



# The Aldershot and North Camp Anchor

Issue 4: Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Friends,

I have a number of routes of different lengths which I have been following for my 'daily walk'. The longest of these possibilities takes just under an hour and follows a route from North Camp down Queen's Avenue to the Garrison Athletics Track, across the open space to the Farnborough Road, and back home past Wavell School. When the weather is good, it really is a beautiful walk.

Queen's Avenue is lined with established trees which have stood for many decades, but, here and there, perhaps where older trees have been removed, new trees have recently been planted. These saplings are only a few feet high, and they will only reach their full height some considerable time in the future. It seems to me, as I look at these newly planted trees, that the act of planting such trees is a sign of hope.

At some time in the future, when the pandemic of 2020 has become a history lesson, these new trees will stand as tall and beautiful as their mature neighbours along the Avenue. In Jeremiah chapter 29 we can read a letter that Jeremiah sent to the leaders of the people in exile. They were experiencing a time of great difficulty, living away from their homeland. The time of exile would go on for 70 years and those involved must have wondered if it would ever end. In verse 11 of that chapter we can read some comforting words written by Jeremiah, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future".

Those young trees along Queen's Avenue are for me a sign that even in these difficult days we can know that God has plans for us, his people – and that these are plans which involve a future and a hope.

Yours in His service,

*Chris Blake*

## Worship Reflection

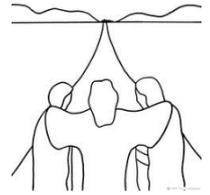
### Introduction

Jesus told them, 'This is what is written: the Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. (Luke 24 v 46-48)

### Hymn

On the day of resurrection  
To Emmaus we return;  
While confused, amazed and frightened,  
Jesus comes to us, unknown.

Then the stranger asks a question,  
'What is this which troubles you?'  
Meets us in our pain and suffering  
Jesus walks with us, unknown.  
(StF 307)



### Prayer

Lord, your love overwhelms us, your grace amazes us, and your generosity showers us with good gifts. Help us to live today in ways that reflect, in however small a measure, the good news of the gospel. Amen.

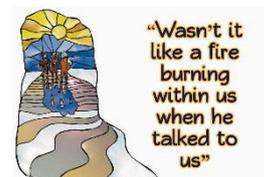
### Bible Reading

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going further. But they urged him strongly, 'Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?'

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, 'It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognised by them when he broke the bread.

(Luke 24 v 28-35)



## Reflection

The account of the journey of Cleopas and his friend towards Emmaus is one of the most powerful narrative descriptions in the Gospels. Space has limited the length of the extract given above, but I would encourage you to take time to read the whole account (Luke 24 v 13 to 35).

Tom Wright, in his 'Luke for Everyone' commentary, says, "At the level of drama it has everything. Sorrow, suspense, puzzlement, gradual dawning of light .. unexpected actions, astonished recognition ..excitement and activity". It is indeed a 'good read'.

At the centre of the events that Luke describes, is that moment when Jesus breaks bread. In that ordinary, everyday, action, Cleopas and his companion find that their eyes are opened.

In these lockdown days, it is good to be open to the possibility that, in our ordinary routines, our eyes too might be opened, and that we might see Jesus in a new and deeper way. As we sit quietly with a cup of tea or coffee, let us take time this week, in that ordinary everyday moment, to reflect on Luke's account of the journey to Emmaus. Let us pray that our eyes might be opened, and our hearts burn as we are reminded once again that Jesus walks with us on our daily journey of life. Amen

## Prayers of Intercession

In the power of the resurrection we offer our prayers to God. We pray for:

- God's wisdom for those who lead us
- God's peace for those who are troubled
- God's protection for those who serve us
- God's presence to be known by the lonely
- And we pray for those known to us.....

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

## Hymn

Come let us sing of a wonderful love,  
Tender and true.  
Out of the heart of the Father above  
Streaming to me and to you.  
Wonderful love  
Dwells in the heart of the Father above. (StF 443)

## Final Prayer

Power of God be our protection. Wisdom of God be our guide. Word of God, be our inspiration, Shield of God be our defence, Son of God be our salvation. Now and always. Amen

## Images of Spring

Thank you to all of you who sent in 'Images of Spring'. Here are just a few of the images received.



Thank you to those who submitted these photographs – Denny from North Camp, Rolfe, Yvonne, Jay and Rachel from Aldershot – and not forgetting Margaret (my mum) from Swindon!

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## Feedback

If you have any comments or suggestions about how we might use the 'Anchor' mailing in the weeks ahead, then please let me know by email ([chris.blake@methodist.org.uk](mailto:chris.blake@methodist.org.uk)) or by telephone (01252 548215). Rev. Chris Blake