

The hope in our hearts...

'What is Easter?' they ask.
It belongs to the life and love;
it follows the healing and the welcome;
it echoes the upturning of tables
and the peace-making.

it summaries the blessing
on the mount and the breaking of bread.

Then there's the cross and its agony;
three days later an empty tomb;
broken bread and fish on the shore;
the mystery of the resurrection
and the turning from despair
to the joy of new beginnings;
new beginnings that we share today.

'What is Easter?' they ask.
Its about the collapse of a wall,
the building of a clinic.
It leads the way to the child
who now walks, the old woman
who can see again,
the bomb that didn't fall,
the clasp of hands, black and brown.
It spells the hope in our hearts,
the glory of reds and yellows in spring,

a gift exploding into a new day,
a gong sounding over and over in ecstasy,
the past crashing into the present,
the present opening doors to eternity.

Judy Dinnen, Summer p78

St Grwst, Llanrwst. St Doged's Pilgrim Church, Llanddoged,
St Ffraid's Church, Glan Conwy.
ABERCONWY MISSION AREA

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Cylchlythyr Eglwys /Church Newsletter 30.04.21

I Am the Vine by Malcolm Guite

*I am the vine, ye are the branches:
He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit:
for without me ye can do nothing.
John 15:5*

How might it feel to be part of the vine?
Not just to see the vineyard from afar
Or even pluck the clusters, press the wine,
But to be grafted in, to feel the stir
Of inward sap that rises from our root,
Himself deep planted in the ground of Love,
To feel a leaf unfold a tender shoot,
As tendrils curled unfurl, as branches give
A little to the swelling of the grape,
In gradual perfection, round and full,
To bear within oneself the joy and hope
Of God's good vintage, till it's ripe and whole.
What might it mean to bide and to abide
In such rich love as makes the poor heart glad?

Pause for thought...

The Rectory garden is in desperate need of help! Diane is far more conscientious about gardening than I am but even with both of us working at keeping the place tidy it would take up more time than we can afford to give.

During lockdown last year we did give the garden some of our time and it looked so much better for it. We pulled out the weeds, cut the grass, we chopped off Buddleias (we have a lot of those in the back garden and spent time filling our garden waste bin with rubbish and burning other waste as well. It has to be said that the garden looked better for the effort we had put in and we felt better because we'd achieved a good looking garden that was now a pleasure to sit in.

It's interesting to note though that just like other domestic chores eg Hoovering and ironing, gardening is a never ending job. If there are gardens in heaven my Taid will be the happiest person there if he can continue in heaven a hobby he loved whilst he was with us. But what of this never ending round of gardening? You'd think someone clever might have found a way to make gardening a once a year task or even a once in a life time task for those who aren't geared up for the garden! I wonder what we can learn from the garden that can be translated into human life - there must be something if have to keep repeating our activities each year.

Firstly gardening takes commitment. I'd suggest tarmacking your garden unless you or a paid gardener of course can't give the garden the time it needs. When Jesus called his first disciples, initially the call to them sounded simple...FOLLOW ME. It would soon become very clear to them through Jesus teaching and example that the faith Jesus was sharing with them wasn't something you could pick up today and put down tomorrow. The love of God is such that each and every day we are called to respond to God's love by the way we love and serve others. We are to be people who stick to our God like a gardener sticks to his or her trowel!

During our spate of lockdown gardening last year I was reminded about how much effort we had to put into making the garden look

proof of the resurrection can we offer than serving those around us? The options for our Eastertide New Testament readings come from the first letter of St John. He constantly reminded the Christians he was writing to that the proof of love is that we demonstrate that love in practical ways to those around us.

It might be that you've felt unable to undertake any activity as mentioned above. It might be that you've been self-isolating/shielding and even now feel reluctant to re-engage with the world just yet—especially the joys of places like our local supermarkets!!! Every prayer you've prayed, every thought you've offered to God for another person has been critical over these difficult months. Do not feel as if you've had no part to play in the mission of the Church during these strange days.

Let us thank God for the Church communities and wider communities that we are a part of and for the part that we play in them. Let us continue to pray that the freedoms that we are beginning to experience may be undertaken with care so we can be back together again soon, continuing to be the Church together working with God to share God's love for and with the places where we live.

I am the vine; you are the branches.
If you remain in me and I in you,



you will bear much fruit; apart from
me you can do nothing.

donoofdepart.com

John 15:5

Easter Vestry's

The Easter Vestry's for St Ffraid's and St Grwst's took place last week. They took their usual format and thankfully people were voted into their various rolls for the coming year (except for a Treasurer for St Grwst's).

That side of the Vestry's was pretty usual but since last week I've had a chance to reflect a little on the introduction that I offered. Two things in those introductions really stood out to me.

