



The ROCK

NEWSLETTER - ISSUE #5 - 28/04/20

The Walk to Emmaus.

Luke Chapter 24 v13-35.

This occurrence begins with two companions, a man named Cleopas (and maybe his wife? although we don't know this, for sure). They are talking about the events of Good Friday, how their hopes had felt as if they had been dashed concerning Jesus, and now they had heard rumours of his tomb being empty. This was obviously the talk of everyone in Jerusalem (v18).

Confused and grief stricken they failed to recognise the man who has joined them on their journey west towards Emmaus.

They invite this 'stranger' to stay with them a while and offer the usual Middle Eastern hospitality, which is accepted.

It was when Jesus had called Mary Magdalene by her name that she had recognised Jesus after his resurrection (she first thought he was the gardener). Cleopas and his companion recognise Jesus in the way he breaks and blesses the bread at their shared meal.

Cleopas and his companion then recall how their hearts had been warmed as they had conversed with the risen Jesus along the road and as he had talked with them about the Scriptures.

Their encounter with the risen Lord Jesus left them compelled to walk the seven miles again, back to Jerusalem. This news was for sharing –

urgently! As they share their encounter with the risen Lord, they hear from some of the other disciples how Jesus had also appeared to Simon Peter.

Where are we in this story and how might we use this biblical account in our own faith journeys?

1. In their grief and confusion they failed to recognise Jesus even though he was with them.

It's one thing to say that we believe the Lord IS with us, but another to acknowledge his presence, especially if we are faced with grief or confusion, etc. The two companions explained to Jesus what had happened and what they had hoped for.

Who are our companions in our faith journey? Whilst we are in lockdown, to whom can you turn to in order to make sense of your current faith journey? Can you think of a fellow disciple that you can make contact with? Cleopas had a companion on his journey; they shared openly and then also shared with Jesus. We need Jesus and the fellowship of other Christians to make sense of our faith journey. It's easy to overlook this right now but I urge you to pick up the phone to someone you trust and consider a good fellow disciple whom you could talk to.

2. They invite Jesus to stay with them.

Jesus doesn't force himself into our lives; he stands at the door and knocks. He is knocking at the door of your life. Have you invited him in? Do this today and do not delay! Don't leave him on the other side of the door, knocking. Sometimes He sends others to reach out to us, his followers – if someone is reaching out to you in His name, someone you can trust, open the door and let them in (not literally during lockdown, but maybe over the phone!)

3. They recognise Jesus.

How have you experienced Jesus in the past? Why not keep a journal so you can include all of the times you have heard him speak to you through the bible, hymns/worship songs and godly conversations, etc.

4. Their hearts were warmed as Jesus taught them through the scriptures.

Is your heart warmed when you read the bible every day? Are you reading the bible every day? Do you need some help with starting to do this? Speak to someone from our church leadership about this. If you feel lukewarm about reading the bible, why not pray first each time you pick it up, that God would warm your heart as you read and speak to you?

5. They shared the good news!

Who can you encourage today with the good news of Jesus Christ and your encounters with him?

Which of these points has stood out to you? What will you do in response to God's Word to you? To whom can you speak about this during the week?

- Rev. Rachel Hawkins

Daily Hope Phone Line

Daily Hope is a FREE phone line that provides access to hymns, reflections and prayers. To use Daily Hope simply call **0800 804 8044**, and you will be provided with several options to choose from. Joan Botteril has used this service and highly recommends it!

Parish Giving Scheme

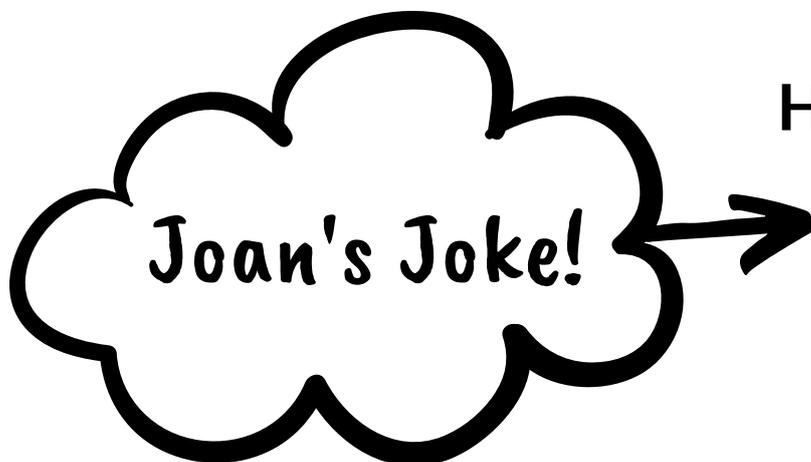
Some of you have been asking how you can continue to give financially to the work and ministry of St Peter's Parish. The Parish Giving Scheme is ideal (you need to fill out a form from our Treasurer) or you can manually transfer money straight to our church account via BACS or you can forward a cheque to our Treasurer (payable to St Peter's Parish Church, Rushden). To discuss these options further, please contact our Treasurer, Jean Moksa or a Church Warden.

Gifts for Others

Are you looking for a suitable gift to send to someone? How about flowers, a plant or a hamper? Go to www.bunches.co.uk or ring 01623 750343. This company use some of their proceeds to support charities both in the UK and abroad and come with our Rector's recommendation.

Memory Verse - John 10:14-15

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep".



**How do you make toast
in the jungle?**

...under a grilla!

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