

## A Happy Ending — Revelation 21:10, 22–22:5

In *Fantastic Mr Fox* by Roald Dahl, Mr Fox and his family evade the farmers' murderous, spiteful attempts to dig them out and kill them and instead dig a system of tunnels that extend to the farmers' chicken houses and larders. They — Mr Fox and his family — and all the badgers and rabbits now have an inexhaustible supply of food, shared equitably, in safety and harmony. We also have a sense of justice — Mr Fox and family are repaid in this way for the violence with which they have been treated.

It is a book that gives a big emotional payout to children after some scary scrapes — especially scary for young readers. But it reminds us of the things that make for the good life — food and drink, society, harmony and justice. The last chapters of Revelation speaks about God's kingdom in just these terms — food and drink, society, healing, harmony between all people and harmony with God, in the New Jerusalem.

So we find that in the 'New Jerusalem' there is no night, because God is the constant light — there is nothing to fear. The gates of the city need never close. There is a river rolling down from the throne of God — running water is such a symbol of abundant life — enough to quench all thirst. There is a mighty tree, constantly in fruit, able to feed all with abundance. We are told that its leaves are for the healing of the nations, which is to say the healing of all people. It's not that there will be a need for ongoing healing — but we need to hear that God heals all that needs to heal in his fulfilled kingdom: wounds, yes, but also emotional and psychological scars, and family rifts and chronic injustices. All these need healing and mending, and the imagery of leaves for healing is a potent one in our imagination.

It is the hope we need. It is the promise that we, and the whole world needs to hear — not in order to ignore the serious crises of war, famine, poverty and climate change, but to see us through these trials with love, justice, humanity and grace. We need to know that when we are poorer because we invested ethically, when we forgive debts (of all kinds) we don't do these things in vain, but are in harmony with *how it will be*. We are acting prophetically. We are ushering God's loving, merciful, just and healing kingdom a little closer.

Amen. SDG.

*All blessings,*

*Tim.*

**This Sunday we meet at Dunwich 11am**

**Next Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm Prayer and Praise in Westleton**

**5<sup>th</sup> June Praise and Worship on the Green at 12.30pm Westleton**

**Come and join us as we start the Sunday Jubilee Celebrations with excerpts from the Queen's Coronation Speech.**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> croissants@church 9.30am with Worship at 10am Westleton**