



The Aldershot and North Camp Anchor

Issue 42: Sunday 28th February 2021



Dear Friends,

On a recent local walk, Joy and I came across these wonderful icicles. It was a very cold day, but the sky was blue and cloudless. We were walking up a single-track road where the cars going along the road had caused water to splash up onto the nearby branches where, because it was such a cold day, the water had frozen to make these wonderful shapes.



Later that day on the television weather forecast, there were photographs of similar icicles and the comment was made that these had been formed due to an unusual combination of water and air

temperatures. As we stood and looked at these amazing icicles, we were speechless with a sense of God's creativity.

During these lockdown months we all have had very limited opportunities to see the wonder of creation around us.

Perhaps, looking back to before the lockdown, we might feel that we took much of the beauty of the world around us for granted. We may have looked, but did we always take the time to pause and to wonder at the vastness and at the detail of God's created world - and then to offer God our worship in response.



The Psalm writer says in Psalm 104 v 24 and 25, "How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number – living things both large and small".

It would be good as we look ahead to the future beyond the lockdown, to commit ourselves to not taking this beautiful world for granted – and as we look - to giving thanks to God the creator.

Yours in His service

Chris Blake

Worship Reflection

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.
(Psalm 22 v 27-28)

Hymn (StF 317)

At the name of Jesus, Every knee shall bow,
Every tongue confess him, King of glory now:
'Tis the Father's pleasure,
We should call him Lord,
Who from the beginning Was the mighty Word.

Prayer:

Gracious God, as we travel through Lent, help us not to walk unthinkingly through life, but to reflect on all we see and experience, and so recognise your hand at work. Amen

Bible Reading (Mark 8 v 31-38)

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. 'Get behind me, Satan!' he said. 'You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.'

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange

for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels.'

Reflection



When I was Minister of the Methodist Church in Verwood in Dorset, the church was redeveloped to make it larger for the growing congregation. Some of the wood was taken by one of the church members and made into a number of beautifully crafted crosses. These crosses were constructed to a traditional design in

which the horizontal arms of the cross are made of two separate pieces of wood. These pieces represent the nails used to crucify Jesus.

In this week's Gospel reading, Jesus invites each one of us to take up our cross and follow him. This is, of course, challenging. However, during Lent we are reminded that when we respond to this invitation to discipleship, we are following in the footsteps of Jesus who walked in obedience to his heavenly Father - it was the way that took him to the Good Friday Cross. His love for each one of us was, and is, without limit. Taking up our cross and following is not easy, but we do it following his example of sacrificial love and we walk daily in his strength.



Prayers of Intercession

This week let us pray especially:

- Those who work within the NHS and in care homes who continue to serve others despite being physically and emotionally drained.
- For parents, teachers and pupils as they prepare for the return to school of those who have been studying at home.

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

Hymn (StF 287)

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Final Prayer:

To you Lord be praise and glory, worship and adoration, today and always. Amen.

Precious Memories

You are invited to submit a short article describing a significant person, place or event under the heading of 'Precious Memories'. You might like to describe how that person, place or event was significant in your own faith journey.

This week's 'Precious memory' is from Kayleigh Waldron at North Camp.

This memory is precious because it is a reminder that God is closer than I know.

This image was taken on the evening of mine and Carrie's re-affirmation of Baptismal vows. I admire the beauty of the sunset captured within our glasses reminding me of the preciousness of that evening. Carrie and I had decided to celebrate on a hill in Ewshot. We agreed on a song for quiet time offering ourselves to God, Carrie pressed play and 20 or so seconds in we realised it was not the song we had agreed on, neither of us disrupted the moment but decided to listen as though it were God who pressed play. I had never heard this song before, but the words seemed harmoniously matched for this moment. We remained silent, surveying the setting sun as one bird fluttered in the sky. We both felt the presence of God externally through our senses and internally within our hearts. The name of the song that goes with this image evoking the precious memory I share is called "closer than you know" reminding me that "God never leaves us nor forsakes us".

