

# Chair Letter

C H R I S   B R I G G S

*All for Jesus, All for Jesus,  
this our song shall ever be;  
for we have no hope, nor Saviour,  
if we have not hope in thee*

W J Sparrow Simpson

## *The Chair writes...*

Thank you so much for holding MET:Revive in your prayers. It has been a joy to see additional members added to our number over the summer, and for places at our Revive Gathering in November to be enthusiastically snapped up. Encouraging other prayerful, Spirit filled, Evangelical Christians to join us in MET:Revive might be something that we could all try to do. The more members we have the more opportunities there are to engage with and support one another. I am always happy to have a conversation with anyone who would like to discuss the possibility of membership, and I know that other office holders would be happy to do that too.

In a previous magazine devoted to the theme of 'Holiness' I mentioned the Four Alls of Methodism which W. B. Fitzgerald (who helped to found the Wesley Guild) drew up to summarise British Methodists' distinctive Wesleyan aspects of salvation:

- All need to be saved (All have sinned)
- All can be saved (God loves the world and desires everyone to be saved)
- All can know they are saved (experiential faith and assurance)
- All can be saved to the uttermost. (Christian perfection, Holiness, Sanctification).

Here we are with a magazine (and indeed an Autumn Conference) devoted to the theme of the Four Alls. It is important of course to point out that the Wesleys did not come up with this summary, but personally I have always found it useful to reflect on the Four Alls when I consider some of the anchor



points of the Christian faith. Indeed, our Constitution ends by indicating MET:Revive is 'specifically committed to the Methodist understanding of salvation as set out in the FOUR ALLS'.

The Four Alls remind me of many important aspects of the Scriptures and faith. One of those is the emphasis we have within our Arminian understanding of the centrality of human free will and God's grace in the process of salvation for all people, in contrast to a more Calvinistic approach of predestination.

Developing this thought, another element of the Four Alls which I find helpful is that they emphasise an inclusiveness which flows from the Godhead. I think we might have weakened the word 'inclusive' and somewhat relegated it to mean we just accept people, whatever they do and whoever they are, and God is jolly pleased with them in any case. I might be stating the point a bit strongly, but I wonder whether there is some truth in this. Including and accepting people is quite difficult for everyone and it is easy to say we include people but we probably all draw the line in different places in terms of who is included and who is not. That is not just about the community of faith and salvation, but in a general sense of getting on with people as well. It can become a very subjective approach. Who do I agree with, who do I like, who do I dislike, who offends me? I think it is important to explain what inclusiveness means and I think the Four Alls give us a marvellous model to work with.

With the Four Alls we define inclusiveness as it relates to God. That is a better and preferable starting point. We all stand equal before God and with one another in that we 'all need to be saved'. We are indeed all sinners! Then 'all can be saved'. What a wonderful God who invites all to find salvation in and through Jesus Christ. This is followed by that blessed gift of assurance when we can live with confidence and trust that God's redeeming work has been done through our Lord Jesus Christ – 'All can know they are saved'. We end with 'all can be saved to the uttermost' and look forward to the perfecting work that we all need in our lives. We are not the finished article. God's love reaching out to everyone does not mean he leaves us to it warts and all, but rather his Spirit is at work in us purifying and perfecting us, fitting us for eternity.

What a wonderful picture we have of inclusivity and equality through those Four Alls together with our worth before God in Christ through the power of the Spirit. I pray this edition of the magazine will help us to dig into the richness of the Four Alls even more and that through that deeper understanding God will transform our lives that we might praise and honour him.

May God bless you greatly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chris Briggs". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Chris" and "Briggs" being capitalized and prominent.