

**Talk on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter      John 20:19-end**

**Zoom** Zoom is a marvellous tool: a conference call anywhere you can telephone.

Callers can see you, hear you; can listen, speak and argue, large groups or one-to-one .Family Zooms. I have relations in Cheshire, Southend, London, Somerset all together in my study in Croxley Green in a normal conversation , interruptions and discussions not just one after the other as you do on the phone; you can argue!

One thing you can't do; is touch.

I haven't touched another person since Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March, over a month ago.

Not without physical contact. I may live on my own but I do have a dog and 2 cats who have taken to isolation enthusiastically and, literally, dog my footsteps. As I wrote these notes I had the dog lying, at and on my feet.

We need physical contact as well as mental stimulation.

In Matthew's gospel, we hear the story of Jesus appearing to Thomas.

Thomas not with the rest of the disciples when Jesus first appeared to them immediately after His Resurrection. It was a week later and the disciples were in a locked room together when Jesus appeared again.

The disciples were overjoyed when Jesus had first met them, eager to tell Thomas that he had missed Jesus. Now, still in a locked room a week later, Jesus appeared again. They were all still very frightened. Thomas had doubted they had seen Jesus and wanted physical proof. Now he had it.

Jesus spoke directly to him, encouraged him to touch his wounds. To touch the risen Lord.

Thomas didn't just see the wounds, as the other disciples had done; he physically touched Jesus. We don't really read of physical contact between Jesus and his disciples. Thomas the Doubter was an exception. He recognised exactly who Jesus was, "My Lord and my God."

We haven't seen Jesus in the flesh. We believe because we have faith in the gospels and in our hearts. That is what draws us together; through difficulties and whatever life throws at us. As we have gathered together today; separate but united in our faith in Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen