

**All Saints Church, Kempston
St James's Church, Biddenham**

Virtual Church News

20th February 2022

**2nd Sunday before Lent
(3rd Sunday)**



Welcome to Virtual Church News. Hard copies will be circulated to those without access to email/social media. If you know of anyone without email who you think would benefit from a hard copy, please call Jacqui on 0778 6886 710 or email her at stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com

Our Normal Sunday Services

1st Sunday of the month

- 8.00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at All Saints
9.30am Joint All Age Service (followed by said Holy Communion) at St James's

2nd Sunday of the month

- 9.30am Morning Worship at St James's
10.00am Holy Communion Service at All Saints
6.00pm Service of Evening Prayer at St James's

3rd Sunday of the month

- 8.00am **Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at All Saints***
9.30am **Holy Communion Service at St James's**
7.00pm **Revive: Coffee/Bible/Fellowship**

4th Sunday of the month

- 9.30am Morning Worship at St James's
10.00am Holy Communion Service at All Saints

5th Sunday of the month (when there is one)

- 9.30am Service at St James's
6.00pm Choral Evensong at St James's

We also hold online services during the week via Zoom at 9.00am on Monday and 6.00pm on Wednesday. To join these Zoom services, simply go to Zoom and enter meeting ID 998 074 6039.

We hope you will join us at our services as we explore a mixture of both traditional and new ways of worship.

Rev Eric Lomax Contact Details

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Reading for the Week

Luke 8.22-25

One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side of the lake.' So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A gale swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, 'Master, Master, we are perishing!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, 'Where is your faith?' They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?'

St James's Explorers Restarts

All you children out there! You are a big part of our church family and contribute so much to our services. We know that you like to go out of the service for a bit of time because we have asked some of you. We will be re-starting an 'Explorers' club on the 3rd Sunday of every month. All school age children are welcome. If you are more a young person than a child, well, we still want you to come and help us shape up our ideas a bit.

Roast Lunch - Sunday 6 March

Roast Lunch in St James's Church Barn at 1.00pm. Tickets £15.00 each. Bring your own drink. Raffle. Numbers are limited.

Please sign the list at the back of the church or

Revive - 3rd Sundays

A short act of worship over a coffee, then unfolding the scriptures together. 7.00pm in St James's Church Barn. Everyone invited.



Message from Rev Eric Lomax

He is Lord of chaos, as the earth was described in Genesis 1 as 'Tohu Wah-Bohu,' which means the chaotic abyss, shapeless, and formless. In the Bible, water is representative of this void, as water itself implies the chaos before the creation of the universe, so we hear that the Spirit of God (Ruach, meaning 'wind') moved over the surface of the water. He is the Lord of chaos, because the Spirit of God speaks and brings order to the chaos; 'Let there be light!' This is the power of creation at the hand of God the creator.

The writers of the Gospels draw us deeper and deeper into the question of who was Jesus. He was the Hebrew Messiah (Greek Christ), who was chosen and anointed by God. This was a powerful claim as it was the Kings of Israel, David and Solomon, who were anointed with precious oil from the olive trees of Israel. To be anointed was to be chosen for a special purpose, so the Christ or the Messiah bore the marks of Kingship, a great military ruler, so who was this Christ?

The first readers of the Gospels experienced intense persecution by the Romans under Nero, Vapasian and Domition. They had witnessed terrible suffering of friends and families at the hands of their persecutors, and they so wanted to know who this Messiah was that they worshipped, and why was he so silent in the face of such injustice, but he is the Lord of the storm.

The Gospel stories which they read would have tried to answer these questions and beautifully illustrate who this Messiah, Jesus, the Christ actually is. The story of Jesus and the disciples on a boat, in the storm, harks back to creation. Here was the primeval, uncontrollable chaos of the waters and as the spirit of God moved over the face of the waters in Genesis, so Jesus, the son of God, slept in a boat in the midst of a storm.

Let us pray...

Dear God and Father,
You are the creator of all things,
Yet sometimes, in difficult times,
we forget to trust you.
Jesus Christ, son of the living God,
We place our lives in your hands,
We trust in you to heal us and calm the storm.
Amen



Plants!

The St James's Social Committee are planning a tea party in May/June (more details to follow) at which they hope to have a plant stall. If you are taking cuttings or sowing seeds, it would be great if you could do a few extra! Thankyou.



