

# Devotional Blog

**Sunday 23rd August 2020**

We have recently had a new family move into our road, two doors down from us. Although we have introduced ourselves to them and welcomed into our neighbourhood, we don't really know them that well yet. The previous occupiers had been there over twenty years, they were an established part of our community. They had two girls who are now grown up and have left home, so mum and dad have decided to move into smaller property.

Over the years we have become good friends and they will be greatly missed by the many other friends they made in our road. It can take time to get to know someone well. When you move to a new house or start a new job you are never totally sure how you will fit in, but over time relationships are built, friendships develop and you learn you can trust!!

Trust in a relationship does not come overnight and should be worked at. In my role as chaplain to Hampton & Richmond F.C., it takes a time for a new player or manager to get to know how I operate, especially if they have never encountered a chaplain at any of their previous clubs.

Our current manager is just about to start his third season in charge (at the moment the league is scheduled to start on 3<sup>rd</sup> October) and he was very unsure of my role at first, but over time he has come to realise that he can speak to me in confidence.

If, like me, you have been married for a good number of years, you get to understand your partner more and more. For example, I can usually tell what my wife will order when we go out for a meal. That would not have happened on our first date!!

By the time we get to chapter 16 in Matthew's gospel the disciples would have been travelling around with Jesus for around three years. They still did not understand all His parables, but the penny was beginning to drop as to who their leader actually was. In verse 13 Jesus asks them a question. "Who do people say the son of man is?" They come up with a range of options.

Then in verse 15 He asks, "But what about you?.....Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter got the answer right first time, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Having spent so much time in Jesus' company, Peter had built up a close relationship with Jesus. How much time do we spend with Jesus, getting to know Him better? The more we get to know Him the more that we can trust Him and His promises!!

Of course, our Heavenly Father already knows all about us. This should come as no surprise as us humans are made in His image. Do you find it a bit scary that God knows everything we are up to? David, in Psalm 139 explains how well God knows us, like this: 139:1-4

O Lord, you have searched me and you know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord.

This is awesome!! The creator of the universe knows all this about little old me, and you. How well do we know this creator?

Amen

Paul Barker

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