

BUF NEWS

June 2022



Next Meeting
Sunday 26 June
Barrow Castle
10.45 Coffee,
11.15 Worship
Led by
Rev Maria
Theme:
Solidarity

“Don’t walk in front of me... I may not follow; Don’t walk behind me... I may not lead; Walk beside me... just be my friend.” *Albert Camus*

Reflection

I have been finding it difficult to reflect of late. Many overdue tasks and appointments have filled the diary. The bombardment of media coverage of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee has been difficult to avoid. Add to that a problem getting back to daily spiritual practice when I still have physio exercises to fit in morning and afternoon, and I have suffered – as so many people in our info-saturated world do – from sensory overload and reflection deprivation. Even my pleasurable contemplation of bees enjoying the blue ceanothus by my garden bench (it’s meditational – honestly) has been rare.

Spiritual leaders (take your pick) frequently advise quiet, calm, prayer, meditation – times when we let the world around us slip away and focus on the soul, or the psyche, and listen for the still small voice. Whether we understand that as the voice of God or of our own deepest self, or a mingling of both, it is fundamental to our spiritual health. I am reminded that the spirit is like a muscle, and you exercise it or it atrophies. With weak leg muscles as a result of long underactivity, I understand the need to make them work. But I also understand the need to apply myself to some spiritual work to strengthen that part of my being.

Perhaps I should remember the old adage of the monks: “Laborare est orare.” It can be translated both as “work is prayer” and “prayer is work.” Or perhaps I simply need to “be still – and know that there is God.”

Kay

Get Well Wishes

To Tim, who has been suffering from Covid

I'm sure we all hope that he is soon feeling better, and that Lucy and the boys may (somehow) have remained virus-free

A Poem for June

Roses

Everyone now and again wonders about
Those questions that have no ready answers:
First cause, God's existence,
What happens when the curtain goes
Down and nothing stops it, not kissing,
Not going to the mall, not the Super
Bowl.

"Wild roses," I said to them one morning.
"Do you have the answers? And if you do,
Would you tell me?"

The roses laughed softly. "Forgive us,"
They said. "But as you can see, we are
Just now entirely busy being roses."

Mary Oliver

Come Home Soon

Nancy has been transferred to Stoke Mandeville for further therapy. It's a long way from Bath, and visiting is difficult because of very tight Covid restrictions, but her Mum is with her. We all hope she will soon be able to continue with her life here with us.

Words to Ponder

To worship is to stand in awe under a heaven of stars, before a flower, a leaf in sunlight, or a grain of sand. To worship is to be silent, receptive, before a tree astir with the wind, or the passing shadow of a cloud. To worship is to work with dedication and with skill; it is to pause from work and listen to a strain of music. To worship is to sing with the singing beauty of the earth; it is to listen through the storm to the still, small voice within. Worship is loneliness seeking communion; it is a thirsty land crying out for rain. Worship is kindled fire within our hearts; it moves through deeds of kindness and through acts of love. Worship is the mystery within us reaching out to the mystery beyond. It is an inarticulate silence yearning to speak; it is the window of the moment open to the sky of the eternal.

Jacob Trapp (1899-1992) Universalist Minister

For Young People of All Ages



Pentecost is a Christian Festival that takes place 6 weeks after Easter – this year it fell on 5 June. It commemorates the visit of the Holy Spirit to the followers of Jesus. The Spirit is traditionally depicted as a dove, but also described as breath or fire. How would you describe the spirit of God? What do you understand by that?

And Finally

We are one, after all, you and I;
Together we suffer,
Together exist,
And forever will recreate each other.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin



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