



The Community of Aidan and Hilda

Southern England & Channel Islands Region

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*“Behold I am coming soon, and my reward is with me
to give to everyone according to what he has done.”*

Revelation 22v12



The Once and Future King

The Arthurian legend runs deeply in Celtic myths. From the Mabinogion and Malory, to the strange isolated comment in Bede's Ecclesiastical History of 'but he was no Arthur'. Tolkien too was influenced by the Arthurian legends when he wrote The Lord of the Rings, which has long been one of my favorite stories. Even the title of the third part 'The Return of the King' was based on the belief of Arthur returning. According to legend Arthur was taken from the field of battle, having been left for dead, to the isle of Avalon for healing and waits until Britain's most dire hour of need before he returns to be a victorious king once again. I am, at the moment, reading 'Avalon' by Stephen Lawhead which is about this very thing. The headline above comes from T.H. White's book about Merlin and his time with Arthur.

But there is another King who was once dead, but will return again victorious. Ours:

Jesus. The difference is Jesus is alive now! And not only will he return victorious, but he will reward each according to what they have done. So that begs a question:

What have you done for this King?

Beside my bed I keep an old red book which I picked up from a second hand book shop. It is 'The Coming of Arthur & The Passing of Arthur' by Tennyson. Inside the front cover it has written in pen: 'Following the coming of every man, in time, is the passing of that man. That which a man does between these times determines the level of his greatness. Remember this in the days of your living.'

1 Peter 4 v 7-11 tells us that the end of the world is near, and gives us a list of how to act and things to do.

So, what are you doing for our King? What will be the level of reward our once and future King will give you?

David Cole. Regional Guardian

Roots - Rhythm - Relationships

Roots:

The 10 Waymarks of the Way of Life of the Community can be filtered into these three R's. Roots incorporates our life long learning, from our Spiritual roots in scripture and the Celtic saints, to, for some of us, our physical roots in this nation and its own spiritual heritage. Roots also incorporates our openness to God's Spirit, as we are rooted in the move of the Spirit and stand on the firm foundation of God our rock, and are 'rooted and established in love' (Ephesians 3 v 16-18).

Nothing can grow without roots. If you cut the flower from its root it has a limited life span in the vase. So we, in our spiritual walk, need our roots. So where are our roots? Firstly and most importantly we must be, as I have said, rooted in God and his word, then we can also be rooted in the spiritual heritage of those heroes of →

Developing a Way of Life

An extended version of a seminar from Spring Harvest 2009.

Led by David Cole, Regional Guardian.

Saturday November 7th 2009. 10am – 3pm. Venue: Fullerton Mill, (nr Andover) Hampshire

Email: aidanandhildaeventsbooking@btconnect.com

only £15



Roots (from front)

our faith throughout the ages. But roots have a purpose. They have a job to do. There is a difference between an anchor and roots. Both an anchor and roots hold things firmly in their place, but roots do something more, they have another very important job to do: they give life and help the plant grow.

Our growth is down to two things: our learning, and our openness to God's Spirit. The learning can be seen as the roots of a tree, and our openness to God's Spirit can be seen as the growth of the tree above ground.

The Oak tree has deep significance in Celtic heritage, and it holds one very important illustration for us here. Unlike some other trees the Oak tree does something that is quite incredible, it grows its roots and its branches in equal amounts, so what you see above the ground in branches is the same as what is under the ground in roots. In our growth we must not grow our branches (openness to God's Spirit) greater than our roots (learning and understanding), but neither should we grow our roots greater than our branches.

Is your life long learning and openness to God's Spirit in balance?

Community and a Way of Life

Last Saturday (at time of writing) my wife and I went to Wembley Stadium to see a band. As I sat in my seat, while one of the support acts was playing, I watched tens of thousands of people standing on what is usually the pitch with one arm raised and one finger pointing moving them up and down to the beat of the song in unison. It was quite an awesome sight to watch, a sea of arms bobbing up and down at the same time. The reason they were doing this was because the artist on stage was also doing it.

As I watched this, a thought went through my head: there in front of me was a community, this collection of people had gathered as a community to enjoy something together, and many of them were living a way of life too. The way of life many of them were living was that of the artist. The artist hadn't forced them to live this way of life, neither had he coerced them into it, in fact, he had probably never even ever met any of them, but they followed it because he followed it, and they followed him. This artist, as a rap artist (not who I went to see!) lives a particular way of life, and many thousands, probably millions, follow it because they want to be like him. They follow this way of life in all aspects of themselves, from what they wear to the way they talk, from the music they listen to the beliefs they will hold. They are dedicated to this way of life and are proud to be a part of it, and sometimes they will gather together as community to see the one they follow.

The path my thoughts followed (as I really didn't want to listen to this artist!) led me to think of our way of life, and the Community of Aidan & Hilda. We follow a way of life that hopefully will bring us closer to Jesus. We follow a way of life that comes from a particular stream of walk with Jesus. We often gather together as community to share in this together. But how committed are we at living this way of life? How far do we go in our every day lives? As members of CA&H we have committed to live this way of life out in every aspect of our every day lives. Of course, it needs to be personalized and an expression and extension of you as a person, so how I do it may be a little different to how you do it. But how do you really develop it so that it seeps into the very core of your being, and you become one with it, like so many who follow a musical artist or band?

Why not come to the retreat day in November and explore this a bit more, it may change your whole outlook and expression of the CA&H way of life! (By the way, the main act, the band we went to see, was Coldplay – and they were excellent! Very good show!).

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*In last issue there was a small error in this advert. To get to the UK Facebook page type 'The Community of Aidan & Hilda' in the search box, **not** the word 'and', that will take you to the US page.*

Come and find us and be part of the online community!