

Monday 11th September 2023

The Homes Jesus Visited

The Home of Mary and Martha



St Matthew's Harwell

and

All Saints' Chilton

Welcome and Notices

Here we are at our third stop, visiting some of the homes that Jesus visited, this time we meet Mary and Martha, they were good friends of Jesus. As we have said, each person and each home gives us insight into a greater story.

We will also resume our thoughts about the effect Jesus has on peoples lives and how God invites us to recognise the story of his love and power in our own lives too.

Kate is going to give the talk today and it's lovely to welcome her.

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, help us to 'see' the beauty of your love in the lives of others and in ourselves. As we meet today to sing, to pray, and to be together and as we remember the stories of your conversations, may we know the reality of your wonderful love.

Amen

Hymn

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of My Heart;

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art -
thou my best thought, by day or by night;
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Father and I thy true son,
thou in me dwelling and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only first in my heart,
high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Prayers

All:

Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
We confess that we have sinned
In thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy, forgive what we have been,
Help us to amend what we are,
And direct what we shall be;
That we may do justly,
Love mercy, and walk humbly with you our God. **Amen**

Bible Reading: Psalm 34: 1 - 10

Hymn:

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God

And His righteousness, and all these things
Shall be added unto you, Allelu, alleluia.

Man shall not live by bread alone,
But by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of God, Allelu, alleluia.

Ask, and it shall be given unto you.
Seek and ye shall find.
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you, Allelu, alleluia.

Bible Reading: Luke 10: 38 - 42

Conversation with Jan and Pam

Have a look at the paintings each has its own take on Jesus' visit to Bethany.

- Which painting best tells the bible story?
- What does each painting tell me about Jesus? About Mary? About Martha?
- What do you like/ not like?



Talk by Kate

Reverse Collection

Closing Prayers

Gracious God, you call us all to be part of your story. Enable us to share your amazing love through the warmth and friendship of our homes. We thank you for the sharing of meals with each other and with our friends and family. Please help us to show hospitality to all. Guide our conversation as we gather together, and help us keep our hearts open to you.

Lord we thank you: **for all that we have been given.**

Lord, we pray that we too will follow Mary's example and sit and hear your word, bow at your feet in worship, and kneel before you in prayer.

Lord, we pray that we too will have a desire to serve, and that we will not become overcommitted, worried and troubled, but to follow you, learn your way and adopt your priorities within our service.

Lord we thank you: **for all that we have been given.**

Lord, we thank you for all we can learn from Mary, to seek your presence first and to be totally devoted to you, listening to your words carefully.

Lord, we thank you for all we can learn from Martha, that we can come straight to you with a problem and speak to you without fear. Help us to cultivate a relationship with you that is so solid and intimate that we can bring our issues to you any time, help us also to recognise we may not always receive the answer we expect.

Lord we thank you: **for all that we have been given.**

Lord we pray for your presence in our homes and thank you that you are always with us and care for us. We ask that our homes will be places of rest and peace because of your presence. Lord, we ask for your blessing on everyone who walks through our doors. Make our homes an example of your truth and your love.

Lord we thank you: **for all that we have been given.**

We say together The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,



as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever,
Amen

Hymn:

Take my life, and let it be

Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine;
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart; it is Thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

The Blessing

Go out to serve God with love, make room at your table for unexpected guests, rest in Jesus' presence.

May you have Mary's calm when you are too busy and be stirred into action when you are too calm.

The blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Be with you now and always.

Amen

**We will now share our Cream Tea
and of course, a Chat!**



Our Christmas generationGold service will be held on:

Monday 4th December 2023 at 2.30pm
at St Matthew's Harwell

Please do join us and bring your friends!