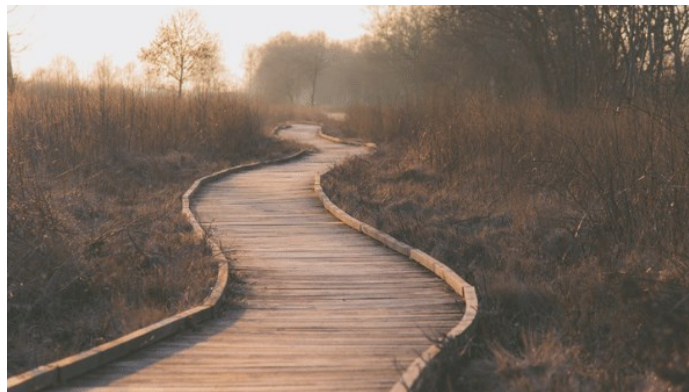


**All Saints Church, Kempston
St James's Church, Biddenham**

Virtual Church News

3 October 2021

**18th Sunday after Trinity
1st Sunday**



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 call Jacqui on 0778 6886 710 or email her at stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com

Our Sunday Services

1st Sunday of the month

8.00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at All Saints

9.30am All Age Service (followed by said Holy Communion) at St James's

2nd Sunday of the month

9.30am Lay led Service at St James's

10.00am Holy Communion Service at All Saints

6.00pm Service of Evening Prayer at St James's

3rd Sunday of the month

8.00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at All Saints

9.30am Holy Communion Service at St James's

7.00pm Revive: Coffee/Bible/Fellowship

4th Sunday of the month

9.30am Lay led Service at St James's

10.00am Holy Communion Service at All Saints

5th Sunday of the month (when there is one)

9.30am Service at St James's

6.30pm Sung Evensong at St James's

We also hold online services during the week via Zoom at 9.00am on Monday and 6.00pm on Wednesday. To join these Zoom services, simply go to Zoom and enter meeting ID 998 074 6039.

We hope you will join us at our services as we explore a mixture of both traditional and new ways

Volunteers Needed!

St James's are in need of additional volunteers to help out with the sound system during the Sunday services. If you can help (training will be given), please let us know!

A Reading for the Week

Luke 24: 13-33

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

"What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem.

Message from Rev Eric Lomax

The difference a word makes!

After the events of Holy Week in Jerusalem, two people, Cleopas and his companion (possibly his wife, because in the case of couples, it was common in this culture not to name the woman), deeply disappointed that Jesus seemed to have failed in his ministry, encountered the risen Jesus. Modern translations of the Bible tell us that Jesus asked them what they were having a discussion about. The key to understanding this literally hangs on how we understand this word 'discussing.'

The Greek word used is ἀντιβάλλετε, (antiballeta), and if you were to google it, it would probably give you the word 'exchange,' as a suitable translation. Much of the English language has its origin in Greek and Latin, because that is the way that civilization spread through the western world. It is easy therefore to deconstruct this word in order to make sense of it. The first part is ἀντι (anti) and we know what that means. It means 'against,' or oppose. The second part derives from the Greek word βάλλω (ballo) which means to thrust out. If you want to get a sense of the word from the English, then think of the word 'ballistic;' 'My mum went ballistic with me.' These two people, on the road to Emmaus, therefore, were not having a discussion,' but were having a humdinger of a disagreement. Jesus had quite literally asked them what they were shouting and screaming about.

Jesus then responded by explaining why he had had to die (He spoke in the third person 'Messiah,' because, clearly he never used the first person 'me', because they would have known it was him, which clearly they didn't). When they arrived at their destination, Emmaus, he stayed with them and broke bread with them. Throughout scripture, this is the way that groups find unity with one another, and so those who had been divided found Shalom (well-being and reconciliation) with one another.

The place, Emmaus, seems to have no relevance whatsoever. These days, biblical archaeologists cannot even agree where it was. Equally, we are not told why these two people are going there. What I think, is important is simply that these two people are moving away from Jerusalem. Jesus' command a little later in the chapter, verse 49, was that the disciples were told to stay in Jerusalem and wait until they receive the Holy Spirit. It is significant, therefore, that these two people, after they had encountered Jesus, returned to Jerusalem and joined the rest of the disciples; reconciled with them and together they waited for the coming of the Spirit.

Afternoon Home Group

The next meeting of the afternoon home group will be on Wednesday 6 October at 2.30pm at the home of Colin & Marie, 5 Gower Drive, Deep Spinney.

Call 348356 if you are interested in joining this small, friendly group.

Acts of the Apostles, in which we read about the giving of the Spirit at Pentecost. Acts is effectively a sequel to Luke's Gospel. We know this because both books begin by being addressed to an individual called 'Most Noble Theophilus', (Luke 1:3 and Acts 1:1), and at Pentecost, it was the Spirit that realigned the language of disunity, established at Babel (Genesis 11:1-9), and in Christ, restored the Shalom of God's people.

Cleopas and his companion had three issues which prevented them and the rest of the Church from moving forward in ministry;

1. They had not understood the cross, or believed the power of the resurrection.
2. They were divided amongst themselves, and against the rest of the church.
3. They had set off under their own steam, rather than with the power of the Holy Spirit.

