



# The Aldershot and North Camp Anchor

Issue 22: Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Friends,



When we lived in Derbyshire, we took the opportunity to visit Chatsworth House which was only about three miles from where

we lived. The house is the home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire and has been passed down through 16 generations of their family.

One of the rooms that visitors can see is a large dining room, where the places are set as if in readiness for a formal evening meal. Each place is set with a large number of knives, forks and spoons to be used in the various courses that would have been served. If you have ever watched 'Downton Abbey' or a similar programme you will be aware of the detailed etiquette of how such meals were served and eaten and the importance of knowing which items of cutlery to use for which particular part of the meal. It would be very easy for someone attending their first such occasion to feel 'out of place' and that they didn't understand all the 'etiquette' that was involved in such a meal.



Over the next few weeks, we will be opening up our church buildings at Aldershot and North Camp so that people can, once again, gather physically to share in Sunday worship. More details are given at the end of this edition of 'The Anchor', but clearly it will all feel a little strange at first. Just like the person sitting at the Chatsworth House dining table for the first time, we might wonder how we should behave, and we might wonder if we have the etiquette correct.

At both churches, Risk Assessment Teams have been working hard to make the buildings as 'Covid-Secure' as possible. Those attending for the first time will be guided by stewards along various 'one-way' routes – and we will have to

learn a new 'etiquette' of how to behave towards each other in order to keep each other safe.

Whether you are planning on coming along when the church buildings reopen, or whether you will be continuing to worship at home as you prayerfully read 'The Anchor', or watch the video reflections, please may I encourage you to pray for the whole church family at this time of change and at a time when we all have to learn a 'new etiquette' for our life as God's worshipping people.

Yours in His service,

*Chris Blake*

## Worship Reflection

I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live. (Ps. 116 v 1-2)

### Hymn (StF 676)

Christ, from whom all blessings flow,  
perfecting the saints below,  
hear us, who thy nature share,  
who thy mystic body are.

Prayer: Living God, for the joy of life, the joy of faith and the joy of knowing you, we give you our thankful praise. Amen

### Bible Reading (Ephesians 1 v 15-23)

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

## Reflection

Over the last six months we have been reminded, perhaps as never before in this country, that the church is not the building. The church, as Paul says in his letter to the Ephesians, is the body of Christ. As that body of Christ, the followers of Jesus are bound together in a shared journey of fellowship and discipleship.

In this first chapter of this letter, Paul prays for the Christians in Ephesus. He prays that God will give them 'the Spirit of vision and revelation', that the eyes of their hearts may be enlightened and that they will know 'God's incomparably great power for us who believe'.

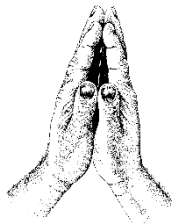
At this challenging time in the life of the church we need these same three things. We need **God's Spirit**, we need **God's sight** and we need **God's strength**.

Perhaps you might like to read slowly though the verses of this week's Bible reading, praying those words for all in our church families at Aldershot and North Camp. Pray that, as we seek to be the followers of Jesus today, we might be bound together as the body of Christ and so reveal Jesus through the way we live.

## Prayers of Intercession

We pray especially this week -

- For each other as we re-open our buildings for worship.
- For those who want to meet with others for worship, but who, for very good reasons, need to continue to worship at home.



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

## Hymn (StF 690)

The Church's one foundation, is Jesus Christ, her Lord; she is his new creation, by water and the Word: from heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride; with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

## Final Prayer:

Loving God, be with us now, and through all the uncertainties of life. May we glimpse your presence, a beacon of hope and a signpost along the way. Amen.

## Reopening of our Church Buildings

We are planning to re-open both of our Church buildings over the next two weeks. North Camp will be holding their first service on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September. There will be just one service on a Sunday morning, and this will be held at 10.30 a.m. Aldershot will be meeting for their first service the following week, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September, again at 10.30 a.m.



These photographs show the way in which the chairs have been arranged at each church to allow for social distancing. Those attending worship

will be helped by the stewards on duty to use the hand sanitiser and 'track and trace' systems that have been put in place. The stewards will then guide those attending to a seat.



Unfortunately, it will not be possible at the moment to sing in our services or to move around from one seat to another. As I said in my letter at the start of this edition of 'The Anchor', this will all seem a little strange at first, but please be assured that the Risk Assessment Teams have worked hard to make our building, and our gathering for worship, as safe as possible.

## **Glimpses of God's Glory**



I am looking forward to receiving your 'Glimpses of Glory'. I invite you to submit a photograph that you have taken of an aspect of the world around us which could be described as a 'Glimpse of God's Glory'. It might be a view from your window or a photograph you have taken while you have been 'out and about'. When you send me the photograph or photographs please include 100 to 150 words describing where and when the photograph was taken and describing why that image is to you a 'Glimpse of God's Glory'.