

# Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's



Led by Revd Natasha Brady

## Welcome everyone

Notices can be found on your [Friday Email](#), on our [website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). At the end of the service sheet, are your Roots at Home & Activity Sheets.

This week we are looking at the gospel of Luke - Jesus is in a house teaching ... and the place is packed tight ... with all sorts of people ... coming for a variety of reasons ... but as they draw close to Him ... listening and watching all that goes on ... many end up leaving that spot knowing they have come close to God and God has come close to them ... so as we gather know that we are gathering to meet with God and therefore when we depart ... after our closing song of praise ... we will ...

*“You will go out with joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.”*

*Isaiah 55.12*

Let's approach God now in prayer ...

As we approach  
Heavenly Father, heavenly King,  
we come before you today just as we are.  
We come to listen and to learn.

**We come and lay everything down  
to stand in your awesome presence.  
Amen.**

today ... lets continue this time of praise and celebration with our opening song ...

**Song**            Praise ye the Lord, Hallelujah  
*Sung by Listenerkids.com, used with permission*

### **Confession**

**Lord our God, in our sin we have avoided your call.  
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,  
like the dew that goes away early.  
Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgement;  
bind up our wounds and revive us;  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

cf. Hosea 6

### **Assurance of forgiveness**

May the God of love and power  
forgive you and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **Matchbox...**

**In the house Jesus was in was so crammed full of people that the man's friends  
couldn't get him through the door ... which is why they had to lower him in through the  
roof ... How determined were they ... to bring their friend to Jesus? Now as you watch  
the video of this reason ... sit up ... draw close ... and imagine you are there in that place  
...**

### **Sharing the Word**

*Today's reading Luke 5.17-26 ... video by KidsHub TV, used with permission.*

**17** One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal those who were ill. **18** Some men came carrying a paralysed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. **19** When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up

on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

**20** When Jesus saw their faith, he said, 'Friend, your sins are forgiven.'

**21** The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, 'Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?'

**22** Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, 'Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? **23** Which is easier: to say, "Your sins are forgiven," or to say, "Get up and walk"? **24** But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.' So he said to the paralysed man, 'I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.' **25** Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. **26** Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, 'We have seen remarkable things today.'

*The Talk ...*

by Natasha Brady

**Song** To God be the glory

Source: [Musixmatch](#) Songwriters: Fred Bock / Fanny Crosby / William Doane, Performed by Lindsey Mackie.

*Prayer time*

Jesus, the friends carried the paralysed man to you because they knew you would make him whole.

We carry people to you in prayer  
and we ask you to make them whole.  
We remember people who are trapped  
by hunger and poverty.

**We carry them to you.  
Make them whole in your love.**

We remember people who are broken  
by disease, accident, or mental illness.

**We carry them to you.  
Make them whole in your love.**

We remember people who are dying.

**We carry them to you.  
Make them whole in your love.**

We remember each other.  
There are many things in our lives that hold us back.

We carry ourselves to you.  
Make us whole in your love.  
Amen.

### *The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.

### Final Song King of Kings

In the darkness, we were waiting, without hope, without light  
'Til from Heaven You came running there was mercy in Your eyes

To fulfil the law and prophets to a virgin came the Word  
From a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt

*Praise the Father, praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit, three in one  
God of glory, Majesty  
Praise forever to the King of Kings*

To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost  
To redeem the whole creation you did not despise the cross

For even in Your suffering you saw to the other side  
Knowing this was our salvation, Jesus for our sake You died.