There is another important point to be made. When I felt my own call, in the 80s to be an evangelist and a youth worker, I remember a minister asking me why I felt I wanted to do that. As a self-confident teenager, I replied that I wanted to take Jesus to people. The minister immediately told me not to be so arrogant; 'Jesus is already there. Go by all means, but expect to find him already at work.' In our story, Cleopas and his companion made their journey not expecting to find Jesus already on the wilderness road, but that is exactly where he was.

God Bless
Eric

Let us pray...

Living Lord,
help us not to seek the living amongst the dead,
but to recognise that you are risen and at work.
Bring us alongside you in love, unity and service.
Amen



All Age Reading

Mark 10 v 13-16

¹³ Some people brought their small children to Jesus so he could touch them. But his followers told the people to stop bringing their children to him. ¹⁴ When Jesus saw this, he was displeased. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me. Don't stop them. The kingdom of God belongs to people who are like these little children. ¹⁵ I tell you the truth. You must accept the kingdom of God as a little child accepts things, or you will never enter it." ¹⁶ Then Jesus took the children in his arms. He put his hands on them and blessed them.

(International Children's Bible)

The All Age Bit

This week we look at a passage from the Gospel of Mark, when Jesus said that God's kingdom belongs to people who are like little children. Jesus draws the children to him, despite his disciples trying to prevent this. We are all invited to draw close to God and be part of his family.

Activities

Grandmother's footsteps: play this game where one person stands on one side of the room with their back to everyone else. All the other players have to try to creep up to that person without them hearing and turning round to catch them. If a player is caught moving then they are out for the rest of the game. Think about what it means to approach God and what we must do before we approach Him in prayer.

Come to me: Jesus encouraged the children to come to him rather than be held back. Play a fun 'come to me' challenge. The caller stands on one side of the room, the walker on the other with their eyes closed or blindfolded. The caller should encourage them to 'come to me' and guide them across the room using only their voice. Make it more difficult by setting up an assault course!

Song

I love you

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Is27ywd0aws>

Prayer

Dear Father, thank you that you drew the little children to your arms and blessed them. Help us to be like them, to love you with nothing holding us back, so that we can be part of your family. Amen.

Above resources (and more) can be found at Together at Home. www.tath.co.uk.



ST JAMES'S CHURCH

AUTUMN LUNCH

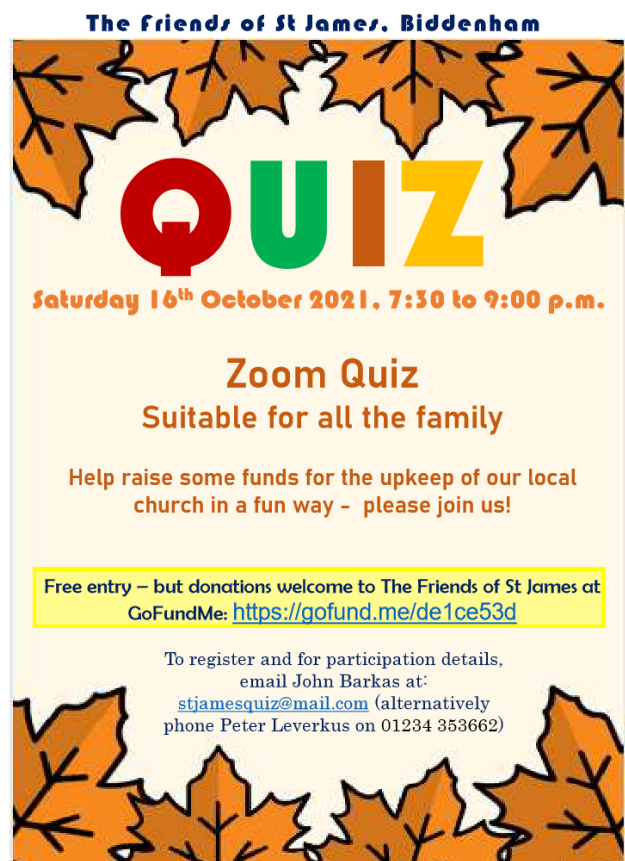
including raffle

31 OCTOBER
1.00PM
CHURCH BARN

Tickets: £12.50
Bring your own drinks

Sign up on the list at the back of church or
contact Anne (214805) or Sue (342373)

The Friends of St James, Biddenham



QUIZ

Saturday 16th October 2021, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Zoom Quiz

Suitable for all the family

Help raise some funds for the upkeep of our local church in a fun way - please join us!

Free entry - but donations welcome to The Friends of St James at
GoFundMe: <https://gofund.me/de1ce53d>

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

Suggested Music for this week

How deep the Father's love

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQ5kqQ359E4>

Tell out, my soul

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vz-FkqobgXY>

Lord of all hopefulness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6ztlI8Hlbo>

Love divine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aTpKuWJbe-k>

Yes and Amen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITQnbOihe3Y>

Prayer/Bible Study Groups

Join our prayer group at 8pm on the 1st/3rd Thursdays of the month via Zoom. Everyone welcome. We also have Bible study groups which are open to everyone.

Contact John Lambert for further details, or with any prayer requests. john.c.lambert@gmail.com

Bedford Foodbank

Please continue to support this valuable charity and help them prevent hunger in our community.

Items currently needed include: UHT Milk, Fruit Juice (Longlife), Tinned Tuna, Tinned Rice Pudding, Tinned Fruit, Jam, Rice 250g/500g/1kg, Ham (Small Tins), Coffee (small), Biscuits, Shampoo, Washing-Up Liquid, Deodorant (Unisex), Tin Openers, Old Saucepans.



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