

REVIVE!



Veronica and I have recently had the opportunity of spending three days with some of our previous Parishioners. How valuable are these times of companionship – building each other up and enjoying trips down memory lane that bring healing, inspiration and learning. It was brilliant!

We spent long hours seeking the Lord's face for a theme to share with them. Initially we had thought of the theme 'Bride – Prepare Yourself', which was in anticipation of the Lord's return. I wonder what your first thoughts of seeing that title for a Retreat may be?

Eventually we settled on the theme '*Things that remain.*' In the fluidity, and sometimes superficiality of life, the shaking and uncertainties at so many levels i.e., Church, economy, climate change and health issues, we felt the Lord wanted us to offer a retreat that would bless, strengthen and stir up these dear friends. The experiences and

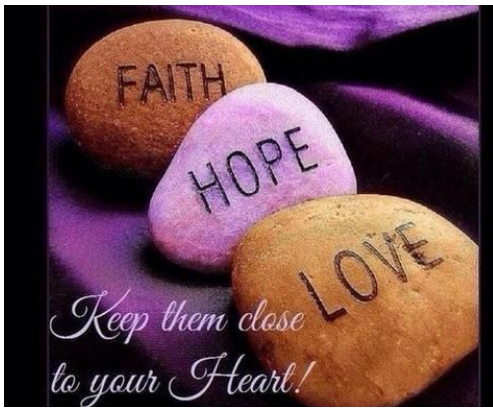
encounters we all had with the Lord and each other were real, tangible and uplifting.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, there is such a need for us to stand strong in our Lord. The Lord is our portion and is all we need. The world offers so many quick fixes that bring a measure of relief but nothing long term, and nothing that remains forever. '**FAITH, HOPE and LOVE**' do remain and are at the heart of us who are followers of Jesus.

I am reminded of a prayer often said at night; *Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world, may rest upon your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

The Lord offers us something that is constant and secure and remains forever. He offers us Himself so be encouraged to cling onto Him in faith, hope and love.

With love from Steve and us all at CCHC.



Did you know there are at least twelve places in the New Testament that have the words **FAITH**, **HOPE** and **LOVE** combined? Below are a few for reflection:

- ▶ *And now these three remain: **FAITH**, **HOPE** and **LOVE**. But the greatest of these is **LOVE** – 1 Corinthians 13:13;*
- ▶ *For through the Spirit we eagerly await by **FAITH** the righteousness for which we **HOPE**. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is **FAITH** expressing itself through **LOVE** – Galatians 5:5-6;*
- ▶ *We remember before our God and Father your work produced by **FAITH**, your labour prompted by **LOVE**, and your endurance inspired by **HOPE** in our Lord Jesus Christ – 1 Thessalonians 1:3;*
- ▶ *But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on **FAITH** and **LOVE** as a breastplate, and the **HOPE** of salvation as a helmet – 1 Thessalonians 5:8;*
- ▶ *Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your **FAITH** and **HOPE** are in God. Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere **LOVE** for each other, **LOVE** one another deeply, from the heart – 1 Peter 1:21-22.*

A famous passage from St. Augustine's Confessions states, "*You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.*" Do you long for rest?

I am amazed that the Israelites didn't enter God's promised rest because of **UNBELIEF**. It was a **FAITH** issue (see Hebrews 3 and 4). It wasn't that they didn't believe – they did – but more often than not, it was on their terms. 'I did it my way' comes to mind!

We all live in a constant tension of trying to live with God on our terms whilst Holy Scripture teaches us we cannot. The end result is not **rest** but ongoing **restlessness**. God does not fit into our plans; we are to fit into His.

Choosing to believe in Jesus is an act of **FAITH** which requires a surrender of our ways by changing our thinking and behaviour. To me this means:

- ▶ *what we do is shaped by the word of God;*
- ▶ *how we do it is in the power of God;*
- ▶ *the aim in doing it is to the glory of God.*

When I do it my way, in my strength and for me or my Church, it leads to weariness, not rest. Is this your experience?

The Lord invites us to take His yoke upon us (Matthew 11:28-30) and to lay down those yokes that we have taken on, or which someone has laid on us. The result is rest for our souls because His yoke is easy and His burden is light. Our **FAITH** in Christ leads to this freedom.



