

# +WEEKLY REFLECTION

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## Answers to prayer ...

*Luke 24:13-35*

I'm still amazed ... that I'm called by God to serve in many ways in Jesus' name! For it is amazing what happens when we say yes to God, yes to following Jesus, yes to inviting the Holy Spirit into our lives to guide our thoughts, our actions, our whole selves!

From many years of working within the NHS in Radiotherapy, I firmly believed that that's where my sole vocation lay. But God had, and still has, other plans - which, thankfully, I responded to in the call to ordained ministry; and a life of two active vocations ... faith and science.

Prayer was at the heart of my life during that discernment - and prayers answered that I might be worthy enough to be ordained. Perhaps with the risen Lord in our hearts and minds, it's a good time to share our own stories of our ways with Jesus; how prayers are answered - perhaps like those for the two followers on the Emmaus Road.

I wonder, for these two, otherwise unknown, disciples making that long 7-mile journey to Emmaus on that blessed day, what were their prayers? Having seen and experienced the death of their Lord and master; heard the happenings of that morning, that they then witnessed back to Jesus; their astonishment at the stories of the women who'd found the tomb empty; the vision of angels and the prospect of Jesus being alive?

I wonder if Jesus felt the burning within himself at their witness, their faithfulness - perhaps heard their prayers? What would mine and your prayers have been? Within that grief and sadness, hope and longing for the stories to be true and fulfilled as Jesus said? The disciples' own hearts burning, as this strange man unfolded the scriptures before them.

And perhaps their prayers were finally answered, when they felt called to welcome the stranger into their home and break bread together? The bread that he took, gave thanks for, broke and gave to them - then for their hearts to open, their prayers be answered before their very eyes! Alleluia!

May we give thanks for the power of prayer, the answers received for things great or small; the same way the disciples' prayers perhaps were answered. May our hearts burn within us with the joys of the risen Lord; the powerful testimony when we share our experiences with prayer; and when we're fed and nourished in the breaking of bread together. Amen!

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