



## From Our Vicar

Rev. Wayne Walters

### Presence

Exodus 33:12-23

When we are at a loss and grieving wordlessly, what we often most value is the silent, compassionate presence of another person. Also in happy times, travelling or when our attention is caught by something beautiful or breathtaking, the experience is made all the richer by sharing it with another person.

This reality was surely one factor behind Jesus sending his disciples out two by two. There are many benefits in companionship and in the reassuring presence of a friend.

Similarly, Moses often felt the burden of his leadership of the multitudes of God's people. His lieutenant, Aaron, was at times no help to him. He was led astray himself in the incident of the golden calf preceding this passage. Moses, however, knew who he could rely on. Though the Israelites had incurred God's wrath by their vile actions, Moses pleaded with God to continue to have his Presence go with the people. This is the condition that Moses laid down before he dared to move at all. It was a condition God seemed pleased with.

Moses had learnt the crucial importance of not moving without being clear on God's guidance and presence. He used to pitch a tent called the 'Tent of Meeting' in which he met with God who spoke with Moses 'face to face, as a man speaks with his friend.' Ex 33:11.

We are even more privileged than Moses, for Jesus called his disciples 'friends', and promised to be with us always, saying specifically of the Holy Spirit that the Father would send him in Jesus' name to teach us and remind us of all Jesus said. Those who love Jesus and obey his commands have the promise that 'the Father will love them and we will come and make our home with them.' (John 14:23.) The Holy Spirit is the personal presence of God and Jesus within us, comforting, helping, teaching, and directing us.

May we continue to grow in our expectation of, and attentiveness to, this Presence – a Presence who longs to overflow in practical and unassuming expressions of love to everyone we meet.

God bless you,  
Wayne