



Borders Mission Circuit

Part of the Methodist Church of Great Britain



The **Methodist Church**

Dear friends in Borders Mission Circuit

Ministers Message, Sunday 18th April 2021

As you read today's Bible reading, think back to a time when you had great news to share, something really exciting that you were bursting to tell someone and feel the emotions that go with it.

Bible Reading – Luke 24 36b-48

The two disciples who met the risen Jesus on the Emmaus road and had eaten with him, have rushed back the seven miles to Jerusalem to share their news with the rest of the group. For us that would be like walking from Old Tupton to Alfreton Wesley, how long would it take to get there on foot? According to Google Maps about 2 and a half hours. Imagine after all that had happened, how the two disciples would be feeling when they arrived with their astonishing news. In this week's Gospel story, Jesus' disciples clearly have anxieties and doubts and we meet them in emotional turmoil, but Jesus is able to settle them and opened their minds so that they could become his witnesses.

You can imagine a mixture of exhilaration and exhaustion. Notice the disciples' jumble of feelings as Jesus appears (vv.37-38,41) – for the first time in this Gospel – to the disciples in Jerusalem. Luke's stress on the physicality of resurrection (vv.39,42-43) is a reminder that what the disciples see is not the product of strong emotions, wishful thinking or creative imagination. The risen Jesus certainly appeals to feelings, hopes, thoughts and actions, yet without being generated by them. The direction of travel in the Easter stories is always from the heavenly grace that raised Jesus from the dead to the earthly realities of hospitality and testimony that once characterised Jesus' ministry and now shape the unexpected mission of his followers.

I think knowing that the disciples experienced times of anxiety in their journey of faith can be an encouragement to us, and offers an opportunity to explore how we respond, emotionally, in different situations. What would help our minds to be open – when we are distressed – to know the peace of Christ, and to trust in his word?

Let us pray

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Peace be with you'
they responded with turmoil.

Jesus said, 'Have you anything to eat?'
they served him fish.

Jesus opened their minds
they became his witnesses.

So, Lord, may we too find peace in your service,
with opened minds and hearts on fire. Amen.

Every blessing, Deacon Sam, on behalf of Rev Robert, Rev Nicola, Rev Ann & Rev Pete.

MHA Communities information session

20th April at 7.30pm.

Please join us to find out more about the upcoming MHA Communities in our circuit which we hope and pray will soon be able to begin.

For information please contact Paul Smithurst 07593501261 or Paul.Smithurst@mha.org.uk



Link for the evening –

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83633799372?pwd=NklLWlhYRVI2M1BTTjBSbzltM2hidz09>

Meeting ID: 836 3379 9372

Passcode: 9F1A8w

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