

Newsletter

For 2 weeks from Sunday 29th May 2011

Our aim is to *KNOW* God through Jesus, *GROW* in faith, and *SHOW* God's love in our community

Revd Lisa writes...

Ascension Day

What happened to the Lord on that day, 40 days after his resurrection, when Jesus led some of his disciples out as far as Bethany, and, 'lifting up his hands, he blessed them.' And then, 'while he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50, 51) It's a tantalising statement. What happened?



The same writer tells us (Acts 1:9-11) that the disciples saw him 'lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight' and then describes how two angels appeared and told them what to do next.

The experience propelled them into 'returning to Jerusalem with joy' and 'constantly devoting themselves to prayer'. The disbeliever struggles to explain why, other than something truly 'unbelievable' happening, they reacted like this to losing their master for a second time. As the text re-iterates (Acts 1:11) these were 'men of Galilee' – fishermen, not rabbis, or, for that matter, revolutionaries. They had come to be disciples, through spiritual curiosity, and a tradesman's gut sense that Jesus was 'the real thing'. Believable. Worth following.

So what did happen to so inspire them that they found themselves going back to Jerusalem without him, yet still rejoicing, and then constantly devoting themselves to prayer to Almighty God? Beyond what the text tells us we don't know, but what we do know is the change that came over them, because it has come over us as well!

SERVICES

Sundays: St Paul's 10am: St Andrew's 11am
St Paul's, 7–8pm: 'Still Hour' of quiet prayer, but **Parish Prayers, 7 – 7.30pm,** this evening (29th) and on last Sunday in July & Sept.

Wednesdays: St Paul's 10am: St Andrew's 2pm

Weekday Morning Prayers: St Paul's 9.05-9.25am. Come & join us - all welcome.

NOTES

Congratulations to Revd Dr Catherine on passing her Viva and getting her Doctorate.

Wendy King would like to thank all her friends at St Andrew's & St Paul's for their cards, e-mails, calls and above all their prayers following the death of her beloved dad, Captain Mike King MBE. He died at home peacefully with his family near him, reconciled to God through Jesus. Your love and concern is appreciated.

Are there any budding singers, actors or dancers out there? Our group performs sketches and dances with backing tracks of contemporary uplifting and reflective Christian music. People can attend just to have a really good time. Our next production is in October. Enthusiasm more important than skill: a part is guaranteed for anyone who wants one. Meet at Close Methodist Church, Dumers Lane, Radcliffe, Tue 14th June, 8pm. For more info see Judy at St Andrew's or tel. 0161 798 5304.

Daniel & Judy would like to thank everyone who supported them at their confirmation, either by their presence at the service or with cards, and gifts. Thank you for making it a very special time.

St Andrew's Sunday School banner is still missing. PLEASE HELP US FIND IT

