

THE WEEKLY LINK



St Wulstans Church

Sunday 19th April

10am Something Else Sunday — Rev Sarah at St Barnabas

11.15 Together for Communion — Rev Paul at St Wulstans

**THE EASTER
THRESHOLD**



... from Hope to Holiness ...

*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.*

288 King of glory, king of peace

454 Spirit of the living God

311 Lord Jesus Christ you have come to us

278 Jesus shall take the highest honour

405 One more step along the world

Tue 21 April 10.10 St Barnabas School assemblies

Wed 22 April 10am Midweek Communion — Rev Sarah at St Barnabas

Wed 22 April 7pm Easter ABIDE group at the Vicarage

Fri 24 April 10.30 Easter ABIDE group at the Vicarage

Sunday 26th April

10am Together for Communion — Rev Andy at St Barnabas

11.15 Together for Communion — Rev Sarah at St Wulstans

Wed 29 April 10am Midweek Communion — Rev Rosie at St Barnabas

Wed 29 April 7pm Easter ABIDE group at the Vicarage

Fri 1 May 10.30 Easter ABIDE group at the Vicarage

Fri 1 May 2pm Bishop Perowne Leavers' Service in school

Acts 2.14a, 36–41

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd in Jerusalem: ‘Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.’ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what should we do?’

Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.’ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, ‘Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.’ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Luke 24.13–35

Now on that same day two of them 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?’ He 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 him.’

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 him; 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.

Sunday 19th April 2026

from HOPE to HOLINESS

St Barnabas | Christ Church | St Wulstans

ABIDE for Easter 2026

THE STARTING PLACE

Hope can be a powerful beginning: it can inspire vision and courage, but it can also slip into pie-in-the-sky thinking. When have you found that hope needed support from outside you, or action from within you, to give it real weight or direction?

LISTENING TO ACTS

Read [Acts 2:14a, 36–41](#). A particular kind of hope appears when people realise that something has gone badly wrong and begin searching for a way out. Notice the ways that this desperate hope shows in the crowd.

LISTENING TO THE GOSPEL

Read [Luke 24:13–35](#). Hope can fade when events seem to contradict everything we once trusted. What do you notice about this account of disappointed hope?

LISTENING TO PETER

In this next section of Peter's letter, the living hope we encountered last time is drawn forward into holiness. For him, holiness is not something we drum up to get right with God; it is the shape of how we think, act, and belong in response to God. As you read, look out for the "before" and "after" language Peter uses.

1 Peter 1:13–2:10

Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.' If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. For ‘All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord endures for ever.’ That word is the good news that was announced to you. Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: ‘See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.’ To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner’, and ‘A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.’ They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

THE THRESHOLD

Peter uses striking phrases to describe the life of holiness. For instance, how comfortable would you feel saying, “*I am a living stone,*” or “*My hope is set on God*”? Which of his phrases would you be happy to wear as a badge of your life at the moment, and which still feels some way off?

MOVING FORWARD

In this spring season, what might you nurture, and what could you prune back, so that holiness can blossom for you?

A Prayer for this Week

God who calls us into holiness, you have given us a living hope: shape our lives to match that gift; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

There are ABIDE groups this week at the Vicarage

WEDNESDAY 22ND APRIL AT 7PM and **FRIDAY 24TH APRIL AT 10.30AM**