



Something Different

This week some gardening thoughts ...

Some outdoor music ...

And a journey ...



Bodnant Gardens

Thought For The Day

During the lockdown many of us are working in our gardens, tidying and planting.

I'm sure this work is also going on in church grounds throughout the land.

I hope we can all feel Gods presence in our lives at this difficult time of confinement during which many of us are experiencing hours of solitude.

Time alone when gardening, too.

It occurred to me whilst toiling in the garden, Jesus is a gardener, a gardener of our souls.

He plants the seed of our faith, waters and feeds us, nourishing us by his teachings.

He even prunes our souls if we go astray, then rejoices in watching us bloom into Christian people. Just like all flora, everyone of us is unique and special to him.

I hope this thought helps to make gardening less arduous for you, knowing that what you do for your garden, Jesus is doing for you

Scarlett Hemming May 22nd 2020



Coughton Court ... because we'd all like a garden like that!

In this time of instability and change I've found that reading Psalms is a way of uplifting and strengthening one's soul.

I feel if we can appreciate our beautiful Earth and all its gifts, given to us by our Father then the restrictions of the lockdown may not seem so harsh.

Psalm 104 is probably the most beautiful written "showcase" of this and I've written a short appendix of my observations :-

Psalm 104 - An Appendix

Sunshine all day long
The stars in the night sky glow
Heavens diurnal course visible through my bay window
Birdsong in the garden
The lawn an Eden green
Everywhere our Father's springtime pattern can be seen.
Dainty aubrietia follows daffodil trumpets with colourful roses soon to bloom
Winter is behind us now
At last we are through the gloom
Summers pinks and blues
Then Autumn's copper and gold to inspire and amaze us
But soon the winter light will be upon us
So what?
Our Father's love will protect us.
We watch the rolling of God's divine seasons
And know that we are part of his perfect plan
No need to reason.
Flesh and bone to foliage and flower
All alike, a show of God's Heavenly Power.

I will sing of the Father's love and glory as long as I live
Our beautiful and bountiful Earth
Praise the Lord O My Soul

Scarlett Hemming May 24th 2020

From Stephen and Wendy Malkinson ...

Stephen and I have just enjoyed a virtual choral evensong:

<https://www.therodolfusfoundation.org.uk/virtual-evensong>

Or search ...The Rodolfus Foundation Virtual Evensong

It's wonderful! The quality of the singing with over 260 participants from 20 countries is superb, top notch with technical sophistication. The service is topped and tailed by a charming electronic fantasy on birdsong, recorded in an English wood. Then we have Bach, Thomas Tallis, and settings by Elgar and more. Lessons read by Stephen Fry and Simon Russell Beale. Everyone rose magnificently to the occasion, not least to the stirring performances of Parry's I Was Glad.

Wendy Malkinson



Inspiring Tomorrow's Singers

The Rodolfus Foundation runs residential singing courses for young people.

Also the Rodolfus Choir, an auditioned youth choir that performs at major venues and records CDs.

Our ambition is to share the joy of choral music with as many young people as possible, inspiring the broadest possible audience.

The Rodolfus Foundation's Virtual Choral Evensong was conceived by our Artistic Director, Ralph Allwood as a service of thanksgiving and unity in a time of crisis.

For the Welsh among us ... and for those of us who love Wales. To Finlandia ...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QebyWF7V6MI&feature=youtu.be>

or search ... 'Finlandia' - A Prayer For Wales | The Sound Of Wales Collective

For Wales our land ... O Father hear our prayer
This blessed vineyard granted to our care
May you protect her always faithfully
And prosper here all truth and purity
For your son's sake who bought us with his blood
O make our Wales in your own image Lord.
O come the day when o'er our barren land
Reviving winds blow sent from God's own hand
As grace pours down – on parched and arid sand
We will bear fruit - for Christ by His command.
Come with one voice and gentle vigour sing
The virtues of our gentle lamb and king
D'amdifffynn cryf a'l cadwo'n ffyddlon byth
O make our Wales in your own image Lord

(I am a strong defender and keep him faithful for ever)

If you have ever been blessed by real Welsh praying you will love Dai Woolridge 's prayer on the video ...

Music : Music: Jean Sibelius © Public Domain Original Welsh poem 'Dros Gymru'n Gwlad' : Lewis Valentine (1893-1986), This English translation by Peter Cousins and Magnus Forrester-Barker. Additional lyrics © 2020 Dai Woolridge



The dragons at Caerphilly Castle!

Isaiah 26: 20

Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until the fury has passed by.

inferior, inadequate, introverted	I	
	S	suppressed, sad, solitary
oppressed, obsolete, obsessed	O	
	L	lonely, lethargic, longing
afraid, anxious, aching	A	
	T	trusting, transformed, thriving
inspired, insightful, inner peace	I	
	O	optimistic, open-minded, OK
new-normal, nourished, needed	N	

Proverbs 3: 5-6

Trust the Lord with all your heart

And lean not on your own understanding

In all your ways submit to Him

And He will make your paths straight