



Creator God,
we thank you for the
beauty of your springtime
creation, awakening buds
and blooms, lengthening
blue skies and sunshine.

Awaken hope within us.
Renew us.

May we be refreshed with energy and enthusiasm
to see you in the places where we live
and in the people around us.

Redeemer God,
we thank you for your Son, Jesus,
for his parable and teaching, healing and caring,
for his life, death and resurrection.

Awaken love within us.
Renew us.

May we share your love and care with others.
May we and they come close to you.

Companion God,
we thank you for your Holy Spirit,
for your comfort and guidance,
presence and trust.

Awaken faith within us.
Renew us.

May we share your way and life with others.
May we be a witness to your saving love.

Creator, Redeemer, Companion,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we bring our praise and thanks to you.

*Spring WGP p158
Ruth Bowen*

St Grwst, Llanrwst. St Doged's Pilgrim Church, Llanddoged,
St Martin's Church, Eglwysbach, St Ffraid's Church,
Glan Conwy.

ABERCONWY MISSION AREA

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**Cylchlythyr Eglwys /Church Newsletter
5.03.21**

For Reflection

Please read the Gospel for next Sunday - John 2:13-22

Cleansing the Temple
by Malcolm Guite

Come to your Temple here with liberation
And overturn these tables of exchange
Restore in me my lost imagination
Begin in me for good, the pure change.
Come as you came, an infant with your mother,
That innocence may cleanse and claim this ground
Come as you came, a boy who sought his father
With questions asked and certain answers found,
Come as you came this day, a man in anger
Unleash the lash that drives a pathway through
Face down for me the fear the shame the danger
Teach me again to whom my love is due.
Break down in me the barricades of death
And tear the veil in two with your last breath.

Pause for thought...

Change can come to our lives in many different ways, slow and steadily over the years or change can happen quickly and without much notice.

For the first 11 years I worked in a school alongside children and young adults for whom change was really quite frightening. They would be labelled by those who had no knowledge of autism as being rigid, difficult and aggressive. All of which they could be if their daily routine changed in any way. I clearly remember an incident with a boy I supported. We were coming from the school minibus towards the school and because we were taking a different route to the school (the path was being dug up to improve utility services) he bit my arm. Although I had explained to him that we were going to school a different way his agitation at the change in route was such that, due to uncertainty, he lashed out and I ended up visiting A&E!

This is perhaps an extreme example of how change can affect people but nonetheless after the last 12 months full of huge upheaval and change I'm sure we can appreciate how this young man might have felt.

So as Jesus, full of rage it would appear at how the Temple was being used (or mis-used) we can see the passion and desire he has for the Temple to be used again for the glory of God induces the actions he takes - stripping the place of all that shouldn't be there.

Of course over the years this action on the part of Jesus has led people to ban certain activities from church buildings. When the Victorians came along and either altered or built church buildings they made absolutely sure that all that could be done in our buildings was hymn singing, praying, baptising, celebrating the Eucharist. In most of our church's all we are able to do is sit, kneel or stand. The Victorians left little room for fellowship or the ability to socialise. Many church's are now seeking to bring that element back to their church buildings - making space for coffee after the service for example. It's because of the Victorians that many Church communities have the added responsibility of Church halls!

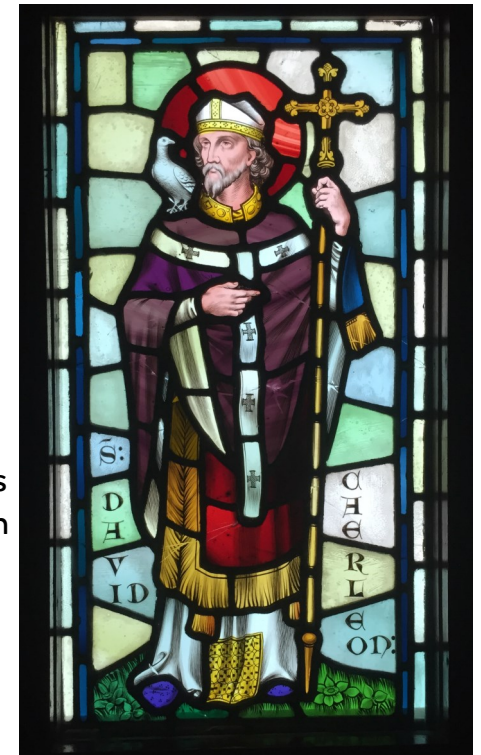
His last words to his followers came from a sermon he gave on the previous Sunday: ***'Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do.'***

A lot of detail concerning St David's life might sound fanciful, open to interpretation, leave us wondering if this person is worth believing in but no matter. For me perhaps it is these parting words that make David the critical saint for today and especially with all we have lived through this past year:

'Gwnewch y pethau bychain' - 'Do the little things'

I'm sure we've all been touched by the little things that people have said to us or have done for us over these difficult 12 months. I'm sure our lives have all been enriched by the kindness, thoughtfulness and compassion of those who have brought a smile to our faces and warmed our hearts on days when we have felt lost and alone.

