

Thoughts on the Daily Word

6th Week of Easter. Monday 11th May. Readings: Acts 16:11-15; Psalm 149; John 15:26-16:4.

People like Lydia were the foundations on which the early community was built. It would be correct to say that they are the foundation on which all our communities are built, even today. My church began as a mission back in 1870 in the house of Matthew and Suzanna Liddell. Like Lydia they were wealthy people who gave generously to enable our community to grow. Eventually they built this beautiful church that is the heart of our parish. They also financed a school and a reading room. All of these things were built around hospitality. The welcome by Lydia to Paul and his companions follows on her baptism and the bestowing of the Holy Spirit. Hospitality, in its widest sense is the work of the Spirit. Often it is hugely undervalued or just taken for granted. The apostolate of hospitality should be one of the key activities in the Church. It turns a gathering into a home, the root of the Christian Church.