

This month's letter is from Adrian Whalley, Local Ministry Assistant

Have you ever been in a situation where you have seen something or met someone and your first reaction was that "this is just too good to be true"? Just think back. It was a situation, whatever it was, when it was hard to believe that it had happened because it just seemed to be just too good to be true.

Examples that came to mind may be meeting a long-lost friend or seeing a beautiful sunset from the banks of Thornton reservoir or, further afield, seeing the Press pictures of our recent solar eclipse. Whatever it was, it was just too good to be true.

This was my theme for a recent talk as part of a service at St Mary's church in Stanton under Bardon. The text for the day was Luke 24: vs 36-49. This is well-worth a read. After His crucifixion, Jesus has returned to see His disciples but they just cannot believe it. It is just too good to be true.

A similar thing can be said about the Breakfast Church that takes place on the first Sunday of each month at the Thornton Community Centre. The doors open at 9.00 am for a breakfast - either cooked or continental - and toast, tea, coffee or soft drinks and there is a short service (30 minutes or so) which starts around 10.15 am.

I couldn't believe it when I attended this service in April as there were several young families with their young children - as well as the more seasoned 'regulars' of St Peter's Church. As well as a stonking good breakfast to your liking, there are lots of toys and activities - drawing paper, colouring pencils, coloured stars and other artist's materials - to give to the young people when they need but also the adults too. There must have been around 25 people all told - and all for no charge, although there is a contribution plate for those who wish to do so. The majority of those who breakfasted stayed for the 30 minute service of songs, some prayers and a Delia Geary 'talk'. And great that was too. A message about 'doubting Thomas' - so appropriate and applicable to us all in different situations in which we may find ourselves.

The final verse of my text from Luke talks about God sending His Holy Spirit to empower and 'drive' us and to reflect His influence through us in our daily lives - through the thoughts that we have, through the way that we relate to our friends and neighbours.

What I have said could be "just too good to be true". But it's not. It's reality; just as Jesus was a reality to his disciples then and to you and me now - if only we can see it.

Adrian Whalley