
NEWSLETTER

ALL SAINTS, SCRAPTOFT & NETHERHALL - September 2019

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION



One of the themes of the summer, for me, has been that of Trees. Early in the summer I read a novel called **The Overstory** by Richard Powers. It had been short-listed for the Mann-Booker prize and won this year's Pulitzer Prize, so I hoped it would be good, and it was more than good - it was astonishing. It contains the stories of nine Americans whose individual life experiences with trees bring them together to work against the destruction of forests. Trees play different roles throughout the book, but the part that has remained with me is where we are introduced to the concept that trees communicate with each other, supporting and protecting one another. It is an eco-novel with an urgent message for the human race and as the rain-forest in the Amazon burns while I write this it seems more timely than ever.

Then later in the summer I began to receive Tweets from Robert Macfarlane, a Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, who is well-known for his writings on nature and language. His Tweets started to mention his new book, **Underland**, which takes the reader 'on a journey into the worlds beneath our feet.' And once again, the ways in which trees communicate with each other for support, growth and protection comes to the fore.

And the third arboreal input into my summer has come from Petra who, as we have travelled around, has been reading passages to me from **The Hidden Life of Trees** (*How they feel, how they communicate: Discoveries from a Secret World*) by Peter Wohlleben. In this astonishing book we learn that the forest is indeed a social network - sometimes referred to as the Wood Wide Web - the author opening our eyes to how 'trees are like human families: tree parents living together with their children, communicating with them, supporting them as they grow, sharing nutrients with those who are sick or struggling, and even warning each other of impending dangers.' As the blurb on the back of the book says: 'A walk in the woods will never be the same again.'

We are discovering so much about communication in the natural world, while the ability of different human groups to communicate effectively with each other for the good of one another in some ways seems to be getting worse. One thing that is meant to be part of the Christian response to life is that we are here to be stewards of God's creation. We have been presented with the most incredible gift in this planet, but because of self-interest, fear and greed we have ignored what it is telling us and are now on the brink of catastrophe. We have forgotten that the Creator is communicating with us through his creation and have simply seen the world as a treasure-trove to be looted.

As believers in God and followers of Jesus we have a responsibility to do whatever we can to get this message over to people, and to remind ourselves of its truth again and again. In order to do this we need to be effective communicators ourselves, knowledgeable and informed, so that we can speak with some authority. Books like those mentioned above can help with this issue, as of course does the Bible for all aspects of life.

Happy reading

Father Tolkien

Calendar - September

- 1st **TRINITY 11**
10.00am Sung Eucharist
- 4th **St Cuthbert**
7.30pm Eucharist
- 6th Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham leaves
- 8th **TRINITY 12**
10.00am Sung Eucharist
Parish Pilgrimage returns
- 10th Diocesan Conference - Swanwick
- 11th Diocesan Conference - Swanwick
7.30pm NO Eucharist
- 12th Diocesan Conference - Swanwick
- 14th 10.00am Craft Fair
- 15th **TRINITY 13**
10.00am Sung Eucharist
- 18th 7.30pm NO Eucharist
- 19th 11.00am Aaron Court Communion
- 21st 10.00am Coffee Stop
- 22nd **TRINITY 14**
10.00am Sung Eucharist
- 23rd 7.30pm Eucharist
- 28th **Harvest Weekend**
10.00am Harvest Fete
- 29th **HARVEST THANKSGIVING**
10.00am Family Mass & Offering of Gifts
6.00pm Taizé Service

Do Not Walk Proudly On The Earth

“Do not walk proudly on the earth...” - Remember that we are her children, born of her forests, plains and seas.

“Do not walk proudly on the earth...” - Remember that her rivers give us life, flowing from white mountains and green hills to water our fields and our cities.

“Do not walk proudly on the earth...” - Remember her offspring, sharers and partners with us in the web of creation, manifestations of the infinite variety.

“Do not walk proudly on the earth...” - Remember her people, our sisters and brothers in humanity, yearning for peace and plenty, life and liberty

May there be balance and harmony on the earth, and may we not walk proudly upon her.

Daily Inspirational Bible Readings

“Read, mark, learn and inwardly digest.”

- 1st Proverbs 22:6
2nd Psalm 119:64
3rd Isaiah 48:17
4th 2 Timothy 1:13-14
5th Matthew 28:18-20
6th John 14:23
7th Colossians 1:28
8th Psalm 143:10
9th Titus 2:2
10th Isaiah 46:4
11th Psalm 121
12th Philippians 4:4
13th 1 Peter 3:8
14th Philippians 2:1-2
15th 1 John 4:16
16th James 3:13
17th Ephesians 5:1
18th Philippians 2:3-4
19th Ephesians 4:29
20th Joel 2:23
21st 2 Corinthians 13:14
22nd Romans 15:7
23rd Romans 5:3-4
24th Hebrews 10:35-36
25th 1 John 2:1
26th Hebrews 10:30-31
27th Matthew 6:33
28th 1 Corinthians 2:14
29th John 3:20-21
30th Philippians 1:9-10