

REVIVE!

***Revive us
again!***

Psalms 85:6

I was dead but now I'm alive. I was blind but now I see. I was lost and empty but now I am found and full!

As a teenager, I encountered Jesus and His love for me and it literally changed everything for me, giving me life, sight, purpose and love. I was delivered from the dominion of dark death and brought into the kingdom of Jesus' radiant light (Ephesians 2:1–10), and my destiny is eternity with Jesus. Hallelujah, hallelujah!

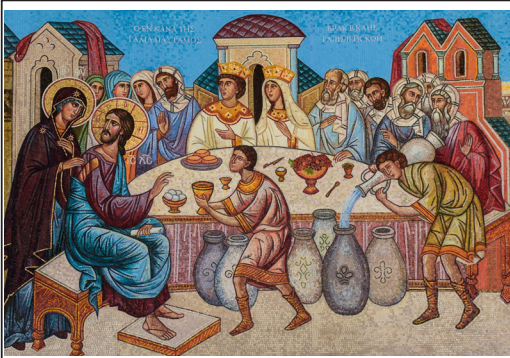
On Easter Sunday, I spoke about the miracle (a sign) of Lazarus being raised from the dead. Lazarus' dead body had been in the tomb for four days but Lazarus was in the place that Jesus has prepared for people who die. The place people wait for the day of judgement and for the new heaven and new earth. Jesus said in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' (John 11:38–44). Jesus is Lord of the living AND the dead! Jesus will, and can, speak into wherever or whatever someone's

circumstances are. Be expectant and listen – can you hear His voice?

This miracle was a result of prayer! The power and potential of prayer with Jesus can move mountains. Be encouraged friends, as you pray; nothing is impossible for our Lord. Be increasingly bolder and audacious in prayer. Sometimes I think the Lord is waiting for us to pray!

We are surrounded by people dying for want of the good news, hungry and thirsty for its truth and love. In Jesus you and I have access to the one who speaks life, forgiveness, hope, peace and healing. Freely we have received, freely give.

In this REVIVE, Suzanne, David and I share some of the signs in John's gospel which were to help people see Jesus' glory and believe in Him, unto salvation. May your faith be stirred afresh. We pray that you will be brave to follow the Spirit's lead to share Jesus with those you meet who are open to the gospel. With love from us all at CCHC, ***Steve***



The healing of the nobleman's son (John 4:43-54) is a sign that points so much to God's life-giving power. Jesus is in Galilee, but despite the apparent welcome, the surrounding atmosphere is one of scepticism and hostility. He had grown up there and, being so well known on a human level, many couldn't believe God was at work through Him. Others had seen Him do some miracles at the Passover in Jerusalem, and wanted to be entertained with more without being transformed by their significance.

In the midst of this, a nobleman in desperate need with a son close to death, walks 20 miles from Capernaum and asks Jesus for help. And Jesus' response? Life-generating words of power: **'YOUR SON SHALL LIVE!'** Just as God had done in the beginning when He said, *'Let there be light, stars, sea, plants, fish, birds, animals, humankind.'* And it was created, and it was good!

The nobleman certainly showed humility. He had walked all that distance to ask help from a 'mere' carpenter. He showed grit in coming to Jesus despite the surrounding cynical culture. He showed faith, for as soon as he heard the word, he turned round and began walking back to Capernaum, without yet hearing if his son had improved. He and his family later gladly believed and followed Jesus, despite what it might have meant to his reputation and high-ranking standing.

Have we something to learn from this nobleman? Is there a life-changing and creatively powerful word Jesus wants to speak into our lives today? Let us listen to His voice. **'Your son shall live!'**

*I will listen
to what God the
Lord says:
Psalm 85:8*

John 2:1-11 is the first and probably the most beautifully poignant of Jesus' signs, revealing so powerfully who God truly is. The setting is one of joy at a wedding feast in Cana, and it is easy to imagine the laughter, dancing and chatter of children playing around the adults' feet – all of which Jesus whole-heartedly participates in, exuding the fullness of life God desires to give us.

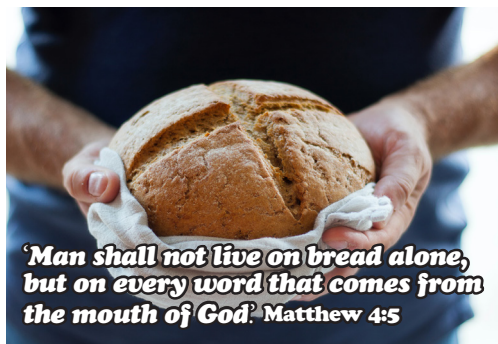
But at a certain point the wine and the joy run dry, speaking so vociferously of mankind's and our limits, despite all our best efforts. The family hasn't been able to put enough wine aside for the celebration and this is about to bring them immense shame in such a tightly-knit and hospitable culture.

Tellingly in the background are six stone jars containing water for ceremonial cleansing. The number is one less than seven, that symbolises perfection in the Hebrew Bible – as if to say religion and religious rules are insufficient in themselves to get to God.

Jesus turning water into wine, provides for the family in their need and takes away their shame. The jars are now filled with best quality wine, surely a sign foreshadowing the blood Jesus would shed on the cross to truly restore us to a relationship with God.

