

I parked the car and noted that we were beside a tree-lined canal. The Disney tram conveyed us to the ferry dock and we sailed across a huge artificial lake, catching our first glimpses of the famous castle in Magic Kingdom. For the five of us our visit to Disneyworld, Florida, this summer was an enchanting experience. What I hadn't realised at that stage, however, was that the park we had just left was twenty-seven acres in size with a capacity for 110 000 cars! I didn't hear the tram announcement telling us exactly where we were parked – it could well have been Goofy or Sleepy station. And you've guessed it: On our return I saw trees and canals all over the place! We were totally lost!

I couldn't even remember our car registration and to make matters worse, I got separated from Barbara and the children as they went off searching in another direction! A security guard called Bob was patrolling in his air-conditioned van and took me inside. When I told him it was a Chevrolet he raised his eyebrows as if to say, "I have a right Charlie here". After all, every other car in the USA seems to be that make. I tried to be funny by telling him that there was at least some good news: I had also lost my wife!

"When did you arrive?" he enquired. He established very quickly that at that time Pluto car park was being filled, and drove me in that direction. Wife and children were soon located. He took my keys and began pressing the red button on the remote as he leaned out of the window and drove up and down. Literally within minutes he had activated our horn! Such an incredibly well organised theme park!

Altogether we've enjoyed marvellous school holidays, albeit with the usual hiccups along the way! I hope you also have experienced a good summer, although as always when I write, I am conscious of so much sorrow as well as happiness.

It was good to have Bob that day for reassurance and help. As Christians we can lean on Christ in every circumstance: "Those who trust in the Lord are steady as Mount Zion, unmoved by any circumstance" (Psalm 125:1). We can turn to Christ for direction when we are lost or perplexed: "I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future" (Jeremiah 29:11). We look to Him also for salvation: "God is our protection and our strength. He always helps in times of trouble. So we will not be afraid even if the earth shakes" (Psalm 46).

It's also good to have those like Bob around us when we need help, so full of kindness. Isn't that what Church is all about –receiving Christ's Word for life and being there for one another? Paul wrote to the Galatians, "Carry each other's burdens."

As another Autumn term begins, I want to highlight all the activities listed elsewhere in this magazine where we can receive the Word of life and help one other! I encourage you particularly, if you feel on the periphery of church life, to consider a closer link through any of our organisations. If you would like to make any connections, then speak to one of us on the pastoral team.

And it goes without saying that every other day in Disney we heeded the instructions in the car park and knew exactly where we were going! Good advice!

*Agape! - Charles McMullen*