

St James News: Thought for the day – Monday 13 July, 2020

Adventures on the motorway – by Revd John Marshall

Have you been camping? When I worked at Southwark College we had exciting college journeys. Getting to them could be exciting as well. We took everything we needed including tents, cooking equipment, canoes and especially carry mats – soft, long and light. They were under a tarpaulin on the roof-rack, at the back.

While we were driving along the motorway I became aware, out of the corner of my eye that something large was flying behind us. It gradually dawned on us that it was the carry mats. Somebody had to pick them up. We were on the M4 or 5 – very busy.

I got out and I am sure I prayed. I did manage to pick up the mats without being flattened and without them wrapping themselves around an oncoming windscreen. Sometimes you are aware of God's protection.

In Proverbs we are reminded, "The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe." 18.10

In Deuteronomy 31.6 "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you, he will never leave you or forsake you."

Psalms 46.1 "God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear."

Isaiah 41.10 "So do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

P.S. don't run into the motorway – it really isn't safe.

By the way, we ran out of petrol on the way back, but that is another story.

Song: [Blessed be the name of the Lord](#)

Prayer:

Gracious God, whose loving kindness has no limits, teach us afresh the way of Christ.

Where we have felt discouraged, renew us through signs of hope;
where we have been tempted to give up, grant us strength and faith to face the day;

where we have grown anxious about the future, give us courage to plant the seeds of tomorrow in acts of radical love today.

Renew us by your Spirit and set us free to serve you so that the whole of creation may rejoice in your name. Amen.

Richard Andrew, Darlington District Chair - Methodist Church