but they also need to feed themselves. A well-fed parent is better able to gather food for its babies.

In summer and autumn birds use lots of energy moulting into their winter plumage. They also need to start to building up their fat reserves ready for winter.

Gardens can easily support families of blue tit, great tit, robin, wren and blackbird. With a little luck the fuss around your bird table may attract the interest of other less traditional garden birds including great spotted woodpecker, long-tailed tit, goldfinch, greenfinch, nuthatch and treecreeper.

Bird feeding has become something of a craze in the UK. The British Trust for Ornithology says we spend between £200m and £300m a year on However, studies have asserted that garden bird feeders are contributing to the spread of serious diseases among wild birds, scientists have warned, causing previously rare illnesses to become epidemics in some populations. Poor garden feeder hygiene, droppings accumulations and stale food are promoting the transmission of illnesses between garden birds as the animals repeatedly congregate in the same location, coming into contact with species they would not usually interact with in the wild. Gardeners can help to reduce the transmission of disease by regularly disinfecting feeders and feeding sites, and rotating the position of feeders in the garden.

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### COBHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 7.30PM

4 July Meadow Room

5 Sept Church Room

3 Oct Meadow Room

7 Nov Church Room

## LUDDESDOWN PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2023

Mon 17 July 2023 7:30pm Mon18 September 7:30pm Mon 20 November 7:30pm Mon 15 January 2024 7:30pm Monday 18 March 2024 7.30pm

#### LUDDESDOWN VILLAGE HALL

The hire charges are as follows: from £40 per session (please visit our website for full details)

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DAY	Event	Date	Contact	
Monday	Monday Club for the retired	Every week 2–4 pm	Brian Williams 814049	
Tuesday	U3A Choir <b>Singing</b> <b>Group</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> in the month 9.45-11.45. am	Sheryl Diddams 813476	
Tuesday	WI	4 <sup>th</sup> in the month 7.30–10.00 pm	Yvonne Martin 813455	
Wednesday	Midweek Worship	Every week 9.00–10.45am	Ron Chamberlain 814250	
Thursday	LFG Coffee Morning	2 <sup>nd</sup> in the month 10.30 - 12.00	Su Rowe 814560	
Friday	U3A Sign Language	2 <sup>nd</sup> in the month 2.00-3.30pm	Roy Lingham 815908	

Contact details provided with permission

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References available from existing customers

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Email: robinhunt1@hotmail.co.uk



## WINDSOR OUTING COACH OUTING TO WINDSOR



## INCORPORATING A BOAT TRIP WITH ONBOARD AFTERNOON TEA

THE DATE: WEDNESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2023

Coach will leave Cobham (opposite school) at approx. 9.15am – giving time for stroll/drink in Windsor before boarding Boat at 2.30pm.

Coach should return to Cobham by approx. 7pm.

PLEASE, no parking along The Street or in Lawrence Drive.

Plenty of parking behind the School by the Cricket pavilion.

Cost: £62 per person

Deposit £25 to be paid by the end of July 2023 to secure your seat.

Balance by mid August 2023.

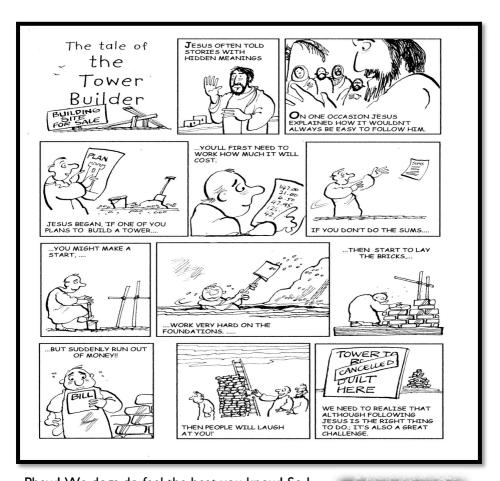
Payment to Jewels Tours, 56 New Road, Gravesend (close to Iceland)

or by phone 01474 334434.

QUOTE "CHRIS BROADLEY EVENT".

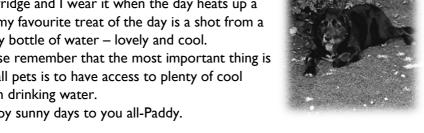
CHRIS BROADLEY 01474 247632.

NEW COLLEGE COBHAM



Phew! We dogs do feel the heat you know! So I like to find a soft shaded spot and lay on my cooling mat and I also have a bandana that is kept in the fridge and I wear it when the day heats up a bit, my favourite treat of the day is a shot from a spray bottle of water - lovely and cool. Please remember that the most important thing is for all pets is to have access to plenty of cool clean drinking water.

Happy sunny days to you all-Paddy.



Useful info for all you lovely pet owners can be found at- www.rspca.org.uk/ adviceandwelfare/seasonal/summer

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#### Wordsearch Clues and Answers - Jul23

On 3<sup>rd</sup> July the Church remembers St Thomas, also called Doubting Thomas, because he would not believe his fellow disciples' news of the Resurrection. But 'doubt' did not mean that Thomas did not love Jesus! Only a few weeks before, Thomas had urged his fellow disciples to follow Jesus to see Lazarus in Bethany, despite danger from the Jews. "Let us also go, that we may die with him." (John 11:16) Instead, Jesus had brought Lazarus back to life. Thomas was sometimes very confused about just where Jesus was headed. But in John 14:5 Jesus untangled his confused commitment: "I am going to my Father", and "No one comes unto the Father but by me." Finally, after the Resurrection, Jesus appeared to Thomas, showing him the wounds of His crucifixion. Thomas was electrified, and his response immediate: "My Lord and my God" (John 20.26ff). Thus Doubting Thomas' honest doubts, turned to honest faith, have become a reassurance for thousands of people down the centuries.

July Thomas Resurrection Doubt Doubting Love Jesus Follow Lazarus Bethany Danger Jews Die Life Confused Going Father Wounds Crucifixion Response Immediate Lord God Honest Faith

