

# Reflections for 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

### Walking with God

#### **Things happen when people walk**

Over the last few years, I have tried to follow a regular pattern of walks on the paths around our villages, and I have also had the opportunity to join some pilgrimage trips in other places. As well as being good for my health and fitness, this has helped me to become more aware of the natural world, and the changes of the seasons. And I have also found that it gives me some space to think and reflect, and to pray.

#### **Things happen when people walk together**

I often walk on my own, but I have discovered that a walk with a companion often seems easier, and can feel as if it goes more quickly. Also, as two people walk side by side, it is often a comfortable way to listen and talk together. Walking with family, friends and strangers, I have often been surprised by the depth of conversation and sharing that can happen as we walk together.

#### **Things happen when people walk with God**

This week's gospel reading from Luke chapter 24 is one of the accounts of the risen Jesus meeting with his disciples. It tells how he stood among them, and brought them an assurance of peace in response to their troubles and doubts. In Luke's gospel, this follows immediately after the story of two disciples who were walking away from Jerusalem in sorrow and confusion, but who discovered that the stranger who came and walked with them was the risen Jesus, alive and with them for ever.

As I enjoy walking, I always try to remember that not all of us can walk a long way, and some of us cannot walk at all. But I believe that walking can be a helpful image for all of us as we try to understand our journey through life, and the life that we share together, and as we open our hearts to discover the ways in which God is with us on our journey.

Revd John Waller

Risen Christ,  
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:  
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life  
and fill us with your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

Bible readings: Zephaniah 3. 14-20; Acts 3. 12-19; Luke 24. 36-48

Story: 'On the Road to Emmaus' (based on Luke 24. 13-35)