



# The Aldershot and North Camp Anchor

Issue 25: Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Friends,

In his letter to the Christians in Rome, Paul urges them to allow God to ‘transform’ their lives. At the start of Chapter 12 of that letter we read, *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind”* (Romans 12 v 1-2).

As we open our lives to God through prayer, worship and the reading of the Bible, then God’s power can indeed transform our lives. It doesn’t usually happen overnight but, as we continue to be open to the work of the Holy Spirit, and as we allow our lives to be shaped by the power of the risen Jesus, our lives can be changed significantly.



I was reflecting on that truth recently after coming across two photographs of a building in Poznan in Poland. The first picture (above) shows what was a rather dull and ordinary wall at the end of a terrace of houses, while the second picture (top right) shows what happened when an artist spent time transforming that wall into something very different. The artist worked in a style which is known as *“Trompe-l’œil”* (trick of the eye) which enables a flat painting to look as if it exists in three dimensions so that it seems to come alive.

As I look at this second picture and compare it with the first, I come back to Paul’s words to the Romans and to the amazing transformation that God can work in our lives.



I pray that we will be open to all that God wants to do in us, so that our lives are no longer conformed to the ways of this world but are transformed, enabling us all to reveal to others more of the colour and beauty of God’s love.

Yours in His service,

*Chris Blake*

## Worship Reflection

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. (Psalm 19 v 1)

### Hymn (StF 557)

Let him to whom we now belong  
His sovereign right assert,  
And take up every thankful song  
And every loving heart.

*praise  
the  
LORD!*

Prayer: Gracious God, for your generous love that no one deserves yet all can receive, we give you our praise. Help us in response to show you love to others. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### Bible Reading (Philippians 3 v 4-14)

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ – the

righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

Reflection: In these powerful verses from his letter to the Philippians, Paul speaks of the way in which God has transformed his life. That transformation might not be so outwardly obvious as the work of the artist on the house wall in Poznan, but the change is just as dramatic. God's work in us is no 'trick of the eye'.

Paul writes that all the things that he used to value, such as his heritage and his status in the community, are no longer of any importance to him. Since he met Jesus in a vision on the road to Damascus, Paul now considers all these things as 'loss for the sake of Christ'.

Paul's openness in speaking of this transformation in his own life challenges us to seek that same transformation in our own lives so that we can say with Paul, 'I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus Christ my Lord'.

### Prayers of Intercession

We pray especially this week -



- For those in our country who are feeling increasingly isolated as the evenings get darker and as more Covid restrictions are introduced
- For honesty and integrity to be seen as the American Presidential election campaign enters its last month

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

### Hymn (StF 489)

All I once held dear, built my life upon  
All this world reveres, and wars to own  
All I once thought gain I have counted loss  
Spent and worthless now, compared to this

Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you,  
There is no greater thing.  
You're my all, you're my best  
You're my joy, my righteousness.  
And I love you, Lord

### Final Prayer:

Lord help us to live our lives by the values of your Kingdom, this day and every day. Amen.

## Glimpses of God's Glory



You are invited to submit a photograph or photographs that you or someone you know has taken which could be described as a 'Glimpse of God's Glory'. Please include 100 to 150 words describing what the photograph or photographs mean to you.

This week's contribution is from Joy Blake.



Sometimes when I'm having a walk, I sense something of God's awesomeness, His amazingness, His beauty.

In early August, Chris and I had a walk in the New Forest. The scenes shown in these 3 photos all spoke individually to me of God's glory and the way in which He shows something of Himself through creation.



There were a lot of things that Chris and I needed to talk through, ponder and pray about that day, and on looking at the photos I'd taken on my phone, the titles Reflection (top picture), Perspective (middle picture), and The Big Picture (below) brought together something of what I felt God had enabled us to see, with His help, on that walk.