It was the disciples in the boat with Jesus that felt this chaos, just as the early Christians faced the chaos of persecution, but they did what we all do; they panicked, they could not cope, and instead of having faith in the Lord of the storm, they just rushed around making things worse.

In the end they woke up Jesus and asked him why he was not also panicking. This was not an act of faith, because the last thing they expected was what he did next; 'Peace,' he said, 'be still,' and the storm did just what the Lord of the storm commanded. The water was calmed and the storm ended.

Jesus reproved them for having no faith and amazed, the disciples said; 'Who is this that even the wind and the waves obey him?'

This passage is directed at you as much as it was directed at those early Christians. We all face the storms of chaos. Our lives are rarely what we would wish them to be, but Jesus is the master of your storm. Whatever you face, whatever you experience, do not be afraid, because the Lord is with you. He asks you to trust in him, and if you do, he can calm your storm and transform it into a new creation.

God bless,
Eric

Imposition of Ashes

2nd
March

ASH WEDNESDAY

Join us to mark the start of Lent for a short service during which those who wish to can receive a mark of ashes on the forehead as a sign of penitence and mortality.

Everyone Welcome
No booking required

All Saints Church

Kempston
6.00pm

St James's Church

Biddenham
7.30pm



In association with Bedford Quakers & Malawi Orphan Fund

"Unlock Uni"

Alex Mnatzaganian & friends present

A concert in aid of disadvantaged young people in Malawi



3 - 4.30pm, Sunday 27th Feb 2022

Christ Church, 140 Dudley St
Bedford MK40 3SX
Donations welcome



Imagine this...

You've got the grades, you've got the tuition loan,
but you don't have a family.

You can't afford a laptop, books, food.

So, no uni for you?

Learn more and donate at unlockuni.org

Prayer Group

Our joint online prayer group will now be meeting at 8pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month (note change of day). If you would like to join us in praying for our churches, communities and beyond, you will be made very welcome. For further details, or to request prayers, email stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com



Bedford Foodbank

Please continue to support this valuable charity and help them prevent hunger in our community.

Food urgently needed includes: Milk (Longlife), Fruit Juice (Longlife), Cup-a-Soup, Tinned Potatoes (large), Coffee (100g), Teabags (40/80), Hotdogs (Jumbo), Tinned meat in sauce, Curry Sauce, Sponge Puddings, Shampoo, Washing up Liquid, Anti-bac Spray.

Tea & Talk

The Tea & Talk group is once again meeting weekly on a Thursday at 10.00am to 12.00 noon in the Great Denham Community Hall to enjoy interesting conversation and tea or coffee refreshments. A warm welcome for new visitors or members is assured. Simply turn up or call Alison Stone for further information on : 07952 658468.

The All Age Bit

Today's story, which you can find on the first page, is quite appropriate for this week - it's all about a storm! The disciples who were with Jesus in the boat had already seen him perform a number of miracles, but still they were scared. Jesus, however, was fast asleep! So what did the disciples do? They called out to Jesus to help them. This story reminds us that if we are feeling anxious or scared, we too can ask Jesus for help. God tells us that we can bring all our worries and anxieties to him.

Activities

Storm Bottles - Using funnels carefully place beads/glitter/waterproof objects into an empty plastic bottle. Slowly add water until the bottle is full then use tape to seal around the lid. You can shake the bottle to create a storm and then watch as the contents settle again. You might like to use your storm bottle as a prayer focus while bringing your fears and worries to God.

Build a Boat - See if you can make a boat out of things you can find around the home. You might want to make a craft boat, or use furniture to make a boat that you can sit in. You could use it to re-enact the story or spend some time resting with God in the boat just as Jesus did in the story.

Song

In the Eye of the Storm

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AnqeFoGo9XA>

Prayer

Dear God, thank you that you have told us we can bring all our fears, worries and anxieties to you. Help us to know that you are always listening to our prayers and that you do answer them and will take our worries away. Please help us to feel calm and not to get anxious or worried this week, and also to help any of our friends or family who might be feeling anxious. Amen.

Resources from Roots and Journey Together (www.tath.co.uk)

Suggested Music

The man who calmed the sea

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zcgr-oPpUEU>

Make me a channel of your peace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8eorCEMIK4>

Will your anchor hold

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTfypuXwrMA>

Calm the storm

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Pmuc19JIBc>