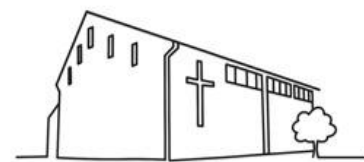


THE WEEKLY LINK



St Wulstans Church

Sunday 3rd May

10am All Age Communion — Rev Sarah at St Barnabas

11.15 Together for Communion — Rev Nick at St Wulstans

4pm iSingSUNDAY – family activities and worship at St Barnabas

THE EASTER THRESHOLD



... from Witness to Suffering ...

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father.

Opening hymn: All glory, laud and honour HOAN 11 vv 1-5

Gloria: St Thomas Thorne (on the service leaflet)

Offertory hymn: The servant king HOAN 148

Sung Sanctus, said Agnus

Communion hymn: Awesome God (Vicky Beeching) video

Sending hymn: All I once held dear (words on weekly link sheet)

Wed 6 May 10am Midweek Communion — Rev Rosie at St Barnabas

Wed 6 May 7pm Easter ABIDE group at the Vicarage (final session*)

Fri 8 May 10.30 Easter ABIDE group at the Vicarage (final session*)

Sat 9 May 11am Mason family baptism at St Barnabas

Sunday 10th May

10am Together for Communion — Rev Sarah at St Barnabas

11.15 SES / Communion — Rev Rosie at St Wulstans

** Rev Sarah is away on conference 11-15 May.*

*All who have followed the EASTER THRESHOLD
are invited to a celebration lunch at the Vicarage on
Friday 22 May at 12.15pm. Details to follow!*



Acts 7:55-60

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

John 14:1-14

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works

than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

**All I once held dear, built my life upon
All this world reveres, and wars to own
All I once thought gain
I have counted loss
Spent and worthless now,
compared to this**

***Knowing You, Jesus, Knowing You
There is no greater thing
You're my all, You're the best
You're my joy, my righteousness
And I love You, Lord***

**Now my heart's desire
is to know You more
To be found in You and known as Yours
To possess by faith what I could not earn
All-surpassing gift of righteousness**

Knowing You, Jesus ...

**Oh, to know the power of Your risen life
And to know You in Your sufferings
To become like You
in Your death, my Lord
So with You to live and never die**

Knowing You, Jesus ...

Sunday 3rd May 2026

from WITNESS to SUFFERING

St Barnabas | Christ Church | St Wulstans

ABIDE for Easter 2026

THE STARTING PLACE

Take a moment to see how many sentences you can make that include the word *witness*.

LISTENING TO ACTS

Our reading this time is [Acts 7:55–60](#), but you may well want to read the [fuller account](#) of Stephen's final moments which begins a chapter earlier. Look out for the presence of the different ways you used the word *witness* in the previous question. Are they all there? Are there any present that you did not include to begin with?

LISTENING TO THE GOSPEL

Read Thomas and Phillip in conversation with Jesus on the night of his arrest in [John 14:1-14](#). As you listen to their questions and Jesus's answers, what kind of life does Jesus suggest awaits those who bear witness to him?

LISTENING TO PETER

Peter writes today as someone who lived long enough to see both Jesus' promises and the suffering of those who bear witness to him. What strands of wisdom do you find in his reflections?

1 Peter 3:13–4:19

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same intention (for whoever has suffered in the flesh has finished with sin), so as to live for the rest of your earthly life no longer by human desires but by the will of God ... The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even as a mischief-maker. Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name. For the time has come for judgement to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And *'If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinners?'* Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good.

THE THRESHOLD

Where have you noticed that faithfulness to Christ carries even a small cost in your own life? How willingly did you pay it?

MOVING FORWARD

Think about struggles that churches face and ones that you carry personally. As you read Peter's words this week, is there any of them you might begin to see differently, or find more bearable?

A Prayer for this Week

Generous God, whose way is love, whose truth is searching, whose life is freely given in Jesus Christ our Lord: may we too make a place for the rejected and unloved and share in your work of peace. Amen.

There are ABIDE groups this week at the Vicarage

WEDNESDAY 6TH MAY AT 7PM and **FRIDAY 8TH MAY AT 10.30AM**