

**Bulletin for Sunday**

**24th May 2020**

Dear Friends

Good Morning to you all! I said in my last letter that we might return to the story of the Ascension - Jesus starting to work from home. With many people working from home recently, we have seen - on TV or online - glimpses into the places that others live, the clothes they wear there (much more casual!) and the pets, and other people, that share their home lives. Jesus' home for much of his life was apparently in Nazareth; then for several years he travelled around from place to place; but in truth, as we shall sing later: 'heaven was his home'.

Hymn: O worship the King, all-glorious above (Rejoice & Sing 47)

Prayer: God of glory - our maker, our defender, our redeemer, and our friend,  
we bring to you our praise and adoration;  
we come before you with our grateful thanks;  
and we hand over to you our burdens, at least for a while....  
Come close to us as we worship,  
that we may hear your words and be comforted by your presence.  
Amen

followed by The Lord's Prayer

Reading: Acts 1: 6-14

Reflection: At school, I was taught that the secret to sending the ball where you wanted it to go (in tennis or hockey) was to be looking at its intended destination. To follow the ball with your eyes to where you wanted it to go.

The disciples did that with Jesus - they gazed at him as he was lifted upwards, even after they couldn't see him any more. Why?

Was it because they didn't want him to go; because they were struggling to understand what would happen next, or what they were supposed to do? Surely we could sympathise - doesn't that resonate with our situation: waiting, living day by day without being able to see the future or what it might be like?

Or, on the other hand, did they gaze upwards because actually they were starting to understand? 'Looking upwards' is commonly a metaphor for focusing on God, which they were trying very hard to do.

