



The road to Emmaus

w/c 24 April 2022

"... it is not a story. It is a play, a real-life drama. And the part of Jesus is to be played by you and me. This is Christian mission in a postmodern world."

(NT Wright & Michael Bird; reflecting on the events at Emmaus in *'The New Testament in its world'*)

Reading the words above, how do you feel about 'playing' Jesus in your encounters with others? Perhaps it sounds better for you as "being Jesus for others"?

Read Luke 24:13–32

So, why did this pair leave Jerusalem given that there was breaking news of the resurrection? Who were they? Is Cleopas the same person as the Clopas mentioned in John 19:25? If so, is the second person his wife Mary? Some traditions identify him as being Joseph's brother. There is no certainty as to the location of Emmaus, though Luke describes it as being around seven miles from Jerusalem.

It sounds rather as though they had left before Mary Magdalene's testimony *"I have seen the Lord"* (John 20:18) – in what ways do we sometimes live our lives as if all we have is an empty tomb but not the direct encounter with a risen Lord?

They are singularly dismissive of reports of the women's report (vv22-24). How can we sometimes reject news or other information that doesn't suit our own perspective or presuppositions?

They were travelling with Jesus but didn't know it. How true is that for us sometimes? In the time they had spent with Jesus they had not recognised him – even though their hearts burned within. How may we sometimes confuse a true encounter with Christ with emotion? Or vice versa?

In common with these two disciples, we are also on a journey with Jesus; described by John as *"walking in the light"* – 1 John 1:7. How do we ensure that our journey is so illuminated? Pause for a while to again reflect on how you have changed as we have looked on the idea of being *fit for purpose* over these past few months. What will be different about your walk with God in 2022?

If you didn't meet last week, you may wish to look back at the questions around everyday faith and one of the issues raised in Bath and Wells - *"What does our Christian presence look like now, and what might it look like in the future?"* This comes from their guide considering - *Church. What we are and what we could be...*

You can find this and further information on the diocesan website at

<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/ministry/enabling-ministries> and in particular the discussion material at <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/content/pages/documents/enabling-ministries-guide-for-exploration.pdf>

"The best proof that Christ has risen is that he is still alive. And for the immense majority of our contemporaries, the only way of seeing him alive is for us Christians to love one another."

(Louis Evely)