

A view from the Rectory Window June 2026

Each year it is a deep and meaningful occasion when we gather at Cleeve Abbey for our annual event. This year we are gathering on **Sunday 21st at 11.00, so please join us if you can!**

Over the years I have written about the significance of relating the journey of the church (that is the gathering of the people rather than the building) through the centuries, to the core themes of Christian faith, that is, renewal, transfiguration, and resurrection. Whether it is our human story, nature's story or the life of a building, every living thing and object is subject to the need to renew, transform and rebuild at some stage or other. The time scale may be weeks for nature, three score years and ten for humans, or hundreds of years for buildings. However, all things experience the same eternal truth. It is only Creation itself (the nature of God) that lasts forever, beyond the cycle of birth, life and re-creation.

Gathering at Cleeve Abbey, I believe, connects us and reminds us of this truth. The Abbey itself may have been raised to the ground in the past, but where the monks gathered, we are gathering still. **Signifying and incarnating (as we do each Sunday) the biblical truth that wherever and whenever people assemble in his name, the body of Christ is risen and by doing so we proclaim in word and deed that he is risen indeed.**

The second theme of this month's article relates to the celebration of the 100th birthday of David Attenborough. A person who has truly worked for the good of all mankind through his love of nature and the wonder of the world around him. If you watched the BBC programme to mark the occasion you will know that David chose to conclude the celebration with the words of Louis Armstrong's song 'What a wonderful world'. I am not intending to try and imply a deeper motive in the song than there is, the words being a joyous ode to life in all its wonder, beauty and transcendence.

'I see skies of blue and clouds of white. The bright blessed day. The dark sacred night. And I think to myself what a wonderful world. I see friends shaking hands saying, 'how do you do?' They're really saying I love you'.

Christianity is and should be kept simple. Life in the Christian sense is a pilgrimage. A journey through time and space. We are a pilgrim people who through the centuries leave our mark behind in the heritage of places such as Cleeve Abbey and St Peter's Treborough. A pilgrim people motivated and sustained in the simple response to the beauty and wonder of Creation to say, 'we love you'. A response to breathing in the gift of life by breathing out a sense of gratitude, thanksgiving and love.

Rev. Richard