With all the many stories attributed let us hold on to these final words of his and as Christians, seeking to follow in Jesus footsteps let us be encouraged by St David's example because so often its the small things can mean so very much.



Dewi Sant / Saint David

Saint David has had many things attributed to him, although it is difficult to untangle fact from fable.

The exact date of David's birth remains unknown but it is generally accepted that his birth took place somewhere between 462-515AD. He was apparently born in a storm to Non who eventually was recognised by the Church as a saint too.

Educated at a monastery, he became a missionary, spreading the Christian faith. David travelled a lot! Dewi was a renowned preacher, founding monastic settlements and churches in Wales, Brittany and south-west England.

Strict dieters today have nothing on St David. He and his monks led a very simple and austere life living off only leeks and water. They even refused to use oxen to plough their fields, preferring to do it by hand.

David is said to have cured his tutor of blindness with the sign of the cross and brought a dead boy back to life by splashing the child's face with tears. It is also said that the ground beneath his feet rose up to form a hill so people at the back of a large crowd in Llanddewi Brefi could hear him speak before a white dove, sent by God, settled on his shoulder.

He has been the patron saint of Wales since the 12th Century, at a time when there were more than 60 churches in Wales dedicated to him. His shrine was so important that Pope Callistus II said two pilgrimages to St David's were worth one to the Vatican. Vikings regularly raided the cathedral while the shrine was stripped of its jewels during the reformation in the 16th Century.

Back in medieval times church buildings were at the heart of the community - something which I'm certain God wouldn't have an issue with! In church buildings animals and food would be bought and sold. The sick would come to be seen by the local medic, children would be involved in learning and the community at various times and for various reasons would gather together. For worship there would be no seats, if you got tired you would simply lean against the wall and the Altar rail was something used to keep the animals out of the sanctuary! But in all of this the Church building was at the heart of the community. It was a place people knew they could go to to seek help and support - what a fabulous view of the Church. Bring back that medieval view I say!!!

What then is the Cleansing of the Temple about for us today, especially during this Lenten-tide? Well according to St Paul we are the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Could it be that, co-operation with the Holy Spirit who lives within us and reveals the love of God to us, we are being called as part of our journey to drive out from within that which is unnecessary and is actually harmful to our relationship with God? Remembering of course that Jesus, although aggressive in his act of cleansing, looks upon us not in judgement but in love and calls us on to a truer walk of faith.

And with all of this cleansing comes change. The Temple would have been a very different space after all that Jesus did there and if we allow God to cleanse and shape us more into the image of Jesus we will be different too. There may well be ways in which we need to change our behaviour, our attitudes, the words we use so that through us God's love can more clearly be seen. This process of change may well be difficult. We rely on patterns of living that we have always engaged in but as we journey on with God, held in his loving hands we are constantly called to become, to change, to grow and to emerge as the best version of ourselves that we can be.

*The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness*

Psalms 103:8

Pob Bendith / Every Blessing as you continue on your Lenten journey.
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

10.30am every Sunday until things get back to normal!!

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83139796281?
pwd=NThoMW05R290UitlcExZeXdIRlFLdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83139796281?pwd=NThoMW05R290UitlcExZeXdIRlFLdz09)

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 Tuesday @ 11.00am

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86951893623?
pwd=cHhoZTRpYnRvb05HaTZlbnUvOUlCZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86951893623?pwd=cHhoZTRpYnRvb05HaTZlbnUvOUlCZz09)

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.

Dduw ein Tad,
rhoddaist Dewi Sant i bobl Cymru,
i gynnal y ffydd.
Wedi ein hannog gan ei esiampl,
bydded i ni llynu'n llawen
wrth y pethau sy'n arwain at fywyd tragwyddol;
trwy Iesu Grist ein Harglwydd,
i'r hwn gyda thi a'r Ysbryd Glân
y byddo'r holl anrhydedd a gogoniant,
yn awr ac am byth. Amen.



God our Father,
you gave Saint David
to the people of Wales
to uphold the faith:
encouraged by his example,
may we joyfully hold fast
to the things which lead to eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be all honour and glory,
now and for ever. Amen.