

Reverently Yours

Rev'd. Stephen Pratt writes:



Dear Friends

What a fantastic start to an early spring, snowdrops, crocus, daffodils filling the hedgerows, the sun beating down, basking in almost 20 degrees warmth. As I write, the weather is choppier now, more wind, needed rain. Still, what a start to the year, as the days grow longer, lighter and we move toward the spring equinox.

Taking delight in the beauty that is all around us is such a wonderful thing. So, why was there a niggling question in the back of my mind and others. We enjoy these periods of lovely weather; they bring relief following the dark months. The question lingers though – is something out of kilter.

Greta Thunberg hit the news. A fifteen-year old school girl had something on her mind and on Friday's, when she should have been in school, she decided she would protest with a placard outside the Swedish Parliament building. Others began to follow, kids were revolting. Well, they were protesting, coming out on strike too. Greta has said "We introverts can make our voices heard."

Would you ever read a book that began with the line 'It's worse, much worse than you think'? Or, when you have got a third of the way through congratulates you with, "If you have read this far, you're very brave.'

Greta Thunberg, now sixteen, has begun something, inspiring the next generation, the inheritors of the earth, to remind us how fragile and how badly we treat this wonder and beauty that is all around us. David Wallace-Wells paints a picture in words of the not too distant future if we continue as we are. We all live in a beautiful place, with space to breathe and enjoy. In engaging in the good things that encourage abundance, biodiversity, community, life in all its fulness we will provide a richer inheritance for Greta Thunberg, our children and grandchildren and there's too.

We have now entered that season we call Lent. Several churches through their 'Living Lent' invitation invite to think about those things that will help us to alter our thinking, see a bigger picture. They ask, could you think about one of the following: Give up meat, or animal products all together? Commit to living locally? Give up single use plastics? Go electricity free for an hour every day? Commit to buying nothing new? Commit to using alternative forms of transport?

Now, there's a challenge for Lent.

Every Blessing

Stephen