

TFTD L24 On the road to Emmaus

Thursday April 7th

Today's Thought For The Day comes from the Revd Rod Hill.

HOLYHABITS

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

Luke 24. 30 -32

On the Road to Emmaus

Let me take you back in time, if you will, to Easter of 1979. It was my final year as a student at Hull University and it was the year I which I was studying for my Graduate Certificate in Education. I had really enjoyed studying theory of education and had done pretty well in my practice placement in a school and so I wanted to spend some of the Easter holiday revising for the final exam. Now, it just so happened that one of my friends also wanted to stay up for part of Easter to study for her finals. Wasn't that fortunate?

So, on a bright, sunny Easter Sunday morning we set off together on our bikes for the morning service at Cottingham Methodist Church, a service of Holy Communion, led by the University Chaplain, Philip Rigby, whom we both knew quite well.



It was, of course, a service of Holy Communion and so, at the appropriate moment, we both went forward to receive the bread and wine. It was Phil's custom (and has

since become my custom too) that once everybody who could come to the rail to receive bread wine had done so he would take the bread and wine to those members of the congregation who were unable to come forward.

As Phil took the bread and wine across the church he was caught in a shaft of sunlight and, for me, utterly transformed, so that it was not Phil with bread and wine standing there, but Jesus himself.

Now, you can call that fanciful, a trick of the light, or whatever it might be, but it was an utterly transformative experience for me. It was one of those key moments on my path of discipleship that has, eventually, brought me to be the Methodist Minister-here in Alderley Edge for a few months.

I wonder what those key moments on your discipleship path have been!

Rod Hill

Methodist Minister

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PS the young lady concerned eventually became my wife, Carole and we celebrate 40 years of marriage this year!