Is there a lack or sense of inadequacy that you can bring to God right now, where all you feel you have is ordinary water? Let Him transform it into something joyous, releasing you to see His all-sufficiency and restore to you the joy of His salvation.

Soul or stomach food?



'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' Matthew 4:5

The first sign in John 6 is a story about a brave boy that parts with his meagre lunch. In astonishment, he watches Jesus feed over 5000 people with it. The sign and the discussion that follow, draws some people to Jesus (vs 14–15) and drives others away (vs 66).

- ▶ Jesus asks Philip, *'where will we buy bread for these people?'* Philip says, *'we don't have enough money; there are too many people.'* (How often have these reasons hampered the gospel advance?!) Jesus, gave thanks for the five small barley loaves and two small fish, and miraculously multiplies it! With Jesus, is the little we have enough?
- ▶ People ask Jesus, *what must we do to do the works God requires?* Jesus answers, *'it's not what you do that counts, but who you believe'* (vs29). Jesus emphasises relationship over role. How is your relationship with Jesus?
- ▶ People ask Jesus to *'give us this bread always'* (vs 34–35). Jesus declares, *'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry.'* The crowd got the physical sign (stomach food) but struggled with the spiritual sign (soul food).
- ▶ Jesus teaches us to pray, *'Give us this day our daily bread'* and says *'man cannot live on bread alone but on every word from him.'* What do these say to you about God?

Jesus provides both soul and stomach food. Be sure to feast on that which leads to eternal life today. It's free!

Be not afraid!

The second sign in John 6 (16–21) occurs while the disciples battled a storm at sea. They were expert fishermen, but the strength of the storm was a real struggle for them. In the midst of the battle they saw someone walking towards them on the water. They were terrified, perhaps more by the sight of a figure on the water than the storm itself. Then they heard a voice that said *'It is I, do not be afraid!'* In the midst of their terror, they recognise His voice before they recognise Him, (the sheep know the voice of the shepherd)! He gets into the boat which immediately arrives at the shore; the storm in this account is not stilled but Jesus navigates them through safely.

This sign shows Jesus is Lord of nature, (which is different to Lord of Creation – Colossians 1:16). Being Lord of nature means He controls the natural elements of wind, sea and storms – none of which can obstruct Jesus being present to His beloved in times of greatest need. There is no barrier of time, distance or difficulty that He cannot overcome. We are also reminded of the difference His presence makes when we are in crisis. The storm may not calm, but He accompanies us through it.

So, in the midst of storms, listen for His voice, rather than trust your feeling of His presence.



Staff and Trustee news

Please pray into all these changes and the impact they will have, and bless the comings and goings in Jesus' name.

Goings: I'm sad to share that our Administration Manager, John Brown believes his season in this post has ended (end of July). Denis Smith and Sally Dryden have also decided their seasons as Trustees have ended. Please give thanks for their faithful service.

Comings: We welcome new Assistant Chef, Guy, and Trustee, Revd Rachel Wilson. I'm also pleased to share that we have taken on a couple more volunteers as we try to increase our volunteer base. (Please ask if you would like further information about volunteering.)

Children and Easter

We were thrilled to see nearly 100 Crowhurst Primary School children walk around the Centre and grounds recently as they dramatically reflected on the Easter story, as well as many more children and parents enjoying the challenging Easter Bunny Hunt which was set up by Justine. The reward for finding all ten bunnies (or not!) was a mini Easter egg. What a joy it was to see these families visiting and experiencing something of CCHC! On the warmer days, it was good to see families enjoying lunch outside in the lovely sunshine.

Coronation invite

The nation is gearing up for the Coronation and so are we! We've entitled the week before (May 1st to 5th) as '*The King of kings*' and in worship and hospitality as well as (hopefully) some colour and fun, we will lift high the name of Jesus – the King – and pray into this very important event for Great Britain. You're all invited. (Watch out for further details in due course!)

Give thanks for:

- ▶ the recent Leadership and Trustee prayer Day where we considered raising our profile more to proclaim the works, teachings and healings of Jesus.
- ▶ the end of the financial year. The deficit is only likely to be about £10,000 because of the substantial response following the January Prayer and Fasting time to date. This is a **MIRACLE!**
- ▶ answered prayer, with many visiting Howard's Well and staying residentially, resulting in so many encounters between the Lord and His people. **EDGE moments ... Every Day God Encounters** (see insert for healing stories).
- ▶ the lessons learned about our doing less to see more of God at work. **Surprise, surprise – IT WORKS!**

Please pray:

- ▶ that we will hear the voice of the Good Shepherd as He guides us;
- ▶ for all our personnel and financial needs going forward;
- ▶ that we walk closely with the power of the Spirit of God to see His hand at work.

Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer

is a huge Christian landmark which will sit in the heart of the UK. The gigantic monument of hope will host a million accounts of answered prayer, making it the largest database of hope stories in the world. Each brick will recount a personal, specific way in which God has answered a prayer for people both now and in the past, offering a vast amount of experiences all explaining how God has come through for individuals in the midst of life's storms. You can share your answered prayer at eternalwall.org.uk and [@eternalwallUK](https://www.instagram.com/eternalwallUK)

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