

Focus on Fetteresso 3rd May '09

Alison Dyson's reading set the scene for Rev Dr Fyfe Blair's sermon.

From the gospel of John we heard about the appearance of Jesus to his disciples. This took place in a locked room some time after his death and resurrection. Imagine how they felt when they saw him again. They had been led and taught by this man who claimed to be the son of God, and then watched as he was crucified and died. To their initial disbelief and then amazement here He was amongst them, having risen from the dead!

Amongst the disciples was Thomas. He was hugely loyal and trusting in his support and following of Jesus. Yet he doubted. He wanted confirmation of the fact that this was his Lord. His doubt could be based on this loyalty. He was so grief stricken at the death of Jesus he would not want to be kidded that Jesus was alive. Taking it on trust was just too much. So he asked Jesus if he could see the holes in his hands where the nails had pierced his flesh and the scar in his side where the spear had been plunged.

Thomas was there and wanted proof. Two thousand years later we cannot ask or see the scars but we must trust the message that has been carried faithfully through the generations that Jesus did die but that He rose again and lives today. The resurrection is simply the single most important fact of being a Christian. Without it our faith would be in vain. The gospel is written so that we may know and believe.

If you would like to explore this, there is currently an Alpha course running at Fetteresso where you can hear the message of Christianity and ask any questions you would wish to have answered.

Fyfe is to go through the book of Ruth in the next few weeks of "Seven @ Fetteresso", a book which illustrates how God's purposes work out in the lives of ordinary folk. This was set in the period of worldliness, when Israel was ruled by Judges. Naomi was still relatively young by the time she had been widowed and also lost her two sons, who had married two Moabite girls, one of whom – Ruth – is drawn to remain with her mother-in-law because she sees the presence of God dwelling in her, driving away her bitterness. Like Naomi, we should see all the negative stuff in our own lives and the lives of others in the context of God's loving, steadfast kindness.

Next Sunday sees the annual Christian Aid lunch taking place in the church hall after morning service.