



# The Aldershot and North Camp Anchor

Issue 26: Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Friends,

As you may have seen on the news, this week was a significant one for Peter Webster because this week, Peter decided to retire from playing competitive football.

There would be nothing unusual about that – were it not for the fact that Peter is 80 years old!

Peter was born in Preston and moved to Wales as a child. He played in various Welsh leagues in his 20s and 30s but after moving to Australia when he was 41, he started playing for the local Wollongong Figtree Football Club. Thirty-nine years on, Peter, who is also the club's groundsman, decided to call it a day.

Peter is shown in the picture below being honoured by other players at the start of a game earlier this year.



When I saw the news article about Peter and his unusually long footballing career, I began to reflect on the fact that there are no age barriers in the Kingdom of God.

In Joel Chapter 2 v 28 and 29 we can read these words, *“And afterwards, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days”*.

Many hundreds of years after those prophetic words were first spoken, they were quoted by Peter preaching to the crowd on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2 v 17-18). The experience of the

Christian Church, from the day of Pentecost onwards, is that the power of the Holy Spirit has been seen in the lives of people no matter what their age.

Peter Webster's experience of playing competitive football when he was 80 may not be an experience that we can all share – but, as the followers of Jesus, we can all, no matter what age we are, pray that we will be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit so that the work of God's Kingdom is accomplished in us and through us.

Yours in His service,

*Chris Blake*

## Worship Reflection

Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures for ever. (Psalm 106 v 1)

### Hymn (StF 81)

Now thank we all our God  
with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom this world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms  
has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.



### Prayer

Living God, we take this moment to reflect, to make a space in our lives for you to speak to us. Help us to hear your voice, to listen, and to respond. Amen.

### Bible Reading (Philippians 4 v 4-9)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

## Reflection

In this week's reading from Philippians, Paul is drawing his letter to its close. Paul has previously spent time in Philippi, and he shares a deep friendship with those to whom he is writing. It's therefore not surprising that, in this final chapter, Paul has so much that he wants to share with them. These verses, therefore, are packed full of short but significant statements which Paul hopes will both challenge and encourage the followers of Jesus in Philippi.

Paul speaks about the importance of prayer and of the need to focus our thoughts on what is 'just', 'pure', 'pleasing', 'commendable', 'excellent', and 'worthy of praise'. These challenges are clearly very important, but perhaps the best known of Paul's statements in these verses is found in the first sentence where Paul writes, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice".

It is important to note the words "in the Lord" which come in the middle of that short statement. Paul's words encourage us to rejoice because of our relationship with Jesus.

If we have responded to the invitation to become a follower of Jesus, we can rejoice because we know that we are not alone as we face the problems of the present and the challenges of the future. When we trust in Jesus, we can rejoice 'in the Lord' even when our lives take us through difficult times.

## Prayers of Intercession

We pray especially this week -

- For front line workers in the NHS and other caring roles that they may know they are not forgotten
- For students, isolating in their accommodation, who feel far away from home, from family and from friends

Gracious God, we ask these prayers through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Saviour. Amen

## Hymn (StF 776)

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,  
In the Lord I'll rejoice.  
Look to God, do not be afraid,  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near;  
Lift up your voices the Lord is near.

Final Prayer: Living God, for the joy of life, the joy of faith and the joy of knowing you, we give you our grateful praise. Amen.

## Glimpses of God's Glory



You are invited to submit a photograph or photographs that you or someone you know has taken which could be described as a 'Glimpse of God's Glory'. Please include 100 to 150 words describing what the photograph or photographs mean to you.

This week's contribution is from Carol Lander from Aldershot.

We are fortunate in having a larger than average garden and our proximity to the Ash Ranges means that we are able to enjoy a wide variety of wildlife. Over the last few months, we have had frequent visits from a doe roe deer and her two fawns. It has been a delight to see them playing and grazing around the garden. True that they have eaten some of our fuchsias and alpines, but it is such a privilege to see them, that we cannot be annoyed. On days they visit, we know that just as it is getting dark, the mother will send a signal to the young ones and they will follow her, through the broken fence, to wherever it is they spend the night. This reminds me of the wonders of creation and the many creatures who live alongside us, continuing their usual patterns of life, even when ours may have been somewhat changed recently.

