**‘As the dear pants for streams of water, so my soul longs after you’**. Psalm 42:1

As I have been settling into the circuit this year, there have been many invitations to tell my story. I’ve done a couple of Q&A sessions where my talk has been based on the questions asked. Usually asking about my background, my family, my faith and my calling.

We all have a story to tell, and testimony was once at the heart of Methodist tradition. I say ‘was once’ as I fear that we often lose confidence in telling our story. Or maybe, we write a testimony from the past and forget to keep writing new chapters about where God is in our lives now. I am excited by God’s story, as told in scripture and as told in the lives of people I meet. It has been a welcome discipline to write my testimony from new contexts as I approached ordination, but my story recognises the deep valleys and high mountains of joy and sorrow in equal measure. Yet, in all things, I recognise a longing for God. Psalm 42 is a beautiful psalm that has often spoken God’s story in me, through the words of the psalmist.

**What psalm or hymn, scripture or human story has become part of your story of faith?**

Might you offer to share it in a testimony service?

In the churches seasonal calendar, we have come through Easter, Ascension and Pentecost and we now enter what is described as ‘Ordinary Time.’ But I am still thinking of that early church after Pentecost. How did Joseph of Arimathea and the centurion who walked with him to the tomb, how did they journey together in faith? Joseph being challenged to let go of some of his traditions, and many gentiles being asked to learn new traditions, in order that they may worship together. And what of Mary, travelling home with her other sons (Acts 1:14), along with everyone else that eventually had to travel back from Jerusalem and get on with ordinary day to day living. Will Mary have met people from the synagogue in their home town that once, only three years earlier had rejected Jesus (Mark 6:1-6) and some had almost thrown Jesus off a cliff (Luke 4:16-30). What will she have said to them? How will the family have been received? I would surely have been temped to say: “We told you so!” But I am sure Mary would not have been so petty. One thing is sure, a new season had begun and change would become part of the ordinary as a new church was born.

So what are OUR stories of faith today? Even amidst a season of change and uncertainty, can we still find the consistency and faithfulness of God? I would love to get to know you through your stories of life and faith. And if you would be willing to share them, either in person or in a newsletter, please let me know.

Everyone has a story. What’s yours?

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