Firstly, along with the rest of the world of course, we have all gone through a really difficult time. We have tried to keep together as well as we can but we've been separated from a Christian family as we have our own flesh and blood. Even when we do get together now it's all still odd.

I sincerely hope that however this past twelve months has been for you that you have known the presence of God with you. The promise of Jesus to his disciples at the end of the Gospels wasn't and indeed isn't empty. Jesus said to them and to us today 'I am with you always to the end of the age.' That's a huge promise and not one you'd make and not keep. Very much like the disciples straight after Easter we've been locked away. In the midst of the disciples fear and uncertainty Jesus stands among them and offers them, and us his peace, that peace that passes all understanding. Even now as we look to life slowly returning to normality we still hold on to that promise. I don't know about you but looking to the easing of lockdown brings its own concerns. Perhaps we need his peace now more than ever?

Secondly, it was plainly obvious at both vestry's that the Church, in other words Christians attending our buildings have done all that they can to help and support people in their local communities. This is a powerful message to our communities that we're not just 'those people' who attend church on a Sunday but that you are those people who, in big and small ways, want to show the love of God by helping and serving those in need in some way or another. What more

good again. There were regular trips to the kitchen for food and water as we worked away, and this is because coupled with commitment there is effort. St Paul tells us that we are not to be conformed to the standards of this world but we are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Where the world is all out for itself and cares only for the individual we are called to love and serve the other. Where the world erects barriers and boundaries suggesting some are better than others we are called to knock them down in the name of Jesus and to treat all people as our brothers and sisters. All of this, as glorious as it is, takes effort on our part, an effort that says we will do things differently, we will include not exclude, we will be all that God wants us to be as a Christian community within our community. There is no let up on the effort that we must put into our faith. If we don't pray, read the Scriptures, encourage one another, how can we grow and become all that we can be for good and for God's glory?

After all the work was done, the strimming, the pruning, the digging, the pulling of weeds, the general tidying up, then there was the chance to enjoy all that had been achieved, all that the commitment and effort we had put in had produced. The great thing we are being reminded of during this Easter season is that in all of the work and effort there is a deep seated joy! In all that we do to 'work on ourselves' we do not do alone or in isolation. God by the Holy Spirit is at work in us helping us with the pruning we might need to undertake or the tidying up we need to do on ourselves so that the love of the Risen Jesus can shine ever clearer through our lives.

Oh the joy of sitting in a well tended garden...but come the autumn, after a beautiful summer the process begins again. The garden is a living, growing entity, as indeed we are and so the process begins again in our hearts. We are always a work in progress, a garden to be tended by the hand of an every loving God who produces in us the fruits of love. May we cop-operate with God in the process and take time to recognise the changes in our own hearts and lives.

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

Pob Bendith / Every Blessing ~ Rev'd Sarah

Church Services on Zoom

Our Zoom services take place at 10.30am every Sunday and it's lovely to welcome people from across the Mission Area.

If you would like a copy of the Order of Service please email
Rev Sarah: revsarah3005@btinternet.com

To join us, either use the following link or enter the Meeting ID and password as follows:

Sunday service

9.45am every Sunday until things get back to normal!!

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83139796281?
pwd=NTh0MW05R290UitlcExZeXdIRlFLdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83139796281?pwd=NTh0MW05R290UitlcExZeXdIRlFLdz09)

Meeting ID: 831 3979 6281

Password: 837996

Paned @ St Grwst's! - coffee & chat

To join us, either use the following link or enter the Meeting ID and password as follows:

Every THURSDAY @ 11.00am

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86951893623?
pwd=cHhoZTRpYnRvb05HaTZlbnkUvOUlCZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86951893623?pwd=cHhoZTRpYnRvb05HaTZlbnkUvOUlCZz09)

Meeting ID: 869 5189 3623

Password: 200630

If you need help in setting up Zoom or need to test it's working, then please contact Rev Sarah on 01492 640032 who should be able to help you.

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DAY FOR OUR ZOOM
COFFEE AND CHAT. FROM NEXT WEEK WE WILL BE
MEETING ON THURSDAY'S AT 11AM - USING THE SAME
ZOOM LINK - ALL WELCOME!**

Let us say that again...

'Living God!'

Let us say that again:

'Living God!'

may the life you have redeemed
from death be alive in us,
that in our living and being
we proclaim a life that never dies—
and is so full of alleluias
of the love of justice
and the making of peace, it can never die.

May we find a million ways
to proclaim you are alive:

in word and deed,
in hope and action,
in longing and being,
in singing and speaking,
in laughter and care,
in questions and wonder,
in faith and belief.

May we be your resurrection people, alive to life
and ready to share it with the world.

Hear us,
live in us,
reshape us,
call us anew and again into life
and all its fullness.
So be it!