

ANN'S RAMBLES AND REFLECTIONS

New Year's Day 2021

I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

*We've been through difficulties and sadness, but there is light at the end of the tunnel.
Look forward to the way ahead, not back to what was, but to new beginnings, and smile.
One thing is definite: we'll all be a year older!*

I wanted to share with you this awe-inspiring sight I witnessed last Sunday evening standing



at the top of Redhorn Hill, of streams of starlings rising up from the Vale of Pewsey (*left*) and assembling further south on the Plain (*right*). The sight lasted at least 30 minutes as waves of starlings came across us. So low sometimes we could hear the movement of their wings but it was silent. It was awe-inspiring.

*O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed;*

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

*When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur, and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;*

I have come back to these words time and time again over these recent months. I've just looked back to my first set of Reflections on the 20th March 2020, and there is this hymn. The last ten months have been ones of discovery and re-discovery of God's Wonderful World. The time to watch, and record, the changing seasons in our marvellous, very local, Wiltshire countryside; the time to find new footpaths (although these are too muddy to be passable at the moment) and byways that have opened up new panoramas. Following this theme have you noted David Attenborough's new series 'A Perfect Planet' starting on Sunday evening at 8pm? He describes our earth as a place 'in balance', where 'everything has fallen into place perfectly'. Should we be surprised? It's God's creation!

"Oceans, sunlight, weather and volcanoes - together these powerful yet fragile forces allow life to flourish in astonishing diversity. They make Earth truly unique - a perfect planet. Our planet is one in a billion, a world teeming with life. But now, a new dominant force is changing the face of Earth: humans. To preserve our perfect planet, we must ensure we become a force for good." David Attenborough

The earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth. All things are connected like the blood that unites us all. Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself. Chief Seattle (1780-1866)

..... *God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. Genesis1*



*For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our grateful hymn of praise.
For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our grateful hymn of praise.*



'He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together'. Colossians 1



*Let Everything That, Everything That
Everything That Has Breath Praise The Lord
Let Everything That, Everything That
Everything That Has Breath Praise The Lord*

*Praise You In The Morning, Praise You In The Evening
Praise You When I'm Young And When I'm Old
Praise You When I'm Laughing, Praise You With I'm Grieving
Praise You Every Season Of The Soul*

So I've chosen similar 3 hymns I chose for that first Rambles and Reflections last March. Then, I also referred to the sacrifices made by the people of Eyam during the Great Plague. People round the world have made sacrifices and acted selflessly throughout this pandemic. Millions of people have suffered and may have lost their lives because of it. I thank God that we have come through ... and can now look forward to our vaccinations. So often in times of great difficulty and war great discoveries are made for the benefit of all mankind.

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty the King of creation
O my soul, praise Him for He is thy health and salvation
All ye who hear, brothers and sisters draw near
Praise him in glad adoration*

*Praise to the Lord Who doth prosper they work and defend thee
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
Who with His love doth befriend thee*

*Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him
All that hath life and breath Come now with praises before Him
Let the 'amen' sound from His people again
Gladly for aye we adore Him*

