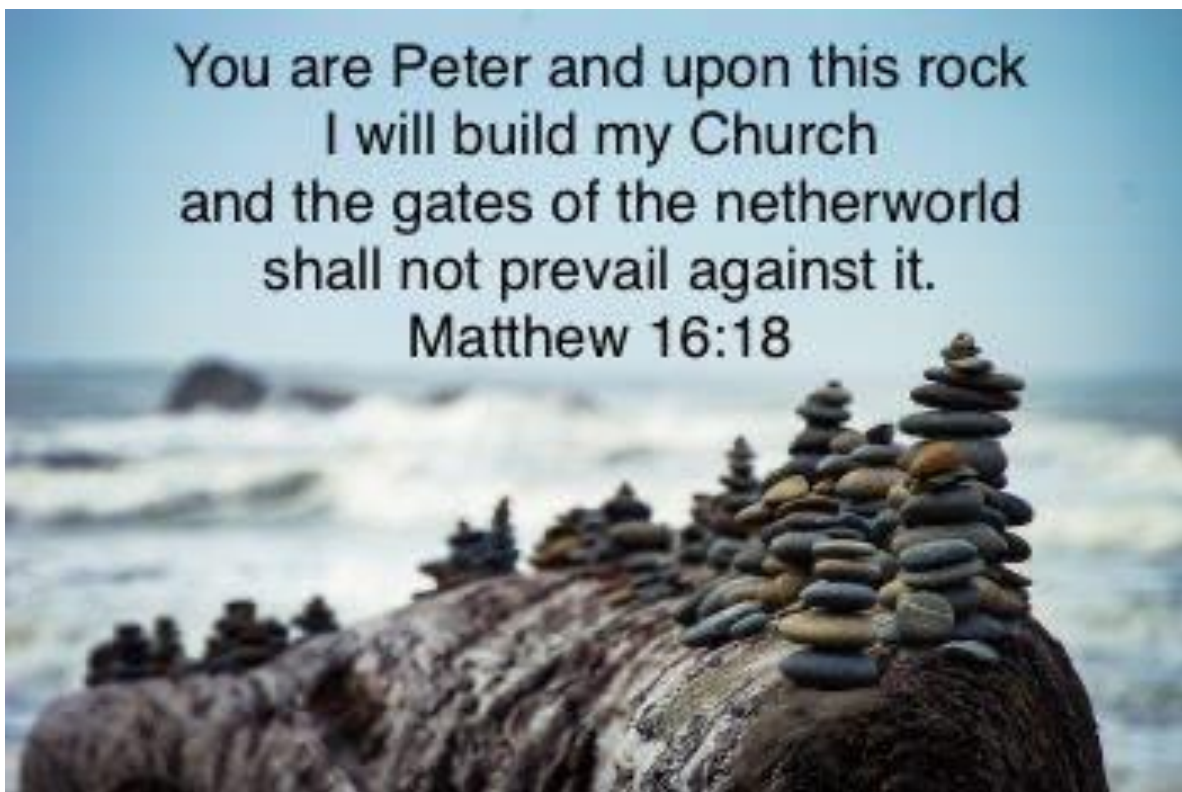


# Minster Bethel Congregational Church (MBCC)

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18/04/2021 -- Disciples in Question

(Simon)Peter



Today is "Church & Chat"

A short church reflection with a hymn, reading, (children's activity), prayer, "thought for the week" and then a time to chat. If you need help to join please ask any deacon

All lockdown services can be found at: [www.mbccs.co.uk](http://www.mbccs.co.uk)

## Good morning and welcome to this week's thoughts.

Our first hymn for today is: "Cornerstone."

[Cornerstone \(Lyric Video\) - YouTube](#)

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name

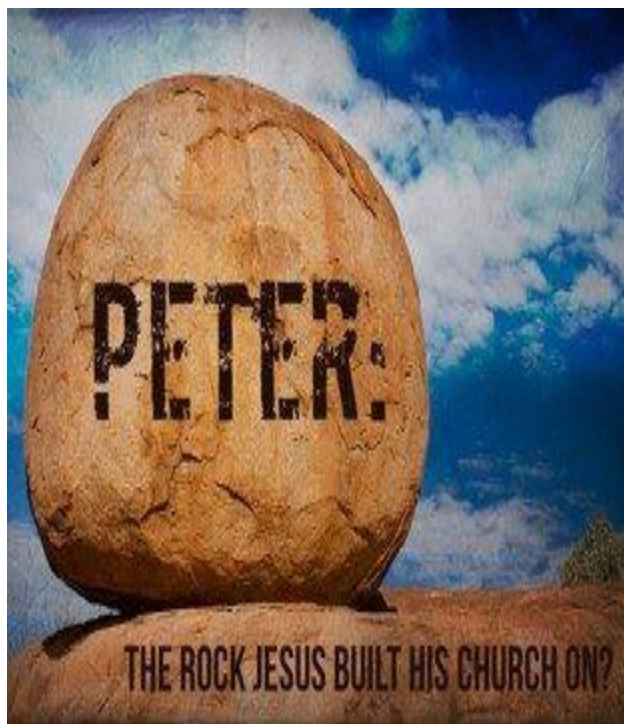
Christ alone  
Cornerstone  
Weak made strong  
In the Saviour's love  
Through the storm  
He is Lord  
Lord of all

