

The Vicar writes...

This Sunday we continue with the Book of Acts and look at the Chapter immediately after last week's – Peter and Cornelius. We are once again reminded that teamwork makes the dreamwork and that God loves to work through people, through us, to build the Kingdom on earth.

And this week we see again that Peter, like Saul, is given a revelation and an experience that challenge him to re-examine what he thinks he knows of God. Peter (and Cornelius) do theology and the world changes as a result.

In a conversation with someone during the week they told me that they too had been thinking about a familiar passage from a totally different perspective and enjoyed doing so.

This week why not re-read any familiar passage, perhaps your favourite (or one you usually avoid!) and ask God to open it to you in a new way.

Sunday services

10.30am Parish Communion with All Stars

PCC News

PCC met on Tuesday evening and we agreed that it would be good to involve more of us in the work of the church, creating more opportunities for people to use their giftings. As we work out the details keep your eyes peeled for groups and teams that you might like to join, but for now we have a couple that may appeal:

Do you have a tidy, organised mind? Do you, like God, enjoy creating order? Perhaps you like to know that all is in order and would like to help us make that happen? We are looking for a couple of people to join a small working group making sure that all our policies are up to date. We'll be reviewing what we already have, probably putting a few more in place and creating a plan for the PCC to review them as needed on a regular basis. Chat to me if this is you.

Or perhaps you are more of a hands-on person who enjoys doing practical tasks? The Churchwardens would like to build a small facilities team to help them keep on top of routine maintenance and stores as well as tackle some of the larger jobs that need doing to keep our buildings in good condition. Chat to Chris or Rob if this is you.

Faith in Action

COINS (Church Outreach in Newbury Schools) are holding their termly Pause and Pray in our church hall on Tuesday 4th November from 1pm till 3pm. Bishop Mary is popping in for the beginning of the meeting. They would love you to come and pray together for our school communities in Newbury.

This is also a chance to learn more about this outreach and especially the The Christmas Gift, the Year 6 workshops that take place in the first two weeks of advent.

Refreshments are provided.

Website: <https://www.coinsnewbury.org/>

Family News

Jill Cawte would like to thank everyone for the kind messages, card, flowers and meals that people have given her. She feels very loved and is thankful to know that she is in our thoughts and our prayers. We may not see her in church or in groups for a while but please do keep showing her that we love her.

Martin's funeral will be at St Mary's church on 7th November at 11.30am, followed by refreshments in the Church Centre.

Sunday Teams

You probably live out your faith most actively during the week at home, at work, at school, in your clubs and whatever else you get up to. Sundays are the time when we get together to share our week with each other and to worship God. Like any family activity it works best when everyone takes a turn at helping out.

There are lots of jobs and most of us can do most of them, even our younger people. Here is a list;

- Welcoming people into church
- Operating the laptop and sound desk
- Reading the Bible passages
- All Stars leaders and helpers
- Leading the prayers
- Praying with people during and after the service
- Making and serving refreshments
- Clearing up

Some of these have teams already and some don't.

Maybe you already do a job and love it, maybe you would like a change, maybe you don't do a job but would like to. Please pray and then either talk to me or drop me a text, email etc. Some of the jobs need a bit of training which will be provided so that you don't feel out of your depth.

Prayer

Can I pray for you? I say Morning Prayer every day. I pray for the needs of our parish, the church more widely and our world. I pray for my day and the people I know about but maybe I don't know what you need.

Do let me know, or just ask me to pray for you without the details if you prefer.

Super Soup Sundays

It was a real pleasure to welcome our first guests to the vicarage for lunch on the 12th with the anticipation of more to come. We still have space for guests on 23rd November and 11th January (no lunches in December) so do let me or Tony know if you would like to come. I can cater to any allergies or preferences without any bother.

Readings

It's another long passage, but a great one to sit and look at – what do you notice? What puzzles you or makes you want to know more?

Acts 10:1-23

Peter and Cornelius

10 In Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian Cohort, as it was called. ²He was a devout man who feared God with all his household; he gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God. ³One afternoon at about three o'clock he had a vision in which he clearly saw an angel of God coming in and saying to him, 'Cornelius.' ⁴He stared at him in terror and said, 'What is it, Lord?' He answered, 'Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. ⁵Now send men to Joppa for a certain Simon who is called Peter; ⁶he is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside.' ⁷When the angel who spoke to him had left, he called two of his slaves and a devout soldier from the ranks of those who served him, ⁸and after telling them everything, he sent them to Joppa.

⁹About noon the next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰He became hungry and wanted something to eat; and while it was being prepared, he fell into a trance. ¹¹He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners. ¹²In it were all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. ¹³Then he heard a voice saying, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ¹⁴But Peter said, 'By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean.' ¹⁵The voice said to him again, a second time, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁶This happened three times, and the thing was suddenly taken up to heaven.

¹⁷Now while Peter was greatly puzzled about what to make of the vision that he had seen, suddenly the men sent by Cornelius appeared. They were asking for Simon's house and were standing by the gate. ¹⁸They called out to ask whether Simon, who was called Peter, was staying there. ¹⁹While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, 'Look, three men are searching for you. ²⁰Now get up, go down, and go with them without hesitation; for I have sent them.' ²¹So Peter went down to the men and said, 'I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for your coming?' ²²They answered, 'Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say.' ²³So Peter invited them in and gave them lodging.

The next day he got up and went with them, and some of the believers from Joppa accompanied him.