

Sexagesima: Creation Sunday

My dear Friends,

Some of you who regularly read these weekly letters from me will have received them in the parishes of Grangetown, St Dyfrig and St Samson, Grangetown, St Paul, Llanishen St Isan and St Faith. You will have done so as you are without a parish priest or because of clergy sickness over the period of almost two years. I have been in contact with you in my capacity as Area Dean of Cardiff. It has been a privilege to come to chair your PCCs and Vestry meetings, to meet and get to know you as officers and Parishioners and above all to share in worship with you from time to time when my own extensive parish commitments allowed. Thank you all for the wonderful work you have done for our Churches and people and the help and support you have given, as well as the warmth of welcome you have afforded me.

It is four years since our outgoing Archbishop John appointed me as Area Dean. I am delighted to say that the Bishop of Llandaff has selected the Reverend Dyfrig Lloyd, Vicar of Dewi Sant, to be my successor. He will be licensed in a Zoom service on Thursday 11 February. I know he will lead and assist us all with care and devotion drawing on his long experience as Chapter Clerk, Parish Priest, Diocesan and Provincial Officer. We send him our very best wishes and keep him and our Deanery in our prayers at this turning point in our church and community life.

All of us are experiencing change and a different way of living in these challenging days. I have reflected on this with you on several occasions over the last year. We are constantly adapting to rules and regulations and how we conduct ourselves in the most mundane things of life. However we know that it is nevertheless a matter of life and death. Change is underway too in our Church life as we participate in the reorganisation of the diocese into Ministry Areas. We shall all be involved in this new arrangement over the coming months and years. Please keep reading Llandaff Matters and updates on how we as parishes, people and clergy will be working together in future.

This Sunday we mark Creation Sunday, a time when we give thanks to our Heavenly Father for the beauty of the earth and the wonders of the natural world. We glory in the fact that God sent his Son into this world to love us, help us and give us the hope of salvation, our Gospel is from the first Chapter of St John. An elderly priest who had lived through the traumas of two world wars once said to me how through all those troubles the unchanging pattern of the seasons and the constancy of God's creation gave a feeling of encouragement and hope even in the darkest times.

As we look forward let us do so in a sense of renewal and fresh start as there are many signs of good things to come not only in the gift of nature but in the health and strength of our communities and churches. Had we all been in Church this Sunday we might have been singing that uplifting hymn, "Great is thy faithfulness", read it at home if you can, it sums up much of what Creation Sunday is about and reminds us that we have "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine with ten thousand beside."

Best wishes and prayers

Stewart

The Reverend Canon Stewart Lisk,
Vicar of Roath.