



Peters Green News Sheet Issue No: 7

Sunday 26th April 2020

The Road to Emmaus

Luke 24:13-35

Thank you for the opportunity to share some of my thoughts about the well known and loved passage telling of the encounters on the journey to Emmaus. I'm Gill Short and for a number of years I have been privileged to be able to come and join Sunday worship at Perry Chapel. I was born in Dunstable and have lived there most of my life. I'm a retired teacher, with a husband, a grown-up son and two quite elderly dogs. I'm also one of the Churchwardens at the Priory Church in Dunstable.

I love coming to Perry, so it will seem very odd to be unable to see people, but I hope and pray that you are all keeping well in these strange times.

The Priory is usually an open church, welcoming people during the day from all over the area. People come in to pray, or look at the history, or just be quiet and absorb the atmosphere, but just now, with all places of worship closed, some of our regular visitors must be feeling confused and abandoned – much like those early followers of Jesus, whose world had fallen apart after the crucifixion.

On the road to Emmaus, the disciples are trying to make sense of life after losing the one who had brought new meaning and new hope to their lives. Like those disciples long ago, we're trying to absorb new information and experiences into our world view. Events are happening so fast that we feel we can't keep up! We may feel anxious and uncertain about what the future may bring, and we feel that we have no control over these events.

Cleopas and his companion were so concerned about discussing the recent events and rumours that they didn't recognise Jesus when he caught them up along the road (Luke 24 v 16 – 'their eyes were kept from recognising him'), but he was there and walked alongside them. Is this a message for us? In the midst of our worry and confusion, we are never alone.

The good news is that God is still God; always. The Bible tells us that God is good and generous and can be counted on in every age and circumstance. As we know, change brings challenges. Church buildings are closed, so the challenge is for the community to meet together. Services have gone online – we meet virtually via Facebook, Youtube or Zoom. We, in Dunstable, as in many places, have embraced all of these since the shutdown, including 'Zoffee' after church and a Zoom Quiz Night. I've developed new skills,

It was through the hospitality of Cleopas and his companion, in offering food and drink to a stranger,

that they recognised Jesus. Another challenge for us in our present circumstances is to ask ‘What can we do? Each week we thank the NHS and other key workers, but those of us in self isolation may feel guilty about not doing more. As someone said to me ‘Praying is good!’ We have been given the amazing gift of time – time to think, to read, to listen, to appreciate the bird song, the blossom, We’re so conditioned to **do**, that it can be a real challenge just to **be**.

As the disciples came to recognise the living Jesus, help us to know that he is with us always.

With love and prayers

Gill

All the way my Saviour leads me;
what have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy,
who through life has been my guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort.
here by faith in Him to dwell!
For I know whate'er befall me,
Jesus doth all things well.

All the way my Saviour leads me,
cheers each winding path I tread,
gives me grace for every trial,
feeds me with the living bread.
Though my weary steps may falter,
and my soul a-thirst may be,
gushing from the rock before me,
Lo! a spring of joy I see.

All the way my Saviour leads me,
O the fullness of His love!
Perfect rest to me is promised
in my Father's house above.
When my spirit, clothed, immortal,
wings its flight to realms of day,
this, my song through endless ages:
Jesus led me all the way!