Where there's life, there's HOPE." Is this true for you? Have life's experiences changed your understanding of HOPE? If so, which experiences and how?

Our Christian HOPE rests on two irrevocable promises of God:

1. 'I will always be with you.'

This gives us HOPE now and we believe it by faith. We are not alone, whether we feel it or not. Jesus has promised and His promise is 'Yes and Amen!' *"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so through him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God."*

1 Corinthians 1:20.

2. 'You will always be with me.'

This gives us HOPE for tomorrow and we believe it by faith. Jesus rose from death, opening the way for all those who believe in Him and follow Him, to live beyond the grave. This HOPE sets us apart from all other Religions! We have hope for the present and for the future, and our destiny in Christ is secure.

Take a moment to imagine sharing your HOPE in Jesus with someone who needs reassuring at this time.

*"Faith goes
up the stairs that
love has built and
looks out the window
which hope has
opened."*

Charles Spurgeon



I'm so grateful to have experienced the LOVE of God in the way I have, and still do. I regularly see evidence of God's LOVE in so many places and ways.

I've tried to imagine sharing this with a child recently; it's a creative exercise! How would you tell a child of your experience of God's LOVE?

Here are three ways I see evidence of God's LOVE for us:

1. Sabbath

The Sabbath is a day of rest and is a gift to those who receive it. It's given so that we might take time with our Lord. Imagine wanting to be with someone you LOVE. Multiply that infinitely and know that God wants to be with you that much. Sabbath removes yokes, giving us the opportunity to lay down things that burden us.

2. Salvation

Christ died for the world when it was still rebelling against Him. He died and was buried and rose again so that those who believe in Him may be reconciled to God. Be aware of unrealised forgiveness. Salvation removes yokes that burden us by freeing us from sin.

3. Spirit

The Holy Spirit is a gift from Father God and is used as a channel to pour God's LOVE into our hearts. He is given so that we may enjoy fellowship with God and Jesus. The Spirit removes yokes of captivity by releasing truth into our lives.



Administration

Esther and her welcoming and helpful team have recently done some work on the website and are preparing for 2024 bookings already!

House

Heidi and her servant hearted team continue to keep the standard of excellence, providing spotlessly clean and comfortable hospitality.

Kitchen

Ian and his happy team are making our menu more attractive than ever – with additional options for lunches as well as an eye on Christmas!

Garden

Trevor and his very generous team of volunteers continue to keep the grounds colourful and tidy and with autumn approaching, the leaf blower is in regular use!

Maintenance

Rob is making steady progress in the flats and keeping a careful and attentive eye on all our infrastructure.

Chaplaincy

Suzanne and her increasing team provide an empathetic listening ear and prayer for residential and Howard's Well guests.

A Call to Fast and Pray

23rd – 27th October, leading up to the Prayer Partners Weekend.

We are reminded by the Lord not to neglect corporate times of Fasting and Prayer.

- ▶ fasting may be to repentance (inward) which shows signs of sincerity in seeking needed forgiveness. Or;
- ▶ fasting may be a lamenting (outward) expressing a heart of faith toward God in difficult circumstances. Or;
- ▶ fasting may be to seek guidance and favour from the Lord (forward) to acknowledge our need for His Sovereignty in our lives.

All fasting draws us closer to God. May I humbly suggest, for those who respond to this call, to fast and pray as the Spirit leads you.

The Bible is the Word of God and its truth can help us to pray.

- ▶ It is impossible to please God without faith – Hebrews 11:6;
- ▶ Hope deferred makes the heart sick – Proverbs 13:12;
- ▶ Without love, I am nothing – 1 Corinthians 13:1-3.

As we pray for CCHC, please also pray for folk in your neighbourhood and this country who live without FAITH, HOPE or LOVE in God.

Give thanks for all the Lord's provision for us – personnel and financial – and pray for protection and wise stewardship of both.

Pray that the 'deeds of the Lord' may be proclaimed across our various channels – YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and our website.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Please contact us if your details have changed, or if you no longer wish to receive these publications.