

*When morning gilds the skies,
My heart awaking cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer
To Jesus I repair:
May Jesus Christ be praised!*

The days are getting shorter again: darker earlier in the evenings and later sunrise in the mornings – which is why I managed to catch this sunrise one morning this week.

Last Sunday morning my walk took me up Monument Hill, and then down the footpath past the Manor Farm pond into Stert. I went into the graveyard at the little church: there are 3 seats



commanding a beautiful view across the end of the Vale. I just sat for a while in contemplation. Nothing disturbed the peace. How could anything be going wrong in the world?



*I lift my eyes to the quiet hills
To a calm that is mine to share,
Secure and still in the Father's will
And kept by the Father's care.*

(from a paraphrase of Psalm 121 that Eileen gave me this week. Thank you Eileen)



That feeling of calm continued down through the village to another of my favorite views across the Vale. The sky is a wonderful blue; the field has greened up again since the last hay cut.... and those wonderful oak trees. Then on the homeward stretch and looking west... all change. Now heavy cloud, a purple threatening sky, although shafts of sunlight brightened the wheat field. 2 hours and 4 miles. How quickly things can change in a short time.. How different they can look from different directions and different perspectives. Is this like the last nearly 5 months and the uncertainties ahead?

*Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father, there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be:*

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

*Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love:*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!*

This prayer of blessing from this week's online Methodist service seemed to sum up my thoughts. May it be for us all.

*As this time of worship ends, and I enter into the storms of life, and the uncertainties which may come,
may I take heart that Jesus is present, and ever live for His holy name.*

*And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with me, and those whom I cherish in my heart, now and always. Amen.*