

**All Saints Church, Kempston
St James's Church, Biddenham**

Virtual Church News

18 April 2021

3rd Sunday of Easter



Welcome to Virtual Church News. Hard copies will be circulated to those without access to email/social media. If you know of anyone without email who you think would benefit from a hard copy, please email stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com or call Jacqui on 356993.

A Reading for the Week

Luke 24:13-35

'That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. But God kept them from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?" They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days." "What things?" Jesus asked. "The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago. "Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said." Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?" Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, but they begged him, "Stay the night with us, since it is getting late." So he went home with them. As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. Suddenly,

This Week's Services etc.

- Sunday 9.30am: Service at St James's Church, Biddenham
- Sunday 11.00am: Virtch (Zoom)
- Monday 9.00am: Prayers (Zoom)
- Wednesday 6.00pm: Virtch (Zoom)

Message from Revd Eric Lomax

I love hill walking, and I remember a number of years ago going through a particularly difficult situation related to the health of my parents. I wanted somewhere to go, to walk, to take pictures, and ultimately to find some sense of peace. I climbed into my car, with a camera and my walking boots, and typed Hope into the Sat Nav. Two hours later, my car had taken me to the Hope Valley, one of the most beautiful parts of the lake district. The pictures I took from there are still some of my favourite images. I do feel that inspiration, and divine guidance, worked hand in hand with the technology in my car on that occasion. A real sense of peace was found there.

The Bible is filled with journeys, often difficult journeys that take people in a direction they do not want to go. Think of the story in which Jonah is asked to go and discipline the people of Nineveh, and he ends up trying to go a different way. In the story, Jonah ends up being thrown off a ship, and a whale takes him back off to Nineveh where he was meant to be going.

Continued on next page...

their eyes were opened, and they recognised him. And at that moment he disappeared! They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, who said, "The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter." Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how they had recognised him as he was breaking the bread.'

Message from Revd Eric Lomax continued

Think of the Israelites wandering through the hostile wilderness in search of the promised land, and ultimately, think of Jesus heading off on his journey to the cross. So desperate with fear, he was, that he even pleaded with God to 'take this cup from me,' but then, ultimately, he submitted to the will of God; 'Yet not my will but your will be done.'

I can think of decisions that I have made, even over the last few weeks, that really take me off in directions that are potentially problematic, and this is a common experience for all of us. Think of the difficult decisions you have to make at work, think of the journey of grief, that so many people have had to go through over the last year (and beyond), and think of the decisions that so many people have to make in the context of broken relationships, and the pain that follows. In our Bible reading today, two believers are on a journey to a place called Emmaus, but that is simply a metaphor for the much harder journey they faced as Christians following the death of Jesus. They had heard of the catastrophe of the cross for sure, but they had also heard rumours that maybe this Jesus had risen from the dead. There were, however, no certainties. These men were afraid, they did not know what the future held for them, and it would, potentially even lead to persecution and death.

It was here that Jesus himself dropped into the conversation and joined them on their journey. They did not even recognise him but, using the words of the Bible, he helped them make sense of the journey they were on. His presence was almost like a sat-nav or a road map, and he led them to a place where they could find hope and fellowship with one another, and with him, through the breaking of bread.

We are a church that thrives on relationships as the family of God. Please, if you face a difficult journey in life, do not take that journey alone. The Lord is with you, and will not abandon you. Equally, use whatever guidance he gives you in the word of Scripture, or with us, who would happily walk with you on that journey. Listen also to the rumours of resurrection that the Bible gives, because they carry with them the message that at the end of this journey, there is Hope. He is risen, He is with you, and you are not alone.

God Bless
Eric

Let us pray...

Dear Lord
We face an uncertain future ahead of us.
I invite you to join me on this journey.
Lead me through this difficult landscape,
To your place of promise.
In Jesus name.
Amen.



Services in Church

This Sunday we warmly welcome you back to St James's Church with a service at 9.30am. There is no need to book but please remember that, unless the weather is good and we can be in the Churchyard, we are very limited on space. Please remember your face covering (unless you are exempt from wearing one). You will be asked to follow a one-way system in place in both the church and churchyard.

We look forward to seeing you in person!

Q U I Z

Saturday 17th April 7:30 to 9 p.m.

The Friends of St James, Biddenham



Our second
online Zoom quiz with
a Spring flavour!
Suitable for all the
family.

Free entry – but donations welcome to The Friends of St James at
GoFundMe: www.gofundme.com/stjamespringquiz

To register and for participation details, email John Barkas at:
stjamesquiz@mail.com (alternatively phone Peter Leverkus on 01234 353662)

The FOSJ is a registered charity raising funds for the fabric of St James' Church and barn

Prayer Group

Join our prayer group at 8pm on the 1st/3rd Thursdays of the month via Zoom. Everyone welcome.

Contact John Lambert for login details or if you have any prayer requests.



