

I missed the midsummer sunrise last Sunday because of the cloud, but on Tuesday morning managed this photo at 5am.



*Morning has broken, like the first morning.
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird.
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word.
Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlight from heaven.
Like the first dewfall, on the first grass.
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass.
Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning.
Born of the one light Eden saw play.*

It's been walks in and around the Drews Pond woods this week that have triggered my reflections, linking them to the ups and downs of the last 4 months. We had the lockdown announcement; everything changed almost overnight. We didn't know what was coming. It was into a dark hole We couldn't see the light at the end of the tunnel.



Indeed, would we be difficult at times. route over the But on the way have been bright sunlight – helpful food deliveries; the the NHS, carers, cleaners, delivery drivers, more people who we realise are so comfortable lives...



still be here! The way through has been It's not been straight forward. This is the Faraway Bridge and up the Wiggly Steps. through there spots, shafts of neighbours and Thursday claps for and so many essential for our and dare I say it



less sport on TV ! (Although now we have to see all the past sport instead!) There has been time to rest, think, take stock, reflect. There have been opportunities to do new or different activities. And now, at the end of June, are we seeing light at the end of the tunnel? Are we coming into the brightness and onto a level playing field? We can see the blue sky above.



Then I followed the path round the edge of the Old Cricket field. Sometimes there



were two tracks, and then they would merge into one.

One night I had a dream...I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord, and Across the sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; One belonged to me, and the other to the Lord. When the last scene of my life flashed before us, I looked back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed that many times along the path of my life, There was only one set of footprints.

*I also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in my life
This really bothered me, and I questioned the Lord about it.*

*“Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, You would walk with me all the way;
But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life,
There is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why in times when I
needed you the most, you should leave me.*

*The Lord replied, “My precious, precious child. I love you, and I would never,
never leave you during your times of trial and suffering.
When you saw only one set of footprints, It was then that I carried you.*

***Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.***

***O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
to keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
of this world in the next.***

***All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.***



So as the lockdown now eases even more rapidly, thank you Lord for being with us, at our sides every step of the way..... even though we don't always recognise and understand this. But we do also remember, with thanks, the lives of those who have died in the last 4 months and who will not see the light at the end of this tunnel.

Creator God, I praise you for the beauty of the world that you have made, for richness of texture, colour and form in nature, and for the caring communities around me. Forgive me when I fail to be thankful for the good things in my life.

(from Methodist service for 28/6/20)

AK June20