

BIBLE READINGS: EXODUS 24:12~end; MATTHEW 17:1-9

# Listen to Him!

WHAT WE call the story of the Transfiguration is one of the most extraordinary episodes in the Gospel.

Jesus, together with his disciples Peter, James and John go to a remote mountain and there something amazing happens.

Jesus is changed before their eyes into someone, something, quite unearthly, which terrifies them and which they do not understand.

Jesus does not stay transfigured in this way. He returns to normal and comforts them telling them not to be afraid, and then they all return home.

*What are we to make of this?*

Clearly the story shows that Jesus is someone truly unique. He is associated with Moses and Elijah, the Jewish Patriarchs, and therefore with God himself. Yet He soon returns to the same, familiar Jesus that Peter, James and John know well.

I think this episode tells us much about the nature of Jesus. He is alongside us every day, as familiar as anyone we know well and see frequently. Yet He is also powerful and holy, mysterious and unknowable, hidden from us by the dazzling light of His presence.

*Then, the next minute, there He is with us again.*

We see Him in the eyes of those we meet, in the pain of those who suffer and in the joy of human love.

Jesus tells the others not to speak to the rest of His followers about what they have witnessed.

Nowadays we are encouraged to tell everyone about Him but our individual encounters with Jesus are private, intimate moments just for us, as if we had been on that mountain with Peter, James and John on that day long ago...

**Peter Robbins**



St Stephens  
SOUNDWELL

SPECIAL ANNUAL SERVICE

## ASH WEDNESDAY

26 FEBRUARY 7.30PM

In church

## LENT COURSE

THE focus of our Lent Course 2020 will be: 'Let's talk... Jesus!' with a mixture of short films, discussion, sharing and prayer. Simply come to church on any or all the Wednesday evenings in Lent: 4 March to 8 April beginning at 7.30pm. Sign up on the attendance sheet at rear of church on the font.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

## Planning meeting

MONDAY 2 MARCH 7.30PM

IF you wish to help or suggest ideas then you are welcome to attend this meeting in the Church Room.

## WOMEN'S World Day of Prayer

THIS annual event takes place this year  
**FRIDAY 6 MARCH**

A local celebration service will be held at *Badminton Road Methodist Church, Downend* at 2pm.

Prayers are led this year by the people of Zimbabwe with the theme:

**'RISE! Take your mat and walk'**

A CELEBRATION  
OF THE LIFE OF

## Elaine Cox

FRIDAY 6 MARCH 10AM

in Church

*Everyone is welcome to attend*

The family ask you, please wear something red if you'd like to

SISTERS OF THE CHURCH

## Easter Appeal!



THEY need medium & large Easter Eggs to give to the poor of our City.

Eggs will need to be in Church by 15th of March. Any later and we can NOT get the eggs to The Sisters in time.

ST STEPHENS MEN'S GROUP

## 25th Anniversary Celebration and Thanksgiving

SATURDAY 7 MARCH 7PM

IN Church to begin the evening but then after in the Church Hall at 7.45pm for Refreshments, with Entertainment from **The Chris Knox Big Band**.

There is no charge for admission to the evening but obtain a ticket from Brian Brown for catering planning.

[www.saintstephensoundwell.org](http://www.saintstephensoundwell.org)

saintstephen soundwell @SoundwellChurch

CHARITY NUMBER 1131503

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS  
GENESIS 2:15-17 & 3:1-7; MATTHEW 4:1-11