

# BUF NEWS

February and  
March 2024



“Enjoy the little things, for one day you may look back and realise they were the big things.”  
*Robert Brault*

**Next Meeting at Barrow Castle**

**Sunday 18 February 2024**

**10.45 Coffee, 11.15 Service**

***Theme: Gratitude***

**Led by Judy**

## Reflection: Lent

Whether or not we find a period of reflection in the early spring a useful part of our spiritual lives, we all find ourselves in a state of “wilderness” sometimes. Traditionally Lent is a time of focusing on stripping away the non-essentials in our lifestyles and thereby concentrating on what is [spiritually] most important. How we approach this varies – I have set aside one item each day to give to the charity shop, or meditated on a series of readings, and no doubt we can all share experiences of doing without a favourite indulgence. But can such practices help when we are faced with a real-life wilderness experience?

Imagining Wilderness and experiencing it may be two different things. I can imagine it as being tossed on an open sea with no sight of land, or lost in an endless desert where nothing grows. Perhaps it is a wasteland where civilisation has been destroyed by war or earthquake or volcanic eruption, or swept away by floods. Some of these imagined visions are all too real for any people actually caught up in them. Others are closer to states of mind. For wilderness can be both. There are times when we all feel abandoned, and alone, and lost. There are situations when we need to escape but can find no way out.

I can offer no slick answers. I don't believe there are any. I believe many things *help*, though. The love of friends; having someone to talk to; faith in God; being surrounded by the natural world; the knowledge that “this too will pass”; being understood by others who have “been there”; being part of a community of faith that listens without judgement; the kindness of strangers. Knowing, deep inside, that the most profound darkness cannot withstand the lighting of a single flame. And seeing that the frozen snow cannot withstand the delicate petals of the crocus, when its time to bloom has come.

*Kay*

### **Notice of Bath Interfaith Group Annual General Meeting**

**Thursday 29th February 2024 7-9pm**

At the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints, 46 Locksbrooke Road,  
Bath, BA1 3EJ.

**All are welcome.**

The first part of the meeting will be an informal social part, sharing soft drinks and nibbles, followed at 7.45pm by the formal AGM

*Further information from Kay if anyone wishes to attend*

# Poem of the Month

*I make no apology for occasionally using a poem I've used before. This is one of my favourites.*

## **Retro Me, Sathanas**

How strange of the Devil,  
With his unerring aptitude for putting the wrong thing in the right place,  
To try to tempt *Him*  
With all the kingdoms of the world and the glory thereof.

He might have guessed  
That a soul so ancient,  
Treading the echoing corridors of the past to its last goal  
Of simplicity, lowliness, and degradation,  
Would in its journey  
Have worn the purple of kings,  
The scarlet of conquerors,  
Would have known all pride, pomp, wealth and dominion,  
Weighing them less, in its final immense cumulative wisdom,  
Than the feather of a sparrow or the petal of a poppy in the corn.  
He might have been sure  
That it is no use bribing *Him* with unrealities.

He should have offered Him  
A quiet cottage in Nazareth,  
A little child listening to the birds,  
And a patch of field flowers.

*Theresa Hooley*

## **Welcome**

**At our February Meeting we will welcome  
members of the Frenchay Unitarian Chapel.**

# Events in February/March 2024

February	13 <sup>th</sup>	Shrove Tuesday
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Ash Wednesday
		Valentine's Day
March	1 <sup>st</sup>	St David's Day
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Mother's Day
		Start of Ramadan
	17 <sup>th</sup>	St Patrick's Day
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Equinox
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sunday
		Purim
	31 <sup>st</sup>	Easter Sunday

## Words to Ponder

"The creed of love transcends the specific creeds of the different religions. We do not need to define true religion by statements of belief. We need only say that we are lovers of God."

*Rumi*

### **March Meeting at Barrow Castle**

**Sunday 24 March 2024**

**10.45 Coffee, 11.15 Service**

***Theme: TBA***

**Led by Peter**

***Changed from 17 March because of Bath Half Marathon***

# In Praise of Easter

## Risen Again

Let the earth proclaim  
The joy of your name.

Let each bulb rejoice,  
Its growth be a voice.

Let each seed and flower  
Tell of your power.

Let the glowing bright sun  
Show the deed that is done.

Let us hear from the rain  
He is risen again.

Let all repeat the refrain  
He is risen again.

*From the Celtic Tradition*



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