

From the Chaplain...

As people here in the UK and across the world grapple with how to respond to the mounting environmental crisis, it is important to keep faith in God's capacity for renewal. Not as a substitute for responsible human action, but rather as a source of inspiration and instruction. In observing Harvest Thanksgiving this Sunday, we are therefore invited not only to celebrate the abundance of God's provision but to recognise afresh our essential reliance upon the natural world. In contemplating this relationship, I am reminded of the poem 'God's Grandeur' by Gerard Manley Hopkins:

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not reckon his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

The funeral service of the Bishop of Woolwich, the Rt Revd Karowei Dorgu, will take place on Thursday, 28 September at 12noon at Southwark Cathedral. Due to limitations of space, attendance is by invitation only, but the service will be livestreamed on the Diocese of Southwark's YouTube channel. The livestream will be screened locally at Christ Church East Greenwich, Trafalgar Road SE10 9EQ. The church will be open from 11.30am and refreshments will be available. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

At this Sunday's 11.00am Choral Eucharist, we will welcome the Rt Revd Michael Doe as our guest preacher. Bishop Michael will then stay on for the annual Harvest Lunch, which will follow the service in the Queen Mary Undercroft. I know that those of you also attending the lunch will offer him a warm welcome. Meanwhile, I send all of you my continuing good wishes and prayers.

Yours faithfully,
Robert

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