

Crowland Abbey

FROM THE RECTOR



As I look around our beautiful countryside and churchyards, looking at how lush and green everything is, I am thankful that this year we are not looking at the burnt grasses and parched earth of the drought summers we have been experiencing. When we were having pleasantly warm summers with long days of sunshine, we joked, if this is global warming, bring it on!

Our seasons are changing and as we notice warm wet springs and this year a distinctly cooler summer it is difficult to ignore the changes taking place. The warnings that the invasive Asian hornets have survived our winter for the first time mean an increasing risk to our native bees... things just seem to be out of kilter. That feeling of imbalance can apply to nature and sometimes with life in general, perhaps at work or home. It is at times like these we need a rule of life or a compass showing the way. For me that compass is my belief in God; but then I would say that wouldn't I?

The God I believe in created this beautiful world we live in, and he created each of us, he delights in us, he loves us and that is not the conditional love that has to be earned, it is a love freely given and all we need to do is open our hearts to receive it.

If you are not sure what you believe in, then talking to someone or just being with people of faith can be a help. If you don't feel you are ready to do that then connect with God through his creation. Take time to be out and look at the beauty of our natural world, marvel at the intricacies of all that lives on our world, perhaps take some steps to support creation by being more mindfully eco-friendly and take time to be quiet, let the wonder of creation provide balance and calm in your world.

If you want to find out more about that unconditional love, pop along to the Abbey and meet people who are also finding their way, or chat to someone you know who has faith, they may make great travel companions.

God bless,
Carolyn

Rev. Carolyn Bailey is one of the clergy in the Welland Mission Partnership, of which Crowland Abbey is part.