Sermon: **Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’** (John 20.28)

Hanna has been baptised this morning; she is not fully grown but is bigger now than at birth. She will have a growth spurt in her teens & stop growing upwards, at least!
Growth is a stepped process with leaps, and with accompanying growing pains.

True also in education - maths often confuses until we get it, plenty of growing pains!

Not surprisingly it is true in spiritual matters too.

Eg Thomas. He was confused by what his fellow disciples told him. In life confusion can be frightening – lost on a walk, career change. When it involves God it can also be unsettling: ‘Where are you, God? I need you’, ‘Resurrection does not make sense’.

What do we do with this confusion?

[1] Hide from it – pretend it is not there

[2] Find ‘external’ answers which simply numb the confusion.

[3] Live with it – accept the pain as growing pains, but find eventually a new understanding & thus growth.

This latter is what Thomas did. “Unless I see…” (John 20.25), then TEXT.

Notice that Jesus did not respond to Thomas’ doubt and confusion with judgment but with grace – he received a special visit. Confusion is not an obstacle to faith but the path God can use to bring growth.

We do not get the luxury, as Thomas did, of seeing Jesus face-to-face, but God can still work through our confusion to help us to deeper, more insightful faith.