Bible Study Groups

If you are interested in joining a bible study group please contact John Lambert by email at john.c.lambert@gmail.com

Electoral Rolls & Annual Meetings

St James

Notice is given that the Church Electoral Roll of St James Biddenham will be revised by the Parochial Church Council. After such revision, a copy of the Roll will be exhibited for not less than 14 days on, or near to, the principal door of the Parish Church for inspection.

Forms of application for enrolment can be obtained from stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com or by calling Jacqui on 0778 6886 710. Completed forms should be returned on or before Tuesday 4th May.

The Electoral Roll is akin to a membership list for the church. Being on the roll enables you to take part in the proceedings of the Annual Meetings, which will be held on Wednesday 19th May at 7.30pm.

Please contact Jacqui if you have any queries.

All Saints

Further details about the Electoral Roll and Annual Meetings for All Saints will follow shortly.

Diocesan Job Vacancy

Part-Time Assistant Communications Officer

The Diocese has a vacancy for a part-time Assistant Communications Officer to work at Holywell Lodge in St Albans. If you are interested in this position, further details can be found at <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/other-vacancies/>

Virtch (Online Church)

Zoom services are held at 11am on Sunday and 6pm on Wednesday. Simply go to Zoom and enter meeting ID 998 074 6039.



The All Age Bit!

This week we are looking at the same reading as the adults, which can be found on the front page of Virtual Church News, although you may want to read it from your own bible. It is the story of Jesus appearing to his followers on the Emmaus Road. Jesus didn't reveal who he was to his followers straight away. Why do you think this was? He wanted them to know that he was alive not just because they had seen him with their own eyes, but because they knew it in their hearts. We cannot see Jesus see Jesus, but we can still believe that he is alive. We can do this by reading the Bible and speaking to Him in prayer.

Activities

Guess the object: Jesus said it was better to believe without seeing. Play a game with your family or carers where one person is blindfolded. Someone else passes an object to them. Can they work out, without seeing it, what the object is? Take it in turns to wear the blindfold.

Word scramble: Can you unscramble the following books of the bible:

senigse	xedosu
emhtatw	tsca
slpmas	

Song

The B-I-B-L-E

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2fPTpdW_As

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for the story of Jesus appearing on the Emmaus Road and to his disciples. Thank you that your plan for Jesus to die for us and come back to life can be found throughout the Bible. Help us to dig deep into your word and learn more about you. Help us to experience it like a fire in our own hearts. We pray for those in the world who don't yet know you that they would be drawn close to you. Help us to share your word with others so that they can know your salvation plan too. Amen.

*Resources from Together at Home.
For more free resources visit tath.co.uk.*

Website Manager Wanted

St James's Church would like to appoint a new Website Manager. This would be a voluntary role and would involve keeping the church website vibrant and up to date. The role can be as big or as small as you make it!

If you have experience, or a keen interest, in websites then please contact Jacqui on 0778 6886 710 or at stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com

Suggested Music for this week

All I once held dear

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Merf00qcQik>

Thine be the Glory

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tjz4yXUJrgU>

On the Journey to Emmaus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJw0G90dHe0>

We have a gospel to proclaim

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2FX0-kS7wA>



Church Services etc. on TV/Radio

If you don't have access to the internet, try tuning in to the following:

Sunday 18 April

- 8.00am Three Counties Radio - weekly service.
- 8.10am BBC Radio 4 - Sunday Worship.
- 10.30am BBC 1 - Sunday Morning Stories.
- 1.15pm BBC 1 - Songs of Praise.
- 3.00pm BBC Radio 3 - Choral Evensong.

Wednesday 21 April

- 3.30pm BBC Radio 3 - Choral Evensong.



Light up the world
with prayer

Will you join us?
13th - 23rd May 2021
thykingdomcome.global

Daily Hope

Music, prayers, reflections and full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a free telephone line. **0800 804 8044** Available 24 hours a day.



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. Join in from 13 to 23 May to deepen your own relationship with Jesus Christ, pray for five friends or family to come to faith in Jesus and to pray for the empowerment of the Spirit to be effective in your witness. For more details and to order a free prayer journal and other resources go to thykingdomcome.global

Time to Pray

Time to Pray App and Podcast presents everything you need for prayer. Available as an app (with integrated audio) or as a podcast. Listen and subscribe at <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer/time-pray-app-and-podcast> or download the app from your usual app store.

Rev Eric Lomax Contact Details

Tel: 01234 328452

Mob: 07805 879537

Email: Rev.ejlomax@gmail.com

Community Support Groups

Do you need support? We can help with shopping and companionship (via regular phone calls). Can you volunteer to help? Let us know if you are DBS checked (for any organisation). It doesn't matter if you

Biddenham:

If you need support, ring 01234 815393 (daytime only) or email help@biddenham.org.uk with your name/phone number/address.

If you can volunteer, please email help@biddenham.org.uk

Kempston:

If you need support or can volunteer to help, contact:

Rev Eric Lomax: 328452 or 07805 879537

Alison/Brenda Walker: 851597

Alan/Anita Lowe: 857212 or 07751 659695