



20th September 2020

Dear Friends,

As you read this we will be coming to the end of an unexpected week of glorious sunshine, a gift for us all I hope you have been able to enjoy some of it and are able to give thanks. It is also the season of collecting in and making, if that is something you enjoy in life, the sloes are ready, the blackberries in the jam or tarts and the perennial challenge looms, what to do with the vast amounts of apples. If you would like any eating apples by the way just ask me.

This week's readings have a bit of a theme, moaning and complaining! It's not fair! Then there is another theme too, being thankful for what you have received, feeling blessed and content with that you do have. Doesn't say it was wrong to have a little moan about not having food, it says God heard their complaining and then he responded. The vineyard workers Jesus told his listeners, were advised to accept what they had been offered and not to complain about the generosity of the vineyard owner.

I have noticed afresh in the story of God's people in the wilderness the ending, God made provision for the people to go out and collect the quail in the evening and then in the morning the bread. Who has a picture in their mind of bits of bread in some form or description that look like our bread? I certainly do, however it very beautifully says "on the surface of the wilderness was a fine, flaky substance as fine as frost on the ground", that would have taken sometime to harvest each day to give the provision needed for the people, they had to work at receiving their food and preparing it and none could be kept as it would go mouldy, except on the Sabbath, what a great God. Attention was needed, respect for the creation of God and the provision.

If you watched it on Sunday evening, none of us could be passive about David Attenborough's call to wake up to what is happening to many species of the world. I found it hard to see, especially as I felt very powerless to do anything. We are all challenged to be mindful of what we use and how we dispose of waste, and to protest through word of mouth, or letter, or phone call, where we are able that we act as a voice for the voiceless, and we can pray. This type of moaning and complaining is necessary and required. The plunder through greed of the land and its creatures has to stop somehow, otherwise one day there will be no harvest to be had for any of us.

Let us be thankful, enriched and fulfilled, and ready to fight for justice righteously in our world.

Rev Georgina