

Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends,

Sitting down and writing this article I am drinking in the wonderful scenery of my back garden – I can feel the warmth of the sunshine. I see a crow perched on a tree branch, I hear birds singing in the trees, and I see some others in flight. I see many small insects attracted by the colours of the flowers and plants in the garden. I see the leaves swaying gently on the trees, while the smell of freshly cut grass lingers in the air. Somewhere, not too far away, I hear the distinct sound of a lawn mower – it's all so beautiful and serene. To think that this is all part of God's design and not a coincidence or an accident takes my breath away. Indeed as the hymn writer says: *Summer suns are glowing over land and sea; happy light is flowing, bountiful and free. Everything rejoices in the mellow rays; all earth's thousand voices swell the psalm of praise.* (William W. How, 1823-1897)

Friends, summer is a time to see the greatness of God reflected in the beauty of nature that surrounds us. So please try to find time each day to stop your activity, to enjoy and praise God for who he is, and what he has done, and continues to do. Look with fresh eyes and appreciate God's creativity – his attention to details, the freshness of the morning mist, the moon and stars at night, the rich variety of colours and textures of the landscape, the miracle of growth, and much more. Whether at work or recreation, enjoy the feeling of being alive and the freedom to worship - find God in what you do and see and listen to, and be at one with him – *for He has made all things beautiful in its time, Ecclesiastes 3:11.*

Enjoy this photo of bluebells and an Orange tip male butterfly from Alison Hale's garden.



Have a lovely summer

Every blessing

Irene John