

The Priory Church of St Mary



Welcome and 'thank you' for your photos – we successfully met the challenge this week 'Nurturing Creation'.

At the end of June we will be filling containers with bedding plants to celebrate creation and would welcome a plant from our creative community.

Next week the #BeTheLightChallenge! Praising God, please share and send prayers, music, poems, reflections and photos that reflect the challenge and are meaningful to you.

Would you like to be more courageous in your faith?

God's Smuggler, and be inspired by Brother Andrew. His courageous faith led him to smuggle Bibles behind the iron curtain and follow God's call around the world, whatever the risk. Free copy from: <https://www.salemoffers.com/campaign/gods-smuggler-2020/rc/swnemail/?email=graham@deanery.info>

Ascension Day Reflection

This morning was another beautiful morning. The sun was shining.....again and there was real warmth in the air. As I was walking the dog I thought how much harder this lockdown would have been had it occurred in the middle of winter. Confined to our houses with long dark nights would have been much worse. Some people seem not to mind the isolation too much, but others are finding it extremely difficult to cope with. The one thing that I think we are all missing is close human contact. Whether it's a hug, a cwtch, perhaps simply shaking hands or just talking face-to-face with people without the social distancing ; that's what's missing.

Then I thought of how Jesus' disciples would have felt when he finally left them on Ascension Day. Throughout his time with them as we can read on a number of occasions in the Gospels, they demonstrated that they simply did not get what Jesus was expecting of them. But when the time came, when he had ascended into heaven and they saw him no more, he had equipped them to go out and to make known his word amongst all people.

"After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken". — John 2:22

How successful that was is evident today with Christianity still the most popular religion in the world. What's more I believe that this seismic shake up that we are experiencing will have turned more people to seek Christ in their lives. Let us all pray that that is so.

Throughout Jesus' life here on earth, he had repeatedly told his disciples and his followers that they would never be left alone. And that is the same for us today. However much we are missing other people's contact we know that Christ is still with us and that the Holy Spirit remains for each one of us. Even at our lowest moments when we feel most alone we can turn to the Holy Spirit there beside each one of us, comforting upholding and giving us strength to carry on.

Praise be to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Bob Greenland

Diocesan News- It is pleasing to note that Rev Kevin Hasler has accepted Bishop Cherry's ' invitation to become Area Dean of Raglan and Usk . His support for our Ministry Area team is to be welcomed especially during our inevitably prolonged period of interregnum. More news from the Diocese can be found on the website.' <https://monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk/en/news-and-events/friday-round-22nd-may/>



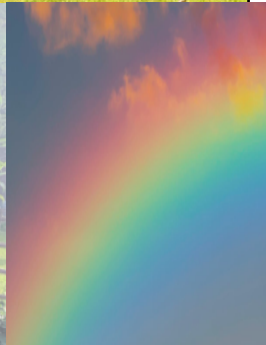
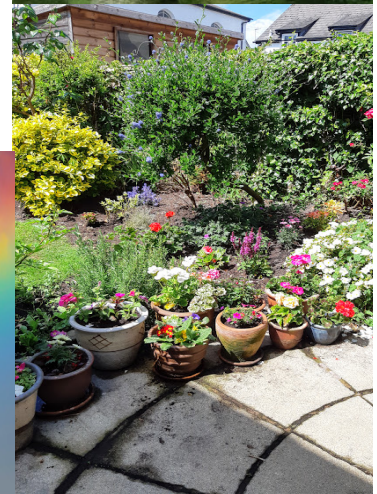
Scythe Song at Sunset

Against a back cloth of young leaves
The swinging scythe performs a mime
As flowered, or nettled, moments fall
Before the moving blade of time.

Beyond the combe, the falling sun
Spills from his bowl a heavenly fire,
To sacrifice another day
until the shadows quench the pyre.

The clovened kine scarce turn their
heads,
Late blackbirds sup among the grass;
While I stand spellbound, wondering,
What time may come,
How time will pass?

Fred Byford 1910-2002



Nurturing Creation



Nurturing Creation



God of all creation,
your spirit dances throughout the earth.
You give drink to the trees,
shade for the birds,
bread for the hungry.
You bring life and make all things holy.
Flood our hearts with your grace,
so we may sow seeds of love, justice and beauty,
and reflect your kingdom here on earth.
We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
Amen.

(CAFOO)



Mystery Plants?

A friend of the church has kindly been planting but does anyone know who planted or what they are?

