

SIMON PETER REPLIED

**YOU ARE
THE
CHRIST,
THE SON OF THE
LIVING GOD.**

MATTHEW 16:16



THE PARISH OF CHALFONT ST PETER

Encounter God, Encourage Others, Engage our World
Charity Number: 1146043



www.CSP-Parish.org.uk

FOUNDATION CAFÉ SERVICE

25th June 2017

Peter's Mission
A Great Declaration



**CHALFONT
ST. PETER
PARISH CHURCHES**

KNOW WHAT:

- This week we are continuing our new series learning about Peter and the things he did after Jesus rose from the dead. Today is the Feast of St Peter and we are learning about his declaration that Jesus is the Messiah.
- The people of Israel had been expecting a saviour, a Messiah, for a long time and were always watching out for his arrival.
- One day, Jesus asked his friends who the people said that he was. They answered that some thought he was a prophet, like Elijah or Jeremiah. Jesus then asked who the disciples thought he was.
- Peter declared that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God. Because of this Jesus said that he would use Peter and his declaration to build his church.
- Peter spent the rest of his life telling everyone that Jesus was the Messiah, the saviour of the world.

SO WHAT:

- Peter was right, Jesus really is the Saviour – something that changed Peter's life and can change ours.

NOW WHAT:

- Let us consider Peter and Jesus' claims – how should we respond if they are true?
- Let us celebrate the church and join together as a community of people worshipping God.

LUKE'S LETTERS:

I am convinced of who Jesus is. I am sure of his claims and I agree wholeheartedly with Peter in his confession 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'

Recently I have had to wrestle with 'where Jesus is'. I look around at the world, even just close to home and I wonder where Jesus is and how things like this can happen.

Then I remember Jesus crying at the death of his friend, Lazarus. I think of Jesus eating with the poorest and the loneliest, stopping for the woman who had been bleeding for years. I remember Jesus going into a house to meet a family who has just lost their child. Then I know where Jesus is.

Right in the midst of our mourning, our grief, our wrestling, Jesus is there. In the wake of the Grenfell fire Bishop Graham Tomlin wrote these words:

"[We have a] God who weeps with those who weep, who hears the cries of the poor and disadvantaged, and while there are many things that happen in God's world that are not part of his will, in the end, his purposes will one day be fulfilled. We believe in the God of Resurrection, the God of hope. And today this is what we need - Hope that does not eliminate our shock, our compassion, our pride, our anger, but transcends it, lifts it and makes a future possible."