



# The Aldershot and North Camp Anchor

Issue 23: Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Friends,



Last Sunday, 24 members of North Camp gathered physically for the first time since March to join together in a time of shared worship. The main worship area at North Camp can, under social distancing guidelines, accommodate 35 people, with the possibility of increasing this capacity by using the Welcome Area, and indeed the Main Hall, as numbers increase, by relaying the service to those other rooms.

Some people, of course, are quite rightly continuing to shield themselves from infection, and so they remained at home, but we heard that some other people stayed at home believing that the recent changes in Government guidelines meant that only six people could attend Sunday worship. This is incorrect, as 'Public Worship' is one of the exemptions from the 'six-people' rule - provided the 'social distancing maximum attendance' is not exceeded.

Those who shared in worship at North Camp spoke after the service about how pleased they were to have been able to meet with others and of how they had been able to join in worship in a real and meaningful way despite the unusual setting.

The photographs show the North Camp congregation during the service and then sharing 'socially distanced fellowship' in the glorious sunshine afterwards.



I look forward to this coming Sunday and to sharing in the first service since the lockdown at Aldershot. I will share news from that service in my letter in next week's edition of 'The Anchor'.

Yours in His service,

*Chris Blake*

## Worship Reflection

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. (Psalm 105 v 1-2)

### Hymn (StF 364)

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace!

Prayer: Living God, speak to us today, so that we might know you more fully, love you more deeply and serve you more richly, to the glory of your name. Amen

### Bible Reading (Matthew 20 v 1-15)

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. 'About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the market-place doing nothing. He told them, "You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went.

'He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, "Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?"

"Because no one has hired us," they answered. 'He said to them, "You also go and work in my vineyard."

'When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first." 'The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. "These who were

hired last worked only one hour,” they said, “and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.”

‘But he answered one of them, “I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?”

Reflection : The story told by Jesus in this week’s Gospel reading is not a description of the usual pattern of wage negotiations between employers and employees. In a normal work context, the claim would be, ‘A fair day’s wage for a fair days’ work’. Those working for a shorter time would normally be paid less than those working all day. That would be fair.

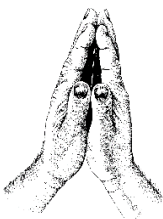
This parable reminds us that God’s love goes well beyond some form of negotiated understanding of fairness. When we look honestly at our lives, we know that we have not earned God’s love by our own ‘goodness’ or ‘hard work’. This parable speaks of how God’s love, shown most clearly in the death of Jesus on the cross, goes well beyond what might be considered fair in a process of wage bargaining. As the vineyard owner says to those who come with their complaints, “**..are you envious because I am generous?**”

Today, we are all invited to give thanks to God for His generous love shown to each one of us.

### Prayers of Intercession

We pray especially this week -

- For all who work in the NHS and care sector as we move into autumn and winter days with Covid numbers increasing.
- For those developing vaccines.
- For integrity and honesty to be seen in the statements of those who lead our nation



Gracious God, we ask these prayers through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Saviour. Amen

### Hymn (StF 565)

Only by grace can we enter, only by grace can we stand. Not by our human endeavour, but by the blood of the Lamb. Into your presence you call us, you call us to come. Into Your presence you draw us, and now by your grace we come, now by your grace we come.

Final Prayer: Lord God help us in the days of the week ahead to continue to rejoice in the knowledge of your generous love. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

## Glimpses of God’s Glory



You are invited to submit a photograph that you or someone you know has taken which could be described as a ‘Glimpse of God’s Glory’. It might be a view from your window, or a photograph taken while you have been ‘out and about’. When you send me the photograph please include 100 to 150 words saying something about the photograph and describing why that image is, for you, a ‘Glimpse of God’s Glory’.



This week’s contribution is from Yvonne Farrar from Aldershot. Yvonne writes, “My husband, David, developed an interest in macro photography particularly in taking photos of flowers. Such photos reveal that God’s glory can be found at the heart

*of small blooms: immaculate attention to tiny details which often contribute to an even more glorious whole. For example, the inside of a tulip has amazing colour and design and this showy dahlia has a beautiful heart that the bees love”.*

