



The Community of Aidan and Hilda

Southern England & Channel Islands Region

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...the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in His wings

Malachi 4v2



Entering Beltane, The Summer Season

As this newsletter goes out, we are leading up to the summer season, the period of the year where people seem happier to be alive, happier about life. In the Celtic calendar the summer season is called 'Beltane' named after the sun god 'Bel' and starts on May 1st. In Christianity we have our own 'Sun God'. The verse quoted above from the prophet Malachi about the Messiah is a great one to read as we feel the heat of the sun beginning to rise on our faces and find that there are very few places that we can hide from its heat (as is mentioned in Psalm 19v6). The great thing about this Messianic prophecy is that it has a fulfilment in our New Testament in one of the life stories of Jesus. The word used for 'wing' in Malachi ('*kanap*' in Hebrew) is the same

word used in Numbers 15 v 38 for the edge, or corner, of the prayer shawl. A belief therefore grew within the Jews of the time that the Messiah would have healing powers in the edge of his garment. In Luke 8 v 40-48 a woman showed that she believed Jesus to be this Sun of Righteousness as she reached for the edge of his clothes for healing, which she received.

As this summer season grows, may you know the happiness that the warmth of the sun brings, but may you also know all the healing you need from the Sun of Righteousness.

May you daily be reminded, by the summer sun, of Jesus, our 'Sun God', the Sun of Righteousness.

Many blessings.

David Cole. Regional Guardian

SIMPLICITY - PURITY - OBEDIENCE

Purity:

According to the community hand book and website, this life giving principle means *we are wholehearted, not divided, in relationships. It means accepting and giving God our whole being, including our sexuality. We love all people as Christ commands, but the specific emotions and intimacy of sexual relations are expressed only in married life. Some will be given a gift of marriage, some a gift of celibacy, and some will be given grace to continue a journey of not yet knowing. Each is to be equally respected and rejoiced in. We respect every person as belonging to God, and we are available to them with generosity and openness. In today's world, which is flooded with the promotion of sexually active relationships, can we really do this in a realistic way? Is it possible to be this 'set apart' from the* →

Movers & Shakers

A day with four inspirational Celtic Church Leaders.

Aidan, Cuthbert, Hilda & Brigid

Saturday August 29 2009. 10am – 4pm. Venue to be arranged.

Life stories to be told by international storyteller and author Bob Hartman

only £25



Lectio Divinia Bible Readings

The following bible readings will take you through 12 weeks in the 'Lectio Divinia' style.

Purity (from front)

rest of the world in our lives? In our sexual expressions? Scripture tells us that we are 'a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God' (1Peter 2v9), teaching us that we are set apart, just as the nation of Israel was (Leviticus 20 v 23-24). In this passage from Leviticus God tells his people that when they enter the land 'flowing with milk and honey' that they are not to live according to the customs of the nations there. In a similar way we are told not to conform to the patterns of this world (Romans 12v2). In fact, we are told to 'offer [our] bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12v1). This can be taken in a literal way with our principle of 'purity' as it is described, to give our bodies, in their sexual desires, to God as living sacrifices. God has wonderful plans for us; he knows what's best for us, so we need to trust him in this, and live our lives, with all our physical desires, in this trust. ■

'Lectio Divinia', which is a Latin phrase meaning 'holy reading' or 'Godly reading' has a 4 stage pattern to it:

- 1. Read;**
- 2. Reflect;**
- 3. Respond;**
- 4. Relate.**

Read the scripture.

Do this every day. Repeatedly read the same scripture each day for a week.

Reflect on what it says.

Stop for a few moments following each reading. Think about what the words say; what they mean, and also any particular part that speaks to you.

Respond to God.

Talk to God about what you have just read, and what thoughts you had about it. Ask him to teach you from it. You may be surprised at how many different things he says to you through the week, or he may simply want to sink more deeply into your heart the same thing each day.

Relate what you have read to your life.

It is no good reading the bible, even if God speaks to you through it, if you do not relate it to the way you live your life. This is not about 'trying to be a good Christian', because if you do that you will only fail at it. It is about walking in a growing relationship with God and allowing him to work the truths which you have read into your everyday life.

I am God's child
John 1v12

I am known by Jesus
John 10 v 14

The Spirit of God is in me
John 14 v 16

Nothing can stop God's love
Romans 8 v 38-39

I am wonderful
Psalm 139 v 14

*I am saved, called
and belong to God*
Isaiah 43 v 1
(from where God speaks)

God sings love songs over me
Zephaniah 3 v 17

*I am made by God
to do good things*
Ephesians 2 v 10

*I am saved through
his work, not mine*
Titus 3 v 4-5

*I am not to be anxious,
but filled with peace*
Philippians 4 v 6-7

*I need to
guard my heart*
Proverbs 4 v 23

An 8 layer life filter
Philippians 4 v 8

Welcome Sarah Haines! New Explorer to the Southern Region

Sarah joined The Community of Aidan & Hilda earlier this year. She said: 'I have for sometime felt called to a monastic lifestyle, to learn about the Saints and more recently the lives of the Celtic Saints. I have been interested in Celtic Christianity for a while and last year felt the Lord was sending me lots of boats. My spiritual director discerned that I may be being called to take the Voyage of the Coracle and led me to CA&H. On reading about the Community Way of life I was sure I needed to become an Explorer. I attended 'Ancient Pathways for Modern Journeys' and enjoyed meeting Ray and David and learning some more about Celtic Spirituality. I'm looking forward to my first retreat on Lindisfarne in October. I am very aware that God calls us to an intimate journey with the Trinity, to have courage to follow His often wild Spirit, to be generous of heart and to be full of His love and grace so that we can be Jesus to all whom we meet. I pray that I may continue to discover and live Gods will for my life, to love others as He loves me and to always be His faithful servant..'