



9 July 2020

Dear friends

For surely I know the plans I have for you.....

Jeremiah 29:11

This Scripture verse is probably familiar to many of us but for me, they have been part of the foundation of my adventure in God. Whenever I have decisions to make, or am heading off to new areas of adventure, these verses 'appear' through my remembrance, daily devotion, a friend or some other means. They have guided me through the various paths travelled so far and I've no doubt, they will 'appear' on the paths I've yet to experience.

Five years ago, when I was stationed to the Epworth & Scunthorpe Circuit, they played a part in me knowing that this was the place where God wanted me for a season. A place that was new (I had to look it up on the map!) to me and a place that would help me form as a minister. It wasn't only a place that allowed me to do this but it was also a place where the Lord restored my fortunes by providing me with 'family' and friends. It's a place where I've been able to search and find Him and then offer Him to you, maybe in ways that you were unfamiliar with. And so, it is with a heavy heart that I now come to say good-bye. This isn't the good-bye that was being planned at the beginning of 2020 but due to our circumstances, it is the good-bye we unfortunately have.

So, as I prepare to head off to a new adventure in God to spend a season in the Vale of Stour Circuit, I offer you this Scripture verse and encourage you to search for God, for a fresh revelation of His love and the power of His Holy Spirit. To know that as you seek Him, He has plans for you His Church here in Epworth & Scunthorpe. So don't restrict yourself to the old and similar but search the new – Isaiah 43:19.

In packing some boxes, I recently found the following prayer in my 'resources'. Unfortunately, I don't know who wrote it or where it came from but I feel it's relevant for our 'now' and so I offer it to you...**May we never be afraid**

May we, as a church and individually,
never be afraid to take the next step in our journey of faith and ministry,
even if it seems ridiculous, even if it exposes us, even if we are misunderstood.
May we never rely on our own resources, on our own strength, our own courage,
but always look to you, righteous God,
to make trust of our fear, a journey of our wandering, a treasure of our seeking,
a sacrament of our starting again and a now of our ministry.

In Jesus name, **Amen**

So beloved, thank you for my time with you, for allowing me to be a part of you these past five years and for the imprints you have left on my heart. May you be blessed and in turn be a blessing to others.

Love

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