

KEY VERSE:

*Anyone who is joined to Christ is a new being;
the old is gone, the new has come.*

2 Corinthians 5:17

If anyone is in
Christ



He is a
New Creation



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FOUNDATION CAFÉ SERVICE

17th April, 2016

**Peter's Conversation
with the Risen Jesus**



**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 the miraculous catch of fish, when the risen Jesus appeared to the disciples by the Sea of Galilee. He cooked breakfast for them by the seashore.
- This week we look at the conversation Jesus had with Peter.
- Before Jesus' death Peter had been confident that he would never let Jesus down (Matt 26:33); but Peter had stood by the fire in the servants' courtyard and denied any knowledge of Him.
- After the breakfast on the seashore' the risen Jesus asks Peter if he loves him three times. Peter is given an opportunity to make a fresh start with Jesus.
- Jesus tells Peter to feed his sheep, i.e. to look after his followers. He had plans for Peter.

SO WHAT:

- Even if we have let Jesus down he gives us an opportunity to make a fresh start.
- Jesus has a calling for each of us.

NOW WHAT:

- Let us ask ourselves how much we love Jesus.
- Let us make sure we respond to his calling on our lives.

JIM'S JOTTINGS

In or out of the EU?

Two conversations this week with 30-somethings about Brexit struck me forcefully. Both people to whom I spoke are able, university educated, thinking people. Both said, however, that their opinions on Brexit were not based on fact, despite having thought about it a lot, but on emotions. They believed that staying in the EU would help to prevent a recurrence of wars in Europe, so they were firmly for remaining in the EU. They may be right but I am sceptical that the key issue is really about stopping war and doubt that emotion is a sound basis to make such a crucial decision.

What I do know is that there has been very significant reconciliation in Europe since the Second World War and other conflicts such as those in the Balkans. But, even now, all is not completely happy. Recent events in the Ukraine and, before that, Georgia, show us that true reconciliation is an ongoing process which needs constant commitment.

Today we look at the story of Peter and how, having denied Jesus, he was reconciled to him and given a fresh start. Jesus took the initiative and reached out to Peter. Jesus does that to us too. He reaches out and reconciles us to God. He gives us power to be reconciled to those with whom we are in conflict. It is a lesson we all need to practise frequently.