

All Saints Alive

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

We have a Gospel to Proclaim

Dear friends,

"Say it with flowers" the advertisement said.

Our Harvest Flower Festival will surely do just that! The title is "We have a Gospel to proclaim" and in many ways the flower arrangements and flowers will speak for themselves of the good news of God's love for the world through his brilliant generosity in creation.

Flowers, in their fantastic variety, colours, delicacy, exuberance and beauty, help us to understand more about our Creator. The Genesis account of creation includes a repeating the phrase that I have always been struck by "God saw it and it was good", or in the Good News translation: "was pleased with what he saw".

When we look at nature, the fruits and the flowers we are reminded of the goodness and sheer pleasure of God's creation and how we ourselves are very much part of it.

Dylan Thomas wrote:

*'You are part of this. You belong,' it
seems to say.
'The force that through the green fuse
drives the flower
Drives my green age...'*

Another poet Emily Dickinson once said that the only command that she had ever obeyed was to "Consider the lilies". When we respond to Jesus' invitation to consider the lilies then we are overwhelmed by the generosity, joy and delight of our Creator and creation.



Such times can help us to feel more connected, more grounded, more at one with God, whom Paul Tillich described as "The Ground of our Being".

*'When I behold the heavens, the works
of your hands, the moon and the stars
which you set in place...'* Psalm 8

When we consider creation we can also be reminded of the fragility of the earth and the damage that we can do if we don't manage our resources wisely. We live in a time of the greatest poverty, destruction and rates of extinction in the history of our planet.

So let us, too, 'Consider the lilies of the field', considering the delights but also our frail and fragile planet and, with all our energies and creativity, work with our Creator to ensure that earth is again "good and pleasing".

Let the flowers say it then and harvest remind us of our part in having a gospel to proclaim.

Love Jo

Bible Studies

Do you want to know more about God? Are there parts of the Bible that you would like to understand better? Do you enjoy discussions?

If so, please join us for this new venture when we will study and discuss the parables;

The Sower Luke 8

The Good Samaritan Luke 10

The Prodigal Son Luke 15

The Sheep and the Goats Matthew 25

The Talents Matthew 25

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There are two options. One Bible study will run on **Thursday mornings at 10.00am** on the second and fourth Thursday of the month in the Church Meeting Room over a cup of coffee. This will finish in time for the Thursday Communion. Join us on

Thursday 8th October
22nd October
12th November
26th November
10th December

Alternatively you can join us on **Monday evenings at 8.00pm** at 8pm meeting in people's homes on

Monday 12th October
26th October
9th November
23rd November
7^h December

Please let me know if you would like to host one of these sessions

I do hope that you can join us. Although it's great if you can get to the whole series these sessions are self contained so that you can join us at any time for any session!

More details will be on the Church newsletter and flyers

Songs of Praise

- **This is your service and your chance to choose.....**

Have you got a favourite Hymn that you would like to sing at our Songs of Praise evening service on **October 25th at 6.30 pm?**

Please let me know by Sunday October 18th so that we can plan this service. If you would like to introduce the hymn yourself personally and explain why you have chosen it that would be great, or if you wanted to write an introduction for someone else to read we can arrange this.

It would be lovely if you have any readings or prayers that you might like to contribute to make this a very special service indeed. I look forward to hearing from you. Jo

Prayers and Bears at All Saints

Bible stories, songs and prayers for the under fives with mum,, dad, grandparent or carer. Held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at All Saints Church

Starting at 2.00pm

Tuesday 13th October Weather
Noah's ark

27th Oct Colours
Joseph and his amazing coat

10th Nov Babies
Moses in the bullrushes

24th Nov Water
Jonah and the Whale

8th Dec Looking forward
Mary looks forward to her baby

After the service, which lasts about 20 minutes, there is a chance for a cup of coffee and play.

We look forward to seeing you.