When darkness seems to hide His face  
I rest on His unchanging grace  
In every high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil  
My anchor holds within the veil

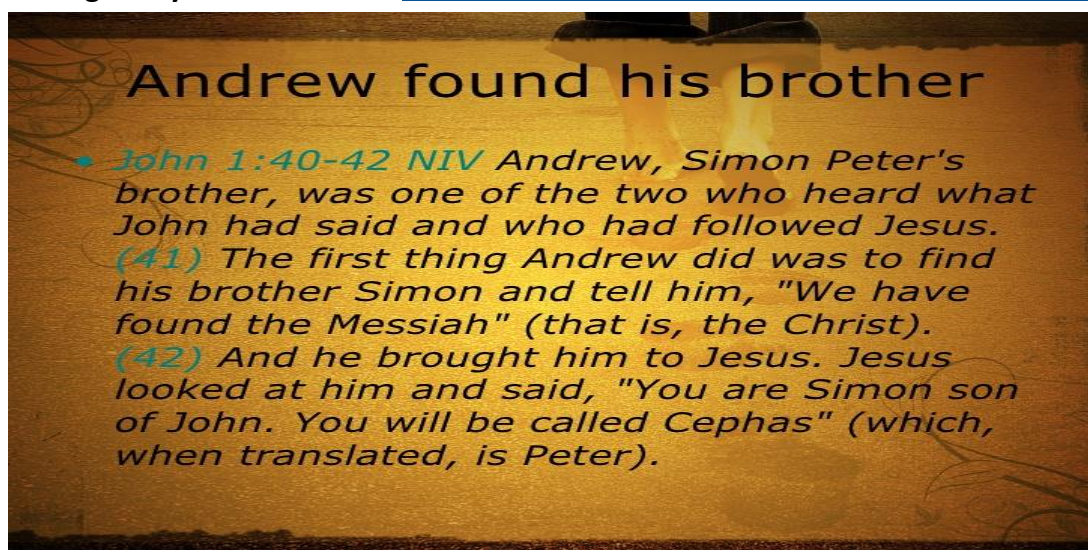
Christ alone, Cornerstone .....

When He shall come with trumpet sound  
Oh may I then in Him be found  
Dressed in His righteousness alone  
Faultless stand before the throne

Christ alone, Cornerstone .....



The reading today is **John 1: 29-42** [John 1: 29-42 NIVUK - John testifies about Jesus - The next - Bible Gateway](#)




This week we have learned much about the Duke of Edinburgh and yesterday his life was celebrated at his funeral service. Let us take a moment to reflect on his life and the impact he has had on our church.

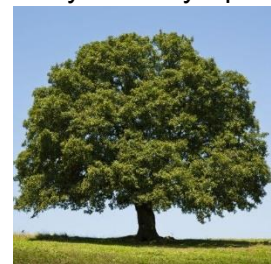
Many of us have been lucky enough to meet the Duke of Edinburgh over the years. We have had many young people participate in the Duke of Edinburghs award and several successfully complete their Gold and meet the Duke at St James Palace where he would take time to talk to the young people and their parents at the awards ceremony. Many of the Brigade leaders were also fortunate to go with the young people and join in the celebrations.

Some of us went to Hever Castle to celebrate the 25 years of the scheme which must have been in 1981! Where a few of us had the opportunity to talk to the Prince, what an Honour. Many of us have had our lives shaped by the Duke through the award scheme and other events, some married to people met through the scheme, activities at our church brought about by connections to the scheme, jobs influenced by skills and activities participated in. I am sure we all have a memory in person whether through direct contact or through something that we have seen or heard in the media. It may be the royal wedding or connections through the armed forces or many other activities but for sure we have all heard of the Duke of Edinburgh.

Last week at our quiz night we spoke about Prince Philip being a “rock” which is why today our disciple in question is Simon, who Jesus called Peter the “rock” on which his church would be built.

Today's Bible reading is the start of the relationship between Jesus and Simon first. At this first meeting Jesus gave Simon a new name. He was to be called Cephas which translates to Peter which means rock. At this time Simon was a man that had a mixture of strengths and weakness, of courage and cowardice, of faith and doubt, and of wisdom and foolishness. Galileans, like Peter, were known for being quick-tempered, quarrelsome, impulsive, courageous, emotional, and lovers of adventure. However Peter was a fisherman who chose to leave his nets to follow Jesus. Peter was not a strong rock at first, but was a strong man. He kept changing his mind and he was afraid to follow Jesus when things got tough. But Jesus knew right from the start of their relationship what Simon would become if he followed him and was filled by the Holy Spirit.

 You could describe him as an acorn that one day might become a big oak tree, if it gets the right nurturing. The exciting thing about this acorn is what it can become one day.



Far from rock, Peter was more like moulding clay. He was not set like a stone - Solid, immovable, and silent. Peter found it hard to keep quiet and changed his position often. Peter made many mistakes. God was going to have to mould Peter and nurture him with love and guidance.

