

Dear friends,

I was interested to read the poem in our latest edition of the eFocus about the robin 'breast burnt' written by Pippa Little and submitted by Elizabeth Wilcock. Whilst it would be disingenuous to call myself a bird lover, I have a great affection for robins. There is one in our garden who often appears on the paving slabs in front of our dining room patio doors. It usually jumps confidently up to the window in the morning and lingers for a few seconds, sometimes eyeballing me before disappearing again! I think it is the same one each time, though, if I'm honest, I have no way of actually knowing if this is the case! I'm fascinated by how legs of no more than a millimetre in diameter can support such a full and rotund body, and its little head bobs incessantly as if to acknowledge me and say 'hello!'

We are approaching Pentecost next weekend when we celebrate the gift of God's Holy Spirit. One of the ways that we can think of God's Spirit is like a bird - probably most commonly like a dove (as at Jesus' baptism) which often also symbolises peace and comfort. However, in the celtic tradition, the Holy Spirit is characterised more like a wild goose; disturbing the peace, making God's presence felt and stirring us to courageous action. I think I'd like to add my robin to the list of birds that can bring a sense of God's Spirit to us! Each day when I greet her (or is it him?) it is as if God is gently reminding me that God is present with me in my day and I'm centred again in whatever I am doing reminded that it is God, and God alone, who strengthens and sustains me for all that I am called to do.

I'd like to take this opportunity to draw to your attention to a few things in the coming weeks:

The URC link for the Pentecost service on the 23rd May that will be led by Sue Brown, lay preacher at Fareham URC, is: Meeting ID: 830 0884 6183 Passcode: 306145. Phone - 020 3481 5237. Please note this service starts at 10.45am and Zoom will begin letting folk in from 10.30am onwards. Please also note that there isn't a direct link to click on, you will need to input the ID number and passcode separately to get into the Zoom waiting room.

We have a Worship Consultation meeting that is open to all and will take place on Zoom on Wednesday 26th May at 7.30pm. The Zoom code is the same as the one used for our usual Sunday mornings.

Lastly, please be in touch with Linda Foster if you wish to receive consecrated communion elements for the service on Sunday 6th June.

We continue to pray for members of our church community in need at this time. We pray for Rita, and for Vic and Janice as Janice is in hospital with a broken hip following a fall. We are delighted to hear that Carl is now back home after his operation and we pray for him and Anna as he continues his recovery.

Blessings

Claire

Brou-Rhuddyn - Robin Redbreast

The welsh call you,
Breast-burnt
so I look in these white days
for your small furnace;
bring me ember and memory of red,
let me warm my cold breath
where you blaze
never greying or growing old,
sparks flying from your throat.

Pippa Little