

Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's



Note

To contact the church please email office@stokepogeschurch.org or phone 01753 642331. Please do not come to the office in person; we are all working remotely.

Welcome to our Family Service

Welcome & Notices

Opening Prayer

God, we gather as your people.
We come to walk a journey together,
to talk and to share along the way,
to meet and to know Jesus.
Help us to marvel at all that Jesus has done for us.
Amen.

Songs

Yes and Amen

written by Tony Brown / Chris McClarney / Nate Moore ~ sung by Chris Tomlin

Father of kindness

You have poured out of grace

You brought me out of darkness

You have filled me with peace

Giver of mercy

You're my help in time of need

Lord I can't help but sing

Faithful you are

Faithful forever you will be

Faithful you are

All your promises are yes and Amen

All your promises are yes and Amen

Beautiful Saviour

You have brought me near

You pulled me from the ashes

You have broken every curse

Blessed redeemer

You have set this captive free

Lord I can't help but sing

Faithful you are

Faithful forever you will be

Faithful you are

All your promises are yes and Amen

All your promises are yes and Amen

Faithful you are

Faithful forever you will be

Faithful yes you are

All your promises are yes and Amen

All Heaven declares

written by Noel and Patricia Richards

All Heaven declares

The glory of the risen Lord

Who can compare

With the beauty of the Lord

Forever He will be the lamb upon the throne

I gladly bow the knee and worship him alone

I will proclaim

The glory of the risen Lord

Who once was slain

To reconcile man to God

Forever you will be the lamb upon the throne

I gladly bow the knee and worship you alone

Forever you will be the lamb upon the throne

I gladly bow the knee and worship you alone

Confession

After a period of reflection

Risen Lord, we are sorry

that we fail to recognise you in our midst,

that we are too preoccupied with ourselves.

We are sorry

that we let you down,

that we feast and don't invite others to share with us.

We are sorry

that we welcome friends but not always the stranger,

or anyone who makes us feel uncomfortable.

Forgive us, Lord.

Help us to be generous people,

our church, our homes – and our hearts –

always places of welcome. **Amen.**

May almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring us his pardon and peace, now and for ever. **Amen**

As we come to our reading try to imagine what it would have been like to be so close to the events of the first Easter, and to find the resurrection of Jesus so surprising. Note how much faith and trust and meaning these early preachers and disciples find in the fact that Jesus is risen.

Reading Luke 24.13-35 read to us by Pam Blewett

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognising him. ¹⁷ He asked them, 'What are you discussing together as you walk along?' They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ 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?' ¹⁹ '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. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ 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. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.' ²⁵ He said to them, 'How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?' ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. ²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going further. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² 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?' ³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, 'It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognised by them when he broke the bread.

Sermon Natasha is opening God's Word for us today

Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father, from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Activity - you will need a piece of bread or a roll for this ...

Share a piece of bread (gluten-free, if required) with those with you right now, savour your piece of bread, try to eat it slowly and enjoy it. Invite everyone to imagine the meal at the end of the journey to Emmaus. Then say together:

Let us say together

Risen Lord Jesus,

as we feast with you,

help us to recognise you in all people, places and situations.

Amen.

Song

To Be in Your Presence (My Desire)

written by Noel Richards

To be in your presence

To sit at your feet

When your love surrounds me

And makes me complete

This is my desire, o Lord

This is my desire

This is my desire, o Lord

This is my desire

To rest in your presence

Not rushing away

To cherish each moment

Here i would stay

This is my desire, o Lord
This is my desire
This is my desire, o Lord
This is my desire

Musical interlude

This is my desire, o Lord
This is my desire
This is my desire, o Lord
This is my desire

Intercessions prepared and read to us by Natasha

Response:

In you O Lord ~ **do we put our trust**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Collect

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

Song

For all you've done

written by Reuben Morgan

My Saviour, Redeemer
Lifted me from the miry clay
Almighty forever
I will never be the same 'cause You came near
From the everlasting
To the world we live
The Father's only Son

And you lived and You died
You rose again on high
You opened the way
For the world to live again
Hallelujah. For all You've done

My Saviour, Redeemer
Lifted me from the miry clay
Almighty forever
I will never be the same 'cause You came near
From the everlasting
To the world we live
The Father's only Son

And You lived and You died
You rose again on high
You opened the way
For the world to live again
Hallelujah. For all You've done

Final Prayer

Let us pray together ...

**Lord Jesus, as you walked on the road to Emmaus, walk with us on the roads we travel. Help us to know your presence with us, and to be your presence to others. And, at the end of the day, may we all enjoy your feast.
Amen.**

Thank you for joining us today



This week's activity sheet is below. Please print off and use it to explore this week's bible passage from Luke 24. 13-35.

If you are a Primary School aged person and would appreciate one of our KIC at Home bags, filled with Christian based activities to help you worship during this 'lockdown' period then email the office with your contact details and we will drop one to your doorstep asap. (please be aware we only have capacity to deliver to within a few miles of Stoke Poges!)

Name

Activity time

ROOTS children's Sheet

26 April – 2 May 2020

Luke 24. 13-35

Jesus shows who he is by explaining the stories in the Bible and sharing food with his friends.



