

One Church One Day Reflections July 2023

Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again, but those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal Life." John 4: 13-14

So grateful to Alex for stepping in and leading Prayer & Praise so beautifully, to Gary for ensuring that the tech ran smoothly, and to Jan and Richard for leading us in prayers for Uganda and sharing the inspiring short video of the Chicken Project. Over the past three years plus, it has been such a blessing to have people Zoom in from different parts of the world to pray and praise together, and Jamie and I were very grateful that being away wasn't a barrier to joining in prayer with our praying family.

Once again over 40 of us united in prayer this month. Our beautiful and powerful reflections begin with Ku, praying the same time as Norman, from midnight until 1am:

I used drawing as my prayer focus again and began by making a picture of a well, as suggested by the reading from John. As I prayed over the different areas, it seemed right to add a figure drinking water drawn from the well and, as I came to the drinking vessel, I drew a bucket, rather than a glass, with the person holding that to their lips. My picture was of water flooding out of the bucket - quenching our thirst, as promised, but also getting us quite wet in a way that is either refreshing or uncomfortable, and possibly both. There isn't just water for us, but water for all, generously given and freely available, soaking us with love and hope.

James took his usual 2-3am slot and shared:

I pray by writing in my prayer book because I find it keeps me more focused. Normally in my hour, I complete one or two pages but on Saturday prayer came easier and I completed nearly four pages.

Praying through the prayers for Kumi from Jan and Richard in the context of our passage from John 4. I was drawn to the hierarchy of our needs and careabouts: security/safety, food, education, human relationships, self-fulfilment, relationship with God. I spent much of the hour thinking about how Jesus cared deeply about all of these. But most of all he cared about our relationship with him. I prayed that I would come to appreciate this more and more deeply and spend more time praying about my and for other people's relationship with God.

James handed over to me. My usual 3-4am slot became 5-6am Turkey-time:

Being away from distractions means more time to be with the Lord, and I did extensive Bible study inspired by my OCOD hour last month, which in turn

inspired me to sit outside on the balcony for my OCOD hour this month, just me, creation, and the Lord. I could hear my Muslim brothers and sisters being called to prayer from the loudspeakers of a mosque in the distance. It fell silent as my hour began and I felt compelled to begin with the Lord's prayer. The sky was full of stars illuminated by a nearly-full moon, in its waning gibbous phase. Wild dogs started barking in the foothills of the surrounding mountains. They stopped as suddenly as they had started. I watched as a shooting star fell out of the night sky. Slowly the stars faded as the sun began to rise, casting an orangey pink hue across the skies. The blessing of a new day was heralded by the sound of a beautiful dawn chorus. I praised God and gave thanks, and then prayed for loved ones, family and friends, who were on my heart. Another very special hour with the Lord.

Gary took his usual 6am slot. He shared:

I normally go for a 6am prayer walk, but having a recent health setback, I stayed at home. My prayers were all prayers of thanks: - Firstly, to God for keeping me calm through the storm and saving me. For our very special NHS. I have worked there for over 43 years (boy and man), rarely needed them, but they were there for me when I needed them most.

For special visitor(s) who kept my spirits up and prayed with me.

For those who sent me text messages.

For the youth of our church, their families, and the youth team, for their messages and cards and making joke books for me. The jokes were so much better than mine, and nearly as bad!

For Liz and Peter, who took me in and gave me time to recover. For their kindness. For the others who made that same kind offer! For Luka's magic tricks! For church family who have prayed for me, sent cards, and for those who have fed me!

So much to be thankful for. The hour went quickly.

Ann praying from 9am, the same time as Sally Swann, shared:

During my hour with the Lord, I looked up song 242 in Mission Praise. 'More love, more power, more of You in my life..' This was my prayer for the last few minutes of my hour.

Thank you so much to all those who have prayed, and of course to those who have shared such encouraging and powerful testimonies, blessing one another with that fresh bubbling spring. I believe that the Lord has a word for everyone of us through these testimonies, and so as we read through, I pray that we all have ears to hear and hearts to receive what the Lord has said.

With love

Diane x