



The Smestow Vale Team Ministry
St Benedict's and the Venerable Bede
Keeping in Touch with our Church Family

Sunday 26th April

The Third Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ,
You filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us also to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace
to the glory of God the Father Amen.
Which is the path of glory. Amen.

Two Disciples meet Jesus on a Journey.

On that same day, two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' Jesus asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see Jesus.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the

village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Jesus; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Luke 24:13-35

A Reflection for the Third Week of Eastertide.

Walking with Jesus
by Sarah Roberts-Malpas.

Sarah is a Student preparing for priesthood at Queen's College Birmingham. Sarah and her family are worshipping with us at St Benedict's as her link Church during her training for ministry.

I wonder what your walk with Jesus has been like up to now, how it began? Was it a sudden Damascus experience such as happened to St. Paul, where you

too can pinpoint the moment you became a Follower ? Or perhaps, like me, you can't remember a time you weren't a believer. Perhaps you too gradually became more aware of the presence of the Lord, walking alongside you.

The two people in today's gospel, walking to Emmaus became gradually aware of who Jesus was, through the combination of having the scriptures explained to them, making sense of God's story, and then seeing Jesus break the bread.

We have had two weeks since Holy Week, during which, in times less extraordinary than these, we recall together the institution of the Eucharist. And like the figures in this section of Luke, we were not there at the Last Supper, yet we recognise our Lord in the breaking of the bread. A revelation of sorts.

The first to see the resurrected Jesus recognised him through his call to them, through touching his wounds and now through an action combined with a journey of illumination. A whole variety of ways in which to encounter our Lord. All ways in which we too might come to know and follow Jesus.

And we might still recognise him in others. St Teresa of Avila said Christ has no body now but yours, "No hands, no feet on earth but yours, Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world."

As we negotiate these times, we have ways of recognising Christ in others, and times where God's glory shines through.

The stories we hear of communities pulling together, looking out for each other, joining in celebration of those working tirelessly for others all point to Christ among us. Our churches may be closed and our communities kept at distance, yet we are not alone, just as those walking along that road to Emmaus, God is with us and working in us every step of the way.

Please remember those who have asked for our prayers Sarah Stephenson, David Kingston, Lisa, Julia McCormick, Morgan, Michael Concannon, Carl Baker, Heather Gent, Jean, Joan, and Margaret Hatton

Those who have died recently and their families: Barrie Mann, Roger Corns, Barry Powell, Philip De Escofet, Barrie Bailey, Eric Bills, Jean Nightingale, Joyce Cort, Revd Stewart Tyler, Margaret Sthamer.

Prayer during the Week

Sunday

Pray that on our daily exercise, we all may recognise Jesus as our companion. (Luke 24: 15)

Monday

Pray that all lacking personal protection equipment will quickly receive what they need.

Tuesday

Thank God for Captain Tom, and others, working hard to help the NHS financially.

Wednesday

Pray for all unable to leave their homes or receive visitors.

Thursday

Pray for those suffering financial hardship

Friday

Pray for those worried about whether their businesses can survive.

Saturday

Remember all who have died from the virus, contracted while serving others.

Prayer

Do you know any Key Workers who would value our Prayers? please let Paul know, first names only if preferred, (prepbrown@gmail.com) so that they can be included in my private prayers or on "Keeping in Touch"

Great news

The Bible App for Kids is here! It's completely free and it's available now for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, and Android devices. The app is a growing collection of Bible stories with touch-activated animations and learning activities, perfect for helping kids learn the big stories of the Bible. Go to bible.com/kids on your mobile device to download it today.

Sunday Worship for the Third Sunday of Easter 10.45am BBC 1

Please join is in prayer and worship on Sunday Morning A service from Hereford Cathedral led by the bishop of Dover, the Right Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin, with hymns recorded for Songs of Praise in 2017

