

**The true light that gives
light to everyone was coming
into the world.**

John 1:9

In this REVIVE! issue, we're thinking about **LIGHT!** At this time of year, the bright, sparkling colourful lights we see, can be medicine in these dark and overcast days.

It's such a relief when someone turns a light on, or even just the flicker of a solitary match in a dark room. And twinkling stars on the backdrop of the black night sky can bring cheer too. (Knowing they're singing to each other is another story – Job 38:7).

We're familiar with candles and artificial light but one day the Lord Himself will be the only light we have (Isaiah 60:19 and Revelation 22:5). Try to imagine that: a NEW heaven and earth indeed!

It's hard to visualise the radiant intensity of the shining face of the Lord, 'like the sun' (Revelation 1:16), beaming at us.

Psalm 67:1-2 says; *'May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us, so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.'* When God looks at what and who He has made, His face shines. I understand this because when I look at our dear grandchildren, without even being aware of it and without trying, I know my own face radiates with the love and joy I feel inside for each of them.

Paul Peters, a Warden here from the 70's, used to say, *'God loves you, and there's nothing you can do about it!'*

Hygge - pronounced 'hooga' (Oxford dictionary 2017), is a Danish concept, *'a quality of cosiness and comfortable conviviality that engenders a feeling of contentment or well-being.'* Christmas time can be like hygge time. With the right lighting and the knowledge of God smiling at you, may you enjoy the reality of His peace, joy and love in these days.

With love from us all at CCHC.

Brimming Over



We have all been present when a person with charisma walks into a room. Suddenly all the chatter and exchanges start to revolve around them. Sometimes their egos seem to fill the entire room. The atmosphere can be stifling and it is hard to be ourselves.

Somehow it is not like that when we encounter Jesus, the most charismatic and powerful Person in the world.

When blind Bartimaeus met Jesus in Mark 10:46-52, he was 'by the roadside' but Jesus, as He approached, 'stopped' (v49). There was space between them. Jesus then called him and so began Bartimaeus' journey into the light where his eyes would literally be opened, to see Jesus, his surroundings and indeed himself for the first time. But this journey towards the light involved him stepping into a new space, a new place. Jesus' loving, whole-hearted attentive gaze was on him. He must have felt so honoured, valued, special and indeed free. So free in fact that he left his cloak behind, his only security until then.

Someone has said, *'When we bless the ordinary with the gift of our full attention, it brims over with holy light.'* This Christmas, Jesus is calling you into a new place, closer to Himself. Take time out in this season to receive the loving and humbling gaze of His full attention. Let us together brim over with a new and holy light. *David*

The Waiting is ...

The disciples' understanding, by faith, that Jesus was the Messiah was a vital revelation and necessarily preceded the transfiguration because there, Jesus' true nature was gloriously revealed in full.

As Jesus prays, the disciples see two others who appear in 'glorious splendour' and are identified as Moses – who led the people in the Exodus and then received the laws and decrees of God – and Elijah - the Prophet.

Traditional interpretation says these two figures represent the Law and the Prophets. MacDuff (1864) sees powerful symbolism in Moses laying down his staff at the feet of Jesus, and Elijah laying down his mantle. Moses then, as he gazes at Jesus, can say, *'In you I see the end and the meaning and the reality of the Passover'*; while Elijah can say, *'It was you I saw in the sacrifice on Carmel and you I heard in the still small voice on Horeb'*. These two Old Testament prophets could finally see the whole picture: the Exodus, the Passover, the Law, and their complete fulfilment in Jesus.

Moses and Elijah are still the mouthpieces of God as they affirm, perhaps as no one else can, that Jesus has fulfilled all the requirements of the Law and every single biblical prophecy.

His birth, His healing and teaching ministry, the revealing of His glory in the Transfiguration, the cross, His resurrection and ascension ... all declare He is the much awaited Saviour and Light of the world. The wait is over! Or is it? What are you waiting for?

Suzanne





Sometimes darkness can be so close, it feels like being suffocated or crushed. In some places darkness increases. I wonder if Jesus' experience in the wilderness or Gethsemane was like this? But, He overcame.

This is baffling; '*God is light and in Him is no darkness at all*' (1 John 1:5), and '*in Him we live and move and have our being*' (Acts 17:28). So what about the darkness; how does it fit in? We are children of God (in light) living in 'the world' which is under the control of the evil one (in dark) (1 John 5:19).

