

# Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's



**Sunday 7th November 2021**

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, is this week's take away sheets from Roots on the Web.

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious, for his mercy endures for ever.."*

*Psalm 136.1*

### Opening prayer

We praise you, Lord Jesus,  
for calling us to be your people.  
As we gather today, may we  
listen to your word and reflect;  
listen to one another and respond;  
listen to the cries of the world and react –  
that no one may cry alone, and all may rejoice in your love.  
Amen.

## **Song**      Indescribable

*Performed by Brittany Hurlbert, Tim Packer and Catriona Inglis: St Nic's, Durham, 21 Feb 2021. Mix and video by Tim Packer. Words and music by Jesse Reeves and Laura Story © 2004 Laura Stories, sixsteps Music, worshiptogether.com*

### **Confession**

**Forgive us, Lord, when we turn away from those  
whose tears we are afraid of;  
whose grief we have not wanted to share;  
whose pain we have not wanted to see.  
Forgive us, and grant us courage  
to be silent where there are no words;  
to be supportive when there is no easy way ahead;  
and to carry always the hope of Christ in our hearts –  
wherever our journey takes us.  
Amen.**

### **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.**

### **The knotted hankie ...**

### **Sharing the Word**

*Today's reading Acts 9.36-43 GNT...      Dramatic reading by Jamie & Natasha .*

36 In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. 37 About that time she became ill and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. 38 Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, 'Please come at once!'

39 Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood round him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

40 Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning towards the dead woman, he said, 'Tabitha, get up.' She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. 41 He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. 42 This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. 43 Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.

## **Song** Find me at your feet

*Performed by Bright City, used with permission by GloworksTV.com*

## **Prayer time**

This week marks the half way point of COP26 in Glasgow. As we reflect on 'how to copy Jesus's way?' we remember that from the very beginning God asked us to care for His creation. So we now pray - alongside Tearfund - using this video prayer.

God of love, **may we love our world, each other and you.**

In Jesus' name.

**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** Here for you (acoustic version)

*Performed by Worship Lyric Video, Song by Reeves/Maher/Redman/Wanstall, CCLI #5925649*

## **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 & Wednesday 10am – 1pm, other days please email [office@stokepogeschurch.org](mailto:office@stokepogeschurch.org) or phone 01753 642331.



## Care and consolation

### Notes on the Bible readings

- In Acts 9.36-43, Peter acts as a shepherd and cares for Jesus' flock, just as Jesus commanded him on the beach (cf. John 21.1-19). Among the Early Church community in the town of Joppa, a port halfway between Jerusalem and Galilee, Peter already has a reputation as a man chosen by Jesus to do his work, as two men are sent to find him after a local woman dies.

- Tabitha (*Dorcas* in Greek) is the only woman in the New Testament called a disciple. Her pastoral care of others, including making clothes for poor widows, recalls Jesus' compassion.

- Peter is clear that the resurrection power that raises Tabitha belongs to Jesus. Prior to this passage, Peter is involved in healing a paralysed man and says to him, 'Jesus Christ heals you' (v.34). Through Jesus' resurrection and authority over sickness and death, others are healed to reveal the power of God. Unlike Jesus after the raising of Jairus' daughter (Luke 8.49-56), Peter is keen to spread the good news, and through both these healings new believers are added to the Church.

- We live in the same power of the resurrection, where death does not have the final word, and where even in our pain, sickness and suffering, the good shepherd's love draws us to a place of goodness and new life.

### Questions for reflection

- ▶ Where do you see 'good works and acts of charity' in action?
- ▶ What does 'caring like Jesus' mean in practice for you personally?
- ▶ In what other ways do we live in the power of the resurrection?



### A prayer of approach

*Jesus, loving shepherd, be near to us.  
Jesus, good shepherd, watch over us.  
Jesus, caring shepherd, be gentle with us.  
Jesus, consoling shepherd, walk with us.  
Jesus, commissioning shepherd, send us out:  
to be near others;  
to watch over others;  
to be gentle with others –  
and to walk with them in your name. Amen.*

### A reflective way into prayer

*Think about something you own that someone else made for you. Give thanks for that person, and reflect on what you could make to give away. Then pray: God of all giving and receiving, of all kindness and all thoughtfulness, thank you for all those who have shown us the generosity of your love. May their deeds inspire us, and your grace enable us to serve others, and to care – as you cared for us in Jesus. Amen.*

### A personal prayer

*God of hope and consolation,  
when death comes to someone I love, may I be brave –  
brave enough to cry,  
brave enough to reach out for comfort,  
brave enough to talk about the one I miss so much.  
And may I be strong enough to ask for help,  
strong enough to be there for others when they are grieving too.  
I ask this in the name of your risen Son, Jesus.  
Amen.*

For reflection and comment linking this week's Bible reading to the news, current issues and events, go to [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com) and click on PostScript.



### Live your faith

From a newspaper cut out some pictures of difficult situations. Use them as a prompt to pray – that there may be someone who brings hope to those places.

Name .....

## Acts 9.36-43

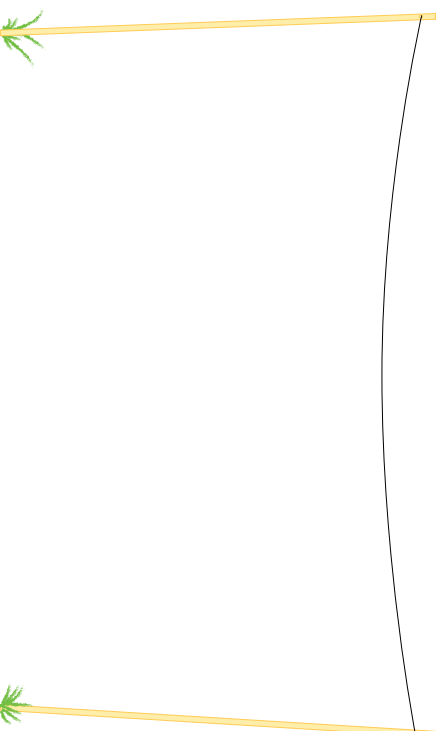
A kind and caring disciple called Tabitha dies and Peter brings her back to life, in Jesus' name.



## Activity time



Tabitha made clothes for other people. Draw your favourite clothes on the washing line.



## ROOTS children's sheet



You are a journalist in Joppa. You were at Tabitha's house when she died, and you saw her alive again after Peter had raised her. Write a newspaper headline and a short news story describing the events you witnessed.

## THE JOPPA JOURNAL

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE JOPPA DISTRICT

## Family time

**Talk** about the emergency services and other people who care for us.

**Watch** the story of Tabitha on DVD, *Friends and Heroes* (Vol. 4): *False Heroes*.

**Pray** Put up a short 'washing line' in your hallway. Invite everyone to add a peg to the line whenever they help, or do something kind, for someone else.



Can you spot five differences between the two pictures?

