



St Margaret's Church

Together we aim to:
Worship God, Proclaim Jesus,
Grow in the Spirit

In Contact

Luke 24: 13-35

Restored Hope

April 18th 2021



Grizedale Forest in the Lake District has always been a favourite place for Ruth and me to walk and talk and generally put the world to rights. So, it's easy for me to identify with these two people walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus.

The story is an account of a walk where two people went from disappointment to renewed hope because they met Jesus. It's a journey towards faith in Christ. As we join this journey we can see some 'stepping stones' along the way that we can identify with.

1 They were searching for the truth about Jesus.

As they walked, they talked about all the things that had happened concerning Jesus. They were trying to work it all out, they were grappling with the events of the last few days: the betrayal, arrest, conviction, crucifixion, death and burial of their friend Jesus...and failing to make any sense of it: 'We had hoped...' (v21). Have we ever felt like this, lacking hope and trying to make sense of what God is doing?

2 Jesus explained the Scriptures to them.

Then a stranger joined them and asked them what they were talking about and, after they told him, the stranger began to explain to them what the Scriptures said about Jesus. This was not theological study, Jesus was speaking to their hearts as well as their minds and they remarked later, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us...' (v 32).

It is when we read the Bible and allow God to speak to us through what is written that we see Jesus more clearly.

3 They invited Jesus to stay.

They want to know more so they invite the stranger to stay and eat with them. Even though they did not know the true identity of Jesus they asked him to stay with them. We can never know all there is to know about Jesus because he is God, but we come to a point where in order to know more we have to invite him to stay with us.

4 Jesus is revealed (the penny drops).

The penny dropped for these two people when Jesus blessed the bread and broke it. Last week we saw the penny drop for Thomas when Jesus appeared and asked him to place his hands into the wounds in his hands and side. Thomas's response was immediate and profound, he said 'My Lord and my God'.

My penny dropping moment came in an Evening Communion service in which I felt myself drawn to ask Jesus to come into my life; to stay with me. This penny dropping moment is difficult to describe: it's like the words of the hymn 'Amazing Grace': 'I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.'

Within the hour these two people, re-energised and filled with fresh hope, were heading back to Jerusalem. What a difference for them as they retraced their steps to share with their friends their own extraordinary story of how Jesus had appeared to them.



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Bible Verse for 2021:

I am about to do something new; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 43: 19



Daily Hope is a free phone line which offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

Gradual Easing of Covid Restrictions

As you will know, government guidance indicates Covid restrictions will be gradually lifted until 21 June when they could be removed altogether (providing infection rates continue to fall). A small group are working to prepare for everyone's safe return to church. They will be sending round a short survey over the next couple of weeks to ask your thoughts about returning, and to ask about any concerns you might have so we can try to address them.

APCM 2021

In accordance with Diocesan instructions, this year's APCM will be held on Sunday 25th April at 12 pm, following the morning service. Due to the current government restrictions, **church members can only attend online via Zoom**. Details of how to join online to follow,

Nominations:

There are two wardens to be elected: To date, Mark Stansfield and Jane Franklin have been nominated.

There are three PCC vacancies. So far we have had one nomination (Pearl Hardy).

There are also two Deanery Synod vacancies (which are automatic PCC positions).

All nominations must be supported by the signatures of two members of St Margaret's who are on the Electoral Roll. You can send nominations to Susan Whittaker.

Susan's contact details are: 07952 763110 or email at susan.whittaker123@btinternet.com.

It would help to have these nominations as soon as possible.

Next Week:

We celebrate a healing service and Rev Matt Calladine will be looking at 'Restored bodies' in 1 Corinthians 15: 35-58.

Pray for your Muslim neighbours during Ramadan.

Ramadan is a time of heightened spiritual awareness for Muslims and many spend more time in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to them that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

April 18th to 24th

Please Pray for:

- ♦ People living in Ferndale Gardens & Brookdene Road.
- ♦ Good celebration at APCM next Sunday (25th) of what God has been doing in 2020.
- ♦ All church members to be mission-minded & mission-ready when we can reach out.
- ♦ God to give inspiration to Karen & Ruth Massey for ideas for Creative Prayer.
- ♦ Help from questionnaire going out to HMP M/C prisoners about gathered worship.
- ♦ Physical & mental health & peace of mind for both Boaz clients and staff.

Television & Radio this Sunday:

BBC 1 - 10.30am: Sunday Morning Stories. Kate Bottley shares inspirational stories rooted in faith, hope and spirituality.

BBC 1 - 13.15pm Songs of Praise: Katherine Jenkins talks to comedian Frank Skinner who reflects on his relationship with God.

BBC Radio 4 - 8.10am: An act of Christian worship.