A well-known Christmas passage from Isaiah 9 says, '*The people walking in darkness, have seen a great light.*' It's one of the many promises in the prophecy about Jesus and the kingdom of God. The task of being a light to the world was initially given to the people of Israel. Where they failed, Jesus showed the way – with the help of the Holy Spirit. Today the followers of Jesus have the task – '*you are the light of the world*' (Matthew 5:14). It is a challenging task!

Jesus even exhorts His followers, '*keep your lamps burning*'; but how we cry?! I love the answer in Psalm 18:28, '*you Lord keep it burning*'. It is the only way – abiding in Him keeps His flame alight in us.

Scripture is very clear about 2024; without Jesus, 'the world' we live in, but are not part of, (John 17:14-18) will continue to decay. For us who believe in Jesus, in faith and hope, we are to shine – it may save a life! **Steve**

IT has been described as an elephant in the room for us Christians. Biblical themes like justification, salvation, resurrection and the kingdom of God actually make little sense without **IT**. With an understanding of **IT**, the overlap of dark and light or weeds and wheat make more sense. As will the disturbing fact that Christian communities are in as much conflict as all others.

What is IT?

God's kingdom has and is breaking into the world but only partially now. Although we can say, with a victory shout, increasingly so! Being a new creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17) is very real and something I praise God for often. But I, like all creation, still groan with longing for an end to disease, war, hatred, lies and evil. Do you?

IT is the end of the world as we know it. Then Jesus will come back, in person, to finish what He started and what was planned before the creation of the world. I have salvation in Jesus, as do all His followers, but we are not immune to the effects of the world we live in; and until He returns, we cannot experience the absolute fulness of being a Child of God. '*In other words, we are between: between the beginning of the end and the end of the world. Waiting for the future involves transforming the present.*' (Paula Gooder)

The light at the end of the world is the returning Jesus Christ – will you be ready?

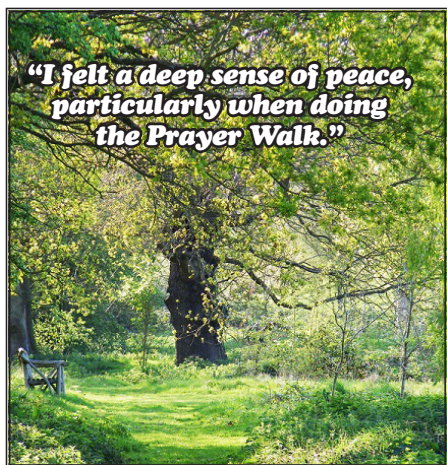
Steve

*I will light Candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.*

Howard Thurman

Some Recent Testimonies

- ▶ "From the moment I stepped through the door, I felt safe, loved, accepted and very blessed to know that the Lord is holding my hand always."
- ▶ "Thank you so very much for your kindness, gentleness and your prayers. I met with some very attentive ears and really appreciated just that."
- ▶ "The services were all so very meaningful. Throughout the worship I felt uplifted and ministered to by God."
- ▶ "The Centre is so covered in prayer that I knew the Lord's presence in a new way."



You can pick up one of our prayer walk leaflets from the reception area or have your own un-guided prayer walk in the gardens.

If you are unable to visit, a recorded version of the walks is available from our website. You can take them on your own walk or enjoy a prayerful time from a seated position.

CCHC Prayers and Intercessions

- ▶ Give thanks for all our zealous and generous hearted staff, and pray for the protection and blessing of all involved in the work of God here at CCHC.
- ▶ Give thanks for a great year at CCHC – the presence of God has been tangible and transforming – tell someone your story of meeting the Lord here.
- ▶ Pray for the 2024 new programme and a deeper calling to follow, in obedience and surrender.
- ▶ Give thanks for the light that has shone from here through the various channels we use i.e., YouTube, REVIVE, Social media and not least of all, your personal stories.
- ▶ Pray for our desire to be able to livestream our services and Quiet Days; the bandwidth signal in our area is not currently strong enough to cope with livestreaming.
- ▶ Give thanks for the presence of God here at CCHC, Father, Jesus and the dear Holy Spirit. Pray for an increase of His presence, power and peace going forward.
- ▶ Give thanks for our wonderful prayer warriors who met in November. We are so grateful for their commitment to pray regularly for every aspect of the ministry, buildings and land at CCHC.

If you would like to become a Prayer Partner, please email enquiries@crowhursthealing.org.uk for more information.

*"No half-heartedness and
no worldly fear must turn us
aside from following the Light
unflinchingly."*

JRR Tolkien

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