

Dear all

It's wonderful to be able to welcome Sonia back into ministry here in DSJ. She has sent this reflection – giving me a bit of a break!

Dear Friends,

Forced to stay at home in all this wonderful fine weather it's an ideal time to be out in the garden taking in the new growth all around and getting some exercise at the same time. Gardens are not only our personal playgrounds, they play a special part in the Bible Story from its beginnings in the Garden of Eden via Gethsemane, the place of Our Lord's impassioned prayer and his betrayal, to the garden tomb, the place of his resurrection, prompting the poet Dorothy Gurney to write 'one is nearer God's heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth'.

In Holy Week no doubt many of you will have been missing the loss of live services made only more bearable by Mark's daily e mails and live streaming on Easter Day. In these unusual circumstances you may have overlooked some programmes, delightful and thoughtful in equal measure, exploring the history and spirituality of plants and gardens and their connections with Holy Week and Easter.

The first series is a set of five fourteen minute Radio 4 programmes entitled 'The Passion in plants'. Presented by urban naturalist Bob Gilbert and Franciscan friar Brother Sam and taking many examples from the plants in the woods of Hillfield Friary in Dorset, it takes you on a journey from Palm Sunday to Easter Day, including the Good Friday Plant Moschatel (Latin name *Adoxa*, without glory) and the beautiful white wood sorrel, the Alleluia plant of Easter Day.

The second series is a set of two hour long programmes originally broadcast on BBC 1 over Good Friday/ Easter weekend. Presented by former choirboy Alexander Armstrong and gardener/ broadcaster Arit Anderson and entitled 'Heavenly Gardens' it takes you on a visit to gardens of spiritual significance including Pluscarden Abbey, a Benedictine house of prayer since 1230 and the Fifteen acre gardens of the Bishop's Palace at Wells Cathedral.

Both series are available on I player on a computer or I pad; don't leave it to long if you wish to listen to the radio 4 series. So after toiling in the garden, put your feet up and enjoy!

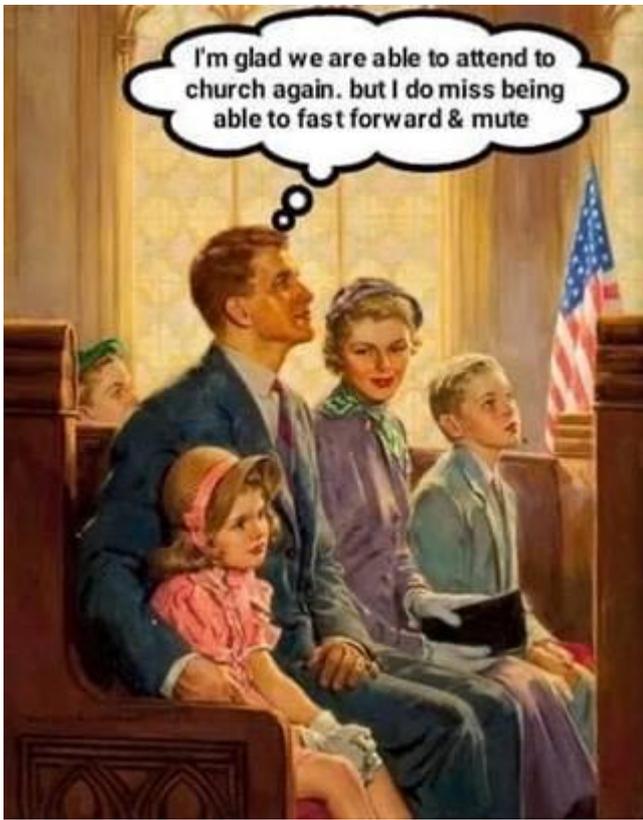
Stay safe,  
Every Blessing,

Revd Sonia

For those missing our esteemed organist, I have been listening to a piece he has uploaded onto the internet. It is the Intermezzo from Organ Symphonie 3 by Louis Vierne, played with the sampled Cavallé Coll organ at Caen - St. Etienne. Chris' notes say "Enjoy this little 'grotesque'."

<http://www.contrebombarde.com/concerthall/music/38802>

And to leave you with this picture – I hope it isn't true!



Stay safe

Blessings and love

Mark