

KEY VERSE:

Then starting with what Moses and all the prophets had said about him, Jesus began to explain everything that had been written about himself in the Scriptures. Luke 24:27



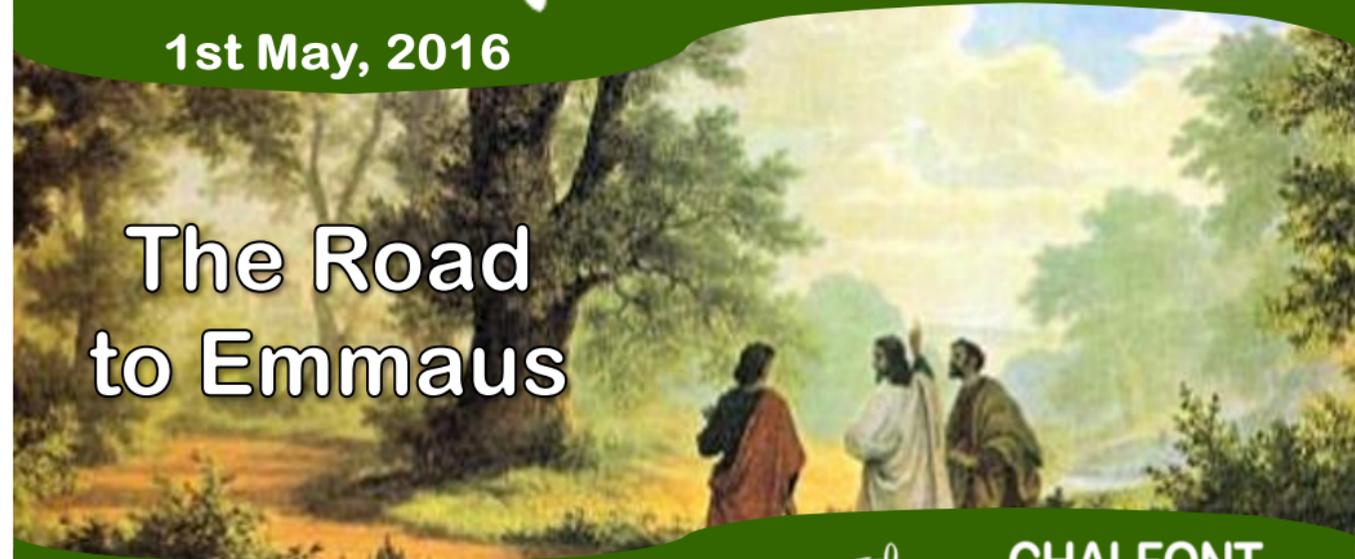
www.csp-parish.org.uk



FOUNDATION CAFÉ SERVICE

1st May, 2016

The Road to Emmaus



CHALFONT
ST. PETER
PARISH CHURCHES

KNOW WHAT:

- This is the season of Easter when we celebrate the fact that Jesus rose from the dead. We are looking at some of Jesus' resurrection appearances.
- Last week we looked at Jesus appearing to the disciples. When he first appeared to them Thomas wasn't there and wouldn't believe. Later Jesus appeared again and Thomas was able to touch and see Jesus for himself. After that Thomas believed.
- Jesus died on the Sabbath, which meant that for a whole day after his death his friends could go nowhere. The following day 2 of Jesus' friends (Cleopas and a friend) were walking to a town called Emmaus. They had heard that Jesus had risen, but they hadn't seen him.
- While they were walking they met someone who explained from the Scriptures that Jesus had to die and rise again. They invited the man in to eat with them and when they ate together they realised the man was Jesus. Jesus disappeared immediately.

SO WHAT:

- Jesus appeared to lots of different people at different times, making the evidence for his resurrection even more compelling!
- Jesus' death and resurrection is part of a bigger story, the final and most important piece in God's big plan for his people!

NOW WHAT:

- Let us remember that we are part of a big story of faith, each with our own role to play and a place in God's big picture.

LUKE'S LETTERS

One of my secondary school teachers used to give warnings against making assumptions. "To assume makes an ass of u and me" she would say. As annoying as it was then, I guess it must have made an impact since I still remember it.

It's hard to let go of assumptions, especially when they apply to things that we care about. We base a lot of our decisions on our assumptions, whether they are for our careers, our families, our faith or many other personal situations. It's especially hard when something comes along that directly challenges our assumptions, either because it is contrary to what we believe or because it goes against all of our received wisdom and experience.

Jesus frequently challenged assumptions, both in his spoken teaching and also his actions. That is what confused the men on the road to Emmaus. They expected Jesus to 'free Israel' but he died instead. They (and many at the time) assumed that the Messiah would be a warrior king to overthrow the Romans. That would have been a real saviour. Instead the man they revered died, in a brutal and humiliating way.

What they didn't realise was that the reality of Jesus was even greater than their assumptions and expectations allowed for. The enemy he defeated wasn't the Romans, it was death itself. The freedom they received was freedom from guilt, from darkness and from sin. The truth of Jesus far surpassed the assumptions.

I pray that this week, whatever you do, that you will not let your assumptions get in the way of what God has in store for you. The truth of life with God far surpasses what we can imagine.