

As Winter gives way to Spring
An outdoor Celebration of Nature

Whether you are out walking taking your daily exercise or in your garden, welcome, and we hope you are able to join in with one or two activities that explore nature as the season turns from Winter to Spring.

Lord you have made so many things. How wisely you made them all. The earth is filled with your creatures and all the world sings your praise.

Based on Psalm 104: 24, 33

Out Walking or in your Garden – some suggested activities (where it is safe to do so)

We invite you to look for signs of new growth, shoots growing up through the ground and buds on the trees, and be on the look out for Snowdrops, the little white bells which are sometimes called Candlemas Bells, because they come out at this time and are one of the first signs of Spring.



Be on the look out for birds and listen – can you hear a Robin singing, if you hear a bird that sounds like it's saying “teacher, teacher” it's a Great Tit or can you hear the “caw caw” of the big black birds called Crows – if it's late afternoon look up at the trees you may see and hear lots of these big black birds noisily settling down to roost for the night.



Robin



Blue Tit



Great Tit



Long Tail Tit

How many birds did you spot? Did you spot any of these birds. If you made a bird feeder or if you have birdfeeders do any of these birds or other birds visit your garden? Perhaps you can draw some of the birds you have seen. We would love to see your pictures.

Play a game of ‘Which bird am I’? When you've been watching birds for a while you will see how they move differently. Maybe you will notice how some eat berries while others look for worms on the ground, some fly in different ways, perch on their own or in a group. Can anyone guess which bird you are pretending to be?

Jump around and flap your wings, if it's not too cold unzip your coat and run around with the sides held out like wings. Can you feel the air filling the wings of your coat? If it's a windy day is your coat flapping like wings in the wind?

Try Wassailing – the beginning of the year is the time to sing to the trees to help them grow and be fruitful to provide a good harvest later in the year.

Choose a tree and push small pieces of toast on to bare branches, hungry birds may come by later to peck and eat the bread, but as you “toast” the tree sing a wassailing song – look on line to find the tune or make up your own tune!

Here we come a wassailing among the leaves of green, here we come a wandering so fair to be seen. Love and joy come to you and to your wassail too. And God send you a happy new year. Pray God send you a happy new year.

As you sing listen out for God's creation joining you in praise – can you hear the wind in the trees rustling the branches, the birds singing, perhaps the snap of twigs beneath your feet.

If you “toasted” a tree take a picture, we would love to see your pictures.



WASSAIL, WASSAIL!!

Pick up a fallen leaf from the ground and try to find the tree it fell from. Look at the tree, bare and without leaves now and then try to imagine it covered in green leaves at the height of summer. Maybe it will have flowers or fruits or seeds or nuts.

As you hold last year's dead leaf, place your hopes for the year ahead into God's safekeeping.

We can sometimes forget to notice the wonder of God's creation that is all around us.

We hope you have enjoyed taking time to stop, to look, to listen and to enjoy the natural world that is all around us.

***Thank you God for the lovely walk today and for all we have seen and done together.
Amen***