

Hello everyone.

Once upon a time we had kitchen cupboard doors you could open pulling the handles. But during lockdown that came suddenly to an end. It seemed a simple thing to fix, but sometimes you know there must be a simple key to making it work, but you needed someone to tell you.

It was like that for us with the kitchen cupboard door handles. Simply screwing them back on did not work neither did using a different size screw. Surely there was a way to stop them wobbling.

And then quite simply the key to make it work was there. Not sure why, but I just examined the door handle closely and noticed a notch that I hadn't spied before. Then the handles fitted snugly and securely to the door. There was in fact one right and true way to put the handle on the door.

So then things went swiftly. Every second door was repaired. I then gave the screw driver to Norma to finish. Maybe that seems odd, but Norma and I make a good DIY team. I am right handed and she is left handed. Wall papering corners has always been a doddle for us so when it came to fixing door handles we stuck to our strengths. I did the left hand doors because I'm right handed and she did the right hand doors with her left hand, and there we were a team of two confused cupboard

repairers were given the key and we were soon on our way to fully functional cupboards once more.

Two happy people.

Luke tells us of two people who had been happy once in Jerusalem, but now were confused, disappointed and sad as they travelled the road to Emmaus. They didn't understand what had happened to Jesus.

They had cherished him. Jesus had been in their houses. He was a person, yes, but a gift of god too.

With him they had started to look at themselves others and the world differently.

They even saw the heavens open above the world.

But all that suddenly came to an abrupt end. Jesus was crucified and buried alongside their happiness and so they had turned their backs on the city that had given them hope but was now just a place of despair. Yes, there were women who said that two men appeared to them and said they should not be looking for the living among the dead, but these two on the way to Emmaus had not seen anything like that and so they had said farewell to Jerusalem.

Sadly they had no expectations of life now. So these disappointed struggling people went on their way.

And Luke tells us that Jesus came and joined with them on their journeys, but their eyes were kept from recognising him.

Jesus asks them what they are talking about and they say are you the only person that doesn't know what happened in Jerusalem?

They are two confused disappointed men. But gradually as they walk with Jesus towards Emmaus they also walk with Jesus through the scriptures. It's as if God is saying. Look I wouldn't abandon you. I didn't abandon Moses and Elijah when the hard work started. I the one who spoke light into darkness and called Abraham from Canaan and my people out of Egypt. I didn't abandon you then, why would this shepherd abandon his sheep now?

The stranger they met on the road tells them the way that Jesus had to go. He shows them the key to understanding what is happening by opening the scriptures to them. Everything Jesus does is part of the story back through the prophets. Way back in fact. And those who see that find hope, he says.

Eventually the three travellers are at table and when the stranger breaks bread they suddenly recognise him as Jesus. Jesus was a powerful teacher and a good friend to those in need. He has come again to them.

He has come again, yes but he has also explained the whole Bible story to them and then he sums it up.

His whole life summed up in action; the breaking sharing of bread with others.

What a powerful sign.

The eyes of Cleopas and his friend are opened and they look at Jesus; really look at Jesus and they see.

It's the same kind of thing that happens to us today as we grapple with the words of scriptures.

As we do that, Jesus comes beside us and gently explains it until we see the signs in our own world.

But to do that means honest listening to the Bible stories and time spent in quiet reflection and prayer.

A tired struggling disillusioned pair of travellers have their lives changed to ones of hope by the stranger who engages them in conversation and breaks bread with them. The stranger on the journey turns out to be Jesus himself on the way with Cleopas and his friend even though they are going in the wrong direction. They need to be back in Jerusalem, but Jesus journeys with them until at the right moment he helps them see his presence and they turn once more to Jerusalem and the other believers.

They do that because it is the living Jesus himself who stand with them when they are sad. It is the physical tasks of showing an interest in them and sharing a meal that helps them realise that they still have hope, but the way for them was to change direction.

So they returned to Jerusalem, but it then took many years for the believers to reflect on the meaning of all the bible stories they knew and to understand that some of the stories of Jesus they had heard like this one of two sad people on a journey should become part of scripture too.

It took many years of reflection for them to see the meaning of Jesus life and death.

We often want things quickly. But reflection on what we hear and discover of Jesus and his disciples, the prophets and the promises in the bible takes time to sink into our lives.

But what is instantly there for us is the picture here of Jesus joining in with two sad people and encouraging them to change the direction of their lives from Emmaus to Jerusalem a sign for us of a change from disillusionment to hope.

Was not our hearts burning in us as he spoke on the way and opened up the scriptures, they said.

Let him do the same to you this week as you read the scriptures. See Jesus beside you helping you to grasp the stories and making your heart burn not just for Jesus , but for God, your friends, the world and actually your selves.

Let Jesus special peace fall on you this week as God does his job of loving us and making our hearts burn as we read the scriptures.

Peace be with you,

Amen