

Together as One

Newsletter of the Methodist Churches in Hungerford, Lambourn, Newbury and Thatcham during Coronavirus Pandemic

Verse for the week

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (2 Corinthians 4: 18)

Fungi

Perhaps I am just noticing more but this seems to have been a good year to spot fungi. You can see some we have photographed recently in the garden and in the nearby woods. Fungi are mysterious. They have had that element of mystery over human history appearing in folklore, the world of the fairies, kelpies and other-worldly creatures. After all why do we call them toadstools? Then there is the way they seem to spring up overnight, appear in the Autumn, the time of dark days and long nights, don't have leaves and flowers like the plants we know well and some are extremely poisonous and yet others are good to eat perhaps out to trick us. How many people had to die or be severely ill before we worked out which was which I wonder? Fungi are actually even more wonderful and mysterious when you learn some facts about them and I'm certainly no expert. Apparently they are neither plant nor animal and so have a separate classification, kingdom, of their own.



They perform a vital role in decomposition by breaking down vegetation and therefore allowing it to be reused, releasing essential nutrients on which other plants depend. The part we see above ground, the toadstools, in all their variety and colours are the means of reproduction. The main part of the organism, the mycelium, is below ground. It spreads out in a great web of interconnecting filaments within the soil and is many times larger than the parts we see. What a wonderful example of complex interdependent creation.

Fungi provide a picture of God's people, the church, I think, a small part of which is seen but much of which is unseen in the web of interconnection of prayer, pastoral care and community action. We now have to retreat out of sight again for a while but the vital work still continues unseen by most people. So let's keep on reaching out like those growing filaments into our community, interconnecting, dealing with the decay, detritus and debris of the world to release new life, new potential for growth - the nutrients of a new world, God's new world, his coming Kingdom. With love and prayers, Peter.

Remembrance Sunday

Today is Remembrance Sunday and although local and national commemorations will be very limited this year we can still remember, pause at 11am, pray for all victims of war and for peace and harmony in this troubled world. Please also remember to support the Royal British Legion as selling poppies has been more difficult this year and many planned fund-raising events have not taken place. To donate [Click Here](#) or telephone 0845 845 1945.

Here is a poem I like written by Malcolm Guite entitled 'Remembrance Sunday afternoon'.

November sunlight shimmers on the Wear,
Wide waters slip unhurried by each bank
And soothe Remembrance Sunday afternoon.
After the service, after the parades,
After the poppies, after the last post,
I sit and drink in quietness and peace,
The peace those Durham infantry forsook
To keep it sacred for the likes of me.
Some of them surely fished this very spot
Where Durham fishermen are sitting still
On folded campstools. May those fallen men
Who we remembered in the high cathedral
Drink deep now from the river of true life
Where all their wounds are healed, where living light
Flows from the source of every time and tide
And may they know that we remember them.



From 'After Prayer' published by Canterbury Press © Malcolm Guite 2019

Healing Services on YouTube

I've recently discovered that members of the Acorn Christian Healing Foundation, a long established and trustworthy organisation, lead a weekly service of Prayer for Healing on their YouTube channel at 11 am on Tuesdays. A number of services from previous weeks are also available to watch, each lasting about 35-40 mins.

This has been a wonderful discovery as I'm being so blessed and encouraged by these services. A new 9-week series commenced on 3 November entitled 'The Kingdom: power not words'. In this series, a different aspect of healing is being focused on each week, namely the skin, central nervous system, eyes, ears, bones, blood, pregnancy, mind and spirit. There is always an opportunity to pray for others and ourselves towards the end of each service. If you wish you can email a healing prayer request to the Acorn prayer team, who pray every day. Email: info@acornchristian.org or for more details [Click Here](#)
Enjoy! Chris Bennett.

And finally some advertising signs

In a podiatrist's window - time wounds all heels.

In an optician's window - if you can't see what you are looking for, you have come to the right place.