

## Let It Grow!

Looking out into my back garden, I can see that our lawn, more moss than grass, is growing well. At the time of writing, we are observing “No Mow May”, in support of “Plantlife.”

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/take-part-in-the-no-mow-may-challenge>

To be fair, we didn't mow the lawn in April either, so it's got off to a great start! The National Trust article explains that changing our mowing habits can create more nectar for 10 times as many bees and other pollinators.

The idea is that gardeners allow their lawns to grow unclipped for a whole month. Leaving the tiny flowers to bloom in the lawn allows bees and other insects to gather much-needed nectar. So, instead of a clipped lawn, with neat edges, dandelion-free, we are waiting in the long grass for visiting bees, butterflies and other insects to take advantage of our new approach.

Cutting the grass has always been an exercise in making the garden look better. Learning that the grass cuttings I throw away each summer represent food that tiny animals are depending on, reminds me that it is in the messiness of life that true wonder can be found.

As a church, we have been reading stories from the Acts of the Apostles. I often think the stories of the disciples read a bit like a well-written Curriculum Vitae. First, I went here, then I did this there, then I moved on to work here. When you read a CV, it can look seamless, with one experience flowing effortlessly into the next. Yet, common sense tells us that there will have been tricky moments, awkward conversations, painful departures and the anxiety which comes from taking on a new challenge, all woven, but unspoken, within the page.

The disciples had met the risen Jesus and talked with him, received food from him, shared prayers with him and been set a challenging task. The Acts of the Apostles records the main stories of how these courageous men and women of faith set about building the Christian Church. There are snippets of the day-to-day challenges met by the churches and their new believers, but by and large the stories have an effortless flow of devotion, service, risk and sometimes death. We know that it was in the everyday sharing of bread, wine and possessions that the wonder of new life in Christ was found.

As a church, we are beginning to write our new chapter. It is easy to say, “We did this, then, during the pandemic we did this, and then we went on to do this”. But we need to work out the detail of the “and then we went on to do this” phase in our journey now.

Our church is made up of many different voices, viewpoints and experiences. All are relevant, important, helpful and have been given the opportunity to be heard. Our collection of viewpoints will create healthy debate, and this is essential to bring us together as a worshipping community.

Moving forward will be messy. Each of us may have a good idea, but, in the end, it may not be used. We may have a viewpoint that not everyone agrees with, and we probably won't agree with everything others say. But just like my tiny flowers mixed in with my long grass, I won't know which one a bee pollinates and which one it doesn't, but I do know all the grass needs to grow to make the wonder happen.

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