

Ramblings from The Rectory - June 2016

Bishee barney-bees

The other day a friend was talking about the bishee barney-bees in his garden. Thankfully, I've been in Norfolk long enough to know he was talking about ladybirds. I love those bright coloured beetles and love them even more when I see them chomping through the greenfly on my roses. That conversation led to me search online where I found a great little chart for a ladybird hunt. It's free to download from Nature Detectives pages of the Woodland Trust website <http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/>.

While on that website I found loads of activities for all ages including a great tip for finding ladybirds (<http://www.tcv.org.uk/helpingkidsgrow/>): "Lay a lightly coloured sheet on the ground under a bush and gently shake the bush. The ladybirds will fall out, so use a magnifying glass to have a closer look at your finds. Count how many ladybirds there are and how many spots they have."

All these thoughts about gardens and the natural world made me think of a little passage from the book of Job in the Old Testament (Job 12.7-10):

If you want to learn, then go and ask the wild animals and the birds, the flowers and the fish. Any of them can tell you what the LORD has done. Every living creature is in the hands of God.

That is what I find. I find the hand of the Creator in this creation. I see God in the beauty and exuberance of a summer's day. This despite the unavoidable reality that all is not right; that the earth that was created good has been marred and degraded. As Paul says in Romans 8.22, "We know that all creation is still groaning and is in pain, like a woman about to give birth."

I see this beautiful world, I let the colours, the scents, the wonder all soak into me. I let creation inspire me to love all that God has made. I revel for a while in that love and let that love fire me again to work for the care and protection of the natural world – a sacred duty for all who worship the Creator.

Have a great summer, and enjoy this beautiful corner of England.

God bless, Nigel.

- See more at: <http://www.7churches.org.uk/blog#sthash.Tb2sU7gD.dpuf>