Peter was outspoken and even argued with Jesus. When Jesus described his death to be on a cross Peter was horrified and protested loudly. Jesus rebuked him.

Peter often misunderstood Jesus' ways. We know that as one of the soldiers went to arrest Jesus, Peter pulled his sword and cut off the soldier's ear. He still thought this was the way to protect Jesus, but Jesus again rebuked him because he still didn't understand His teachings.

Peter continued to deny Jesus to protect himself even after Jesus told him he would.

Peter was also impulsive. Peter quickly moving from one extreme to the other. Peter walked on water as a sign of faith but quickly became fearful and relied on Jesus to save him. We also saw after the resurrection John outran Peter to the tomb, but when they got to the mouth of the tomb, John stopped; but not Peter, he went right in. Peter was like so many of us- 1 day we are



full of confidence and on top of the world, the next day we are in the valley. Jesus called Peter a rock, but Peter seemed to be more like clay- So weak, impulsive, changeable, and full of faults.

But, Jesus knew that Simon would one day become a Peter, strong and solid as a rock.

In those experiences described above we can see the beginning of the rock. He never left when rebuked by Jesus he stayed for more. Peter did not let a failure ruin him or give up because of disappointment. Peter thought Jesus would be a great earthly King, one that overthrew the Roman Empire. He was disappointed, but he did not quit.

Peter became a rock as he dedicated himself to God. He passed the love test and kept his promise. Peter gave everything he had in the service of God. After he was filled with the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, he held nothing back. Peter preached the message of God, and thousands were saved. Peter was courageous and stood up in the midst of opposition. When Peter and John were arrested and warned not to preach again, or they would be killed, they went back out saying "We ought to obey God rather than man." In Acts 10 we see Peter opening the door of the Gospel to the Gentiles to start the spread of the word to all nations. Peter laid down his life for Christ. "According to tradition, he died as a martyr for his faith. Tradition teaches his death came by crucifixion upside down in Rome".

We are not a Prince a Duke that will reach many through an international programme, but God knows that we can be a strong follower of Jesus doing wonderful things for his Kingdom. If we truly follow Jesus he will take our weaknesses and mould us and make us into "strong as a rock" people of God. He sees us for what we are but also what we can become.

## Our second hymn for today "I will Trust in You alone"

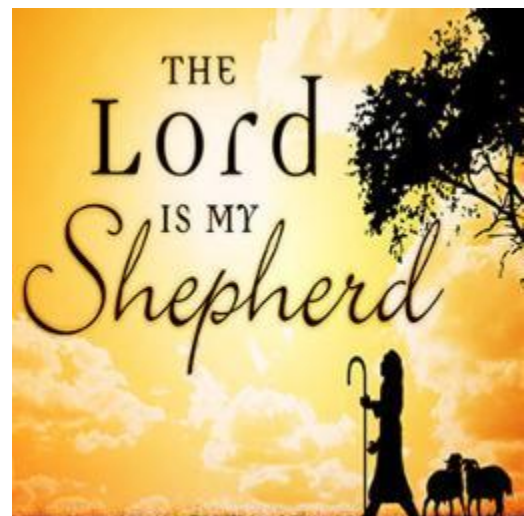
[The Lord's my Shepherd Stuart Townend with lyrics - YouTube](#)

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;  
He makes me lie in pastures green.  
He leads me by the still, still waters,  
His goodness restores my soul.

And I will trust in You alone,  
And I will trust in You alone,  
For Your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.

He guides my ways in righteousness,  
And He anoints my head with oil,  
And my cup, it overflows with joy,  
I feast on His pure delights.

And though I walk the darkest path,  
I will not fear the evil one,  
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff  
Are the comfort I need to know.



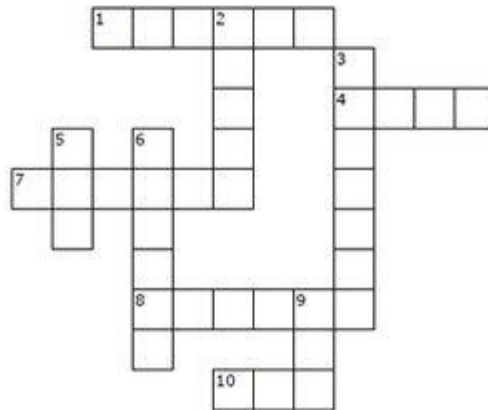
## Today's Pray:

Dear God. Thank you for making Simon into Peter the rock. Thank you that if we follow Jesus, you'll make us into strong followers and Christian disciples. In Jesus' name - Amen.

## Peter's Confession of Christ

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Matthew 16:15 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 16:13-20 (NIV)



### ACROSS

- Persons; men, women, and children; human beings
- A large stone that sticks up out of the ground or the sea
- A male parent
- The Messiah, as foretold by the prophets
- An adult male human being

### DOWN

- The name that Jesus called Simon
- A persons who speaks for God
- To speak
- The whole body of believers in Christ
- A male child in relation to his parents

PETER	FATHER	PEOPLE	SON	CHRIST
PROPHET	ROCK	MAN	CHURCH	SAY

