

Home is...

Dear Friends

As I write, 10th April 2021, the news is full of the recent death of the Duke of Edinburgh. As a nation and global community, we will have stood alongside the Royal Family in their grief, whilst appreciating his peaceful passing at home. Our hearts go out to those close to him, as to all those who have said a final farewell to loved ones, for whatever reason.

To be at home, is a huge privilege, one beyond the means of many. "Make yourself at home" was a familiar phrase, pre-Covid, and perhaps now, in May, we will be cautiously looking forward to repeating that invitation. We say, "Home is where the heart is" – a different place, social, physical or spiritual, for each one of us, no doubt. Where is your home? Not your address, but "home"?

May is one of my favourite times of the year. Spring has blossomed into the beginning of summer, exploding with full-blown greenery, and promise of harvest yet to come. It is a moment in time, one step on an unfolding journey.

In the church calendar, May is often the month in which Pentecost falls, 50 days after Easter, and 53 days after the death of Jesus on the cross. This too, was one moment in time, as was that first Easter Day. At Pentecost, the Church celebrates the new life of the Holy Spirit of Jesus at home in the world. Also in May, the Methodist Church celebrate Aldersgate Day, when John Wesley felt his heart strangely warmed and found new meaning to his faith.

All these moments, mark lives that have made an effect on us, and continue to do so, wherever, and however home is for us. We have had many occasions, too many occasions, to reflect on the ending of lives over the last year or so, all of whom who have irreversibly changed the world, in one way or another.

A couple of days ago, someone got me thinking with these words: "When you were born, for a moment, you were the youngest person on earth". In that moment, the "home" you had changed, and with it, the world changed – for now it has you in it. You are making a difference, and I look forward to sharing the journey in-person once more.

Every blessing, Gill