*Praise the Father, praise the Son...*

And the morning that You rose all of Heaven held its breath  
'Til that stone was moved for good for the Lamb had conquered death

And the dead rose from their tombs and the angels stood in awe  
For the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored

And the church of Christ was born, then the Spirit lit the flame  
Now this gospel truth of old shall not kneel, shall not faint

By His blood and in His name in His freedom I am free  
For the blood of Jesus Christ who has resurrected me, ohh

*Praise the Father, praise the Son...*

**Praise forever to the King of Kings**

Performed by Lindsey Mackie, Songwriters: Jason Ingram / Brooke Ligertwood / Scott Ligertwood  
King of Kings lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC, Capitol Christian Music Group

**The Grace**

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ**

*(Hold out your hands as if expecting a present)*

**And the love of God**

*(Put your hands on your heart)*

**And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit**

*(Hold hands)*

Be with us all now and for ever. Amen

*(Raise hands together on the word 'Amen' and shout loudly!)*

# Thank you for joining us today.

**Quick Note** The Church office will be open Monday & Thursday 10am – 1pm, other days please email [office@stokepogeschurch.org](mailto:office@stokepogeschurch.org) or phone 01753 642331.



**Scan or click to donate**  
Thank you for whatever you are able to give

Luke 5. 17-26

After spending time away from the towns, Jesus returns to Capernaum where he had spoken in the synagogue and healed many people. Again great crowds gather, and Luke relates the story of the healing of the man from the crowd. We are moved by the faith and determination of the four friends, and the striking visual image as they lower that man on a mat through the roof. In a narrative that often stresses the crowds, this story, like the previous account of a man with leprosy, beautifully portrays the value of an individual. Jesus could not ignore this particular man, and responds with grace and compassion. There is also intriguing interplay between the four friends and the paralysed man. Luke mentions how Jesus responds because he saw such faith in the four who carried him (v.20). This is not to say that the man who is healed did not have faith, but that the faith of the friends is revealed through their determination. Jesus responds wherever faith is found.



Ask yourself: What might help you to remain in the right place to grow?

Morning Reflection

Each morning, think about what lies ahead that day. Ask yourself: Will I be in any challenging situations? Am I prepared to meet them with courage? How can I feel more prepared to meet those challenges? Risk is part of life, we cannot avoid it altogether; but perhaps we can anticipate and prepare for its likely impact. Jesus promised to be with his disciples, and with us, by his Spirit. Ask God to give you a true sense of his presence, in order to be courageous and strong in any difficulties today.



Make a spider diagram with the word 'risk!' at the centre, and feelings associated with risky behaviour on the legs. This could be a good activity to do together; people of all ages can express how it feels to attempt something scary. There may be a range of contrasting emotions such as fear, excitement, anxiety, exhilaration. Add as many legs as you wish.



We have become more accustomed to living with risk during the pandemic. However, it is often said that society gets ever more 'risk averse', perhaps from fear of blame or litigation. Those who plan activities now expect to carry out risk assessments. Imagine you are going out – e.g. to a theme park or to the seaside. Write a list of possible risks and how you can minimise them. Does doing this make you feel more anxious or less so?

How do you think the disciples felt as they set out on the challenge Jesus gave them? Do you think it helped them to have a good idea of what lay ahead, or might it have put them off? What risks will you take to reach out to others this week? Think of practical and achievable examples that you might try – e.g. start with giving a smile or a hello to someone you don't (yet) know.

ROLE PLAY

People attending a church for the first time are often discouraged because nobody spoke to them. Regular attenders sometimes fear they will offend someone by doing so (e.g. by not recognising a longstanding church member). Explore this by acting it out with a few others (in person or online, as appropriate). Try to imagine different ways in which people may be approached and how they might react. Does this give you confidence to risk saying 'hello' to any newcomers you meet in future?

LISTEN

Listen to a version of 'Who would true valour see', perhaps that by Maddy Prior. Think about people who live and work in dangerous occupations and those who live risky lives, either through their own behaviour or through the actions of others, and ask God to protect them today.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ei5xSZ0s0AQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ei5xSZ0s0AQ)







**On this sheet you can:**

- 1 Circle 5 things that are wrong with this picture – things that do not fit with the story and the time Jesus lived.  
(Answers at the bottom of the page.)
- 2 In the space below, draw a picture of the story that has all the details correct.
- 3 On the back, write a poem about what it felt like to be the healed man.

