

Dear Friends,

There are times when some short quotes can really get you thinking. A. A. Milne is famous for writing the Winnie-the-Pooh books and 'the Little Book of Wisdom' contains some 'wise words from the Best Bear in All the World.' Winnie the Pooh is sat alongside Christopher Robin and says 'It isn't much good having anything exciting, if you can't share it with somebody. It's so much more friendly with two.'

There are many thoughts which could be offered around this quote. I'm writing this on the day of the London Marathon where professional and amateur runners all participate in the same race. One picture I saw was of two people running together as a camel. Now that is companionship! Not only do they need to last the course but do it completely together and alongside each other. There are many running the London Marathon as something which is an adventure as well as those who are trying to raise money for charities because of times of adversity in the lives of family and friends.

In this Easter season, many of the readings we have at this time of year focus on the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus to the disciples. He is reminding them that he is their companion and will always be alongside them. The risen Jesus may not always be immediately known by those he appears to but the joy that is there when he is recognised is wonderful. The disciples can relate to their closest friend in a new way.

Companionship is so important. We need people to be alongside us when we have things to celebrate and be thankful for as well as the times which are real struggles for one reason or another. We need to share the ups and downs of life with others because 'it is so much more friendly with two,' as Winnie the Pooh would say. A companion is someone with whom we share the details of our lives, someone we can turn to with anything and everything. Jesus is the closest companion we can have. Equally, God works through others and reminds us that we should love others as God has loved us by being there for one another. As the garden grows, the seasons change, and the days lengthen, there is much for which we can be thankful. We might find the changes we see in the natural world around us as being just this time of year. However, it is also exciting to see things burst into new life, flowers bloom and plants grow rapidly. We may see other things which we can share with others and it's important we do so.

We need to remember that the companionship of Jesus is there for all. Whether things are exciting or changing or difficult at this moment, we can turn to Jesus who will share with us the words of wisdom we need to hear. We are fortunate to have the companionship of Jesus who is present to us through the Holy Spirit, as well as God who works through the lives of others. Let's seek to be companions to one another through the whole of life, to hear the wisdom of God through others and to know the presence of Jesus in all we do.

God bless,
Chris