Family time

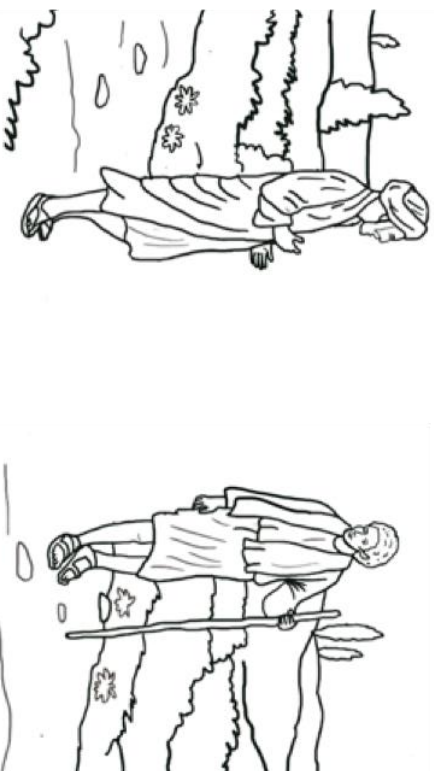
Talk How have we shared in God's story today?

Do Spend time each night this week, before bed, taking time to share the stories of your day with each other and thanking God in prayer.

Pray Father God, thank you that you sent Jesus to this earth, to walk alongside us, and to share your story of love with each of us. Help us this week to share your story with our friends, and to share our stories with you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Draw

As Jesus told his story, his identity was revealed to the disciples. Draw Jesus in the middle of the picture, think about what details you can add to show his friends who he is.



Puzzle

Can you fill in the gaps?

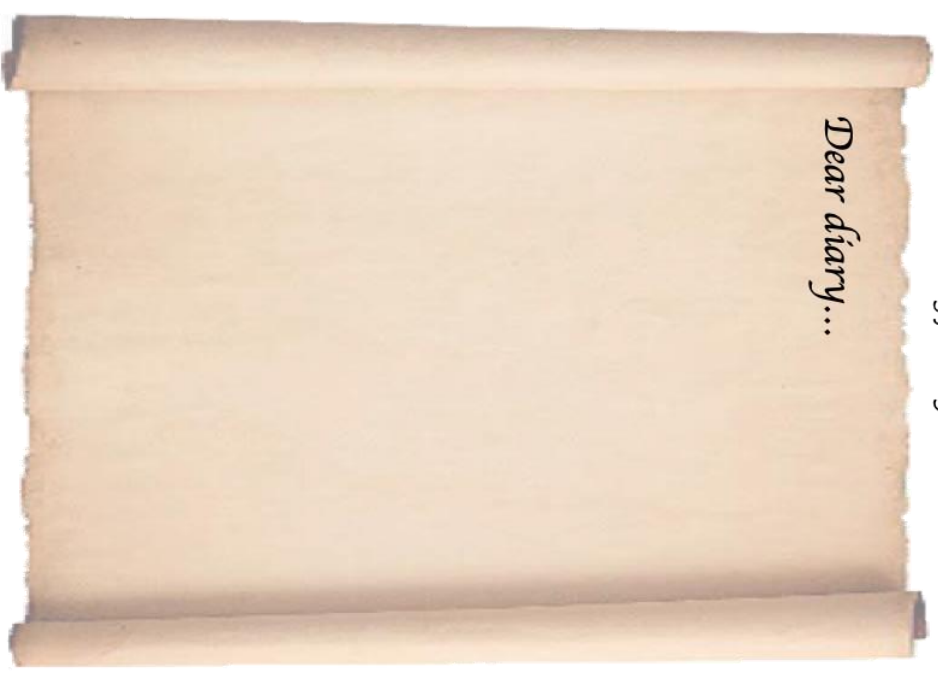
The men are walking along the road, when, all of a sudden, _____ joins them. As they journey together, Jesus _____ God's great story. At the end of the journey, one of the men invites Jesus into _____ house. As Jesus breaks the bread, the men realise, they are part of God's great _____ of love.

Now write the four words as a sentence to see the message at the heart of the Bible passage today.

Write

Take some time to write a diary entry, as if you were one of the people who met Jesus in today's story. How would you be feeling at the end of such an amazing journey?

Dear diary...



Jesus shares his story.

Going Deeper



Questions for reflection

- When have you gathered around a fire (or similar) to tell/listen to stories?
- If you were to tell your own story, where would you begin?
- Where is Jesus in your story?

Bible Notes

The gift of story is significant in the way the Scriptures have been written and shared. They began as a faithful retelling of stories from generation to generation: around a fire, walking along the road, and then written down for us to hold onto today.

- Jesus begins to reframe the experience of the two disciples on the road by explaining God's story, told through the Scriptures. It is as if this unknown teacher takes their isolated beads of knowledge and re-strings them into a different sequence, revealing a new pattern: God's story.
- We see within Scripture the imperative and the power of sharing God's story. As Jesus walked along the road, the disciples did not realise who he was until Jesus recited his own words, and their eyes were opened. There is power in God's Word and the faithful proclamation of it, as in the Acts passage, where 3,000 came to believe, as God's Word and his story were faithfully shared.
- The reality of the resurrection is the greatest story we can tell, and one which will change lives: who might we share this story with?

A Personal Prayer

Risen Christ, friend, companion, healer: as I walk the road in front of me, be by my side and never leave. Amen.

Living your faith

At a time of day when, under different circumstances, you might have joined others for tea or coffee (e.g. at home, after church, or in a cafe), arrange a virtual tea/coffee meet-up using social media. (If you don't know how to do this, ask someone to help!)

Share stories about yourselves (e.g. where you grew up, how you first came to live where you do, how you came to church, when you first called yourself a Christian). Take time to listen to one another.