

# Sharing the Journey



A monthly newsletter from the Journeying team

July 2022

Dear Friends

A warm welcome to the July edition of *Sharing the Journey*.



*"I arise today, through  
The strength of heaven,  
The light of the sun,  
The radiance of the moon,  
The splendour of fire,  
The speed of lightning,  
The swiftness of wind,  
The depth of the sea,  
The stability of the earth,  
The firmness of rock."*

(St Patrick)



## Looking forward to the Way of St David, and a Church re-born...

In a few days from now we'll be back on the *Way of St David*, 24th – 30th July!

For five consecutive days we will walk on what Lonely Planet describes as the finest coast path in the world.

Like any pilgrimage, the journey itself is just as important as the destination, but our destination at St Davids Cathedral is truly spectacular too. The Norman cathedral from the 1100s stands on the site of the sixth century Celtic monastery of St David where we complete our pilgrimage at the recently restored shrine to St David, the patron saint of Wales.



*Shrine of St David*

**An encouraging story:** Along the Way we'll visit the Church of St Madoc of Ferns near Broadhaven. A small Church nestling in a wooded valley along the Pembrokeshire Coast. Some 1500 years old and founded by St Aidan of Ferns (aka St Madoc), the congregation of late has dwindled to just two. The local community decided rather than let the building 'fall' a community group would be formed with the hope of using the building for community use as well as services. Hearing the news, Journeying leader Iain Tweedale made contact with the outcome that the first thing the new group will do is welcome our July, *Way of St David* pilgrims! A whole other strand to the Church development plan was beginning to unfold! In the true tradition of pilgrimage, the group will provide refreshments for the journey-ers who will be heading to Solva on the penultimate day of the pilgrimage.

Located on the *Way of St David* the Church is well placed to see *pilgrim-hospitality* become an established part of its new plan.



### By gentle waters...

We are not long back from the Brecon Beacon's... a fab weekend of misty dawns, beautiful sunsets and heat – it was very warm!



Photographs: David Heathcote (Crannog, Ian Ashby)



### St Samson

The 28<sup>th</sup> of this month marks the feast day of St Samson...

Born in 486 in South Wales, Samson was educated by St Illtud, abbot at Llantwit Major (Llanilltud Fawr), before moving to the more austere setting of Caldey Island, off the Pembrokeshire coast. Here on Caldey, Samson became abbot in succession to Pyr.

As with many of the Celtic saints of old, Samson shared a love of the pilgrim way, of 'wandering for Christ'. From Wales Samson travelled to Ireland, Cornwall, the Isles of Scilly, Channel Islands and Brittany, where he is known as one of the 'seven founding saints of Brittan'.



Modern-day pilgrims bound for Caldey Island



*"Even if we disagree about everything, we can still be kind to each other"*

(Anon)



## Along the Journeying Way

The second of a short series of drop-ins on a town or village along the Journeying Way, staying just long enough to give a flavour of the place that has been a stopping point for Journeying pilgrims. This month we're in Applecross in Wester Ross, Scotland.



### Applecross

Sometimes simply referred to as 'The Street', Applecross lies on a remote peninsula in Wester Ross. It's a place 'on the edge' with an atmosphere both welcoming and inspiring... *A place to prepare, a place to begin a journey.*

A while ago Journeying pilgrims gathered here in preparation for a journey that would end on the Island of Iona. The following diary entry for the journey sets the scene...

*"The view from on top of the treacherous 'Bealach-Na-Ba', the pass of the cattle, toward the small hamlet of Applecross and the islands of Raasay and Skye, provides one of those classic Highland and Island, land and seascapes; rugged hills tumbling down to a turquoise sea with islands and mountains on the horizon - a view I first glimpsed, though without the colour, in the vintage film 'Laxadale Hall,' an endearing tale of a community determined to win its fight to be linked to the outside world by a road across the mountain.*

*Centuries earlier, long before 'Laxadale,' a much less fictional character made his way across the same pass. It was in his footsteps that we were to travel.*

*St Maelrubha landed on the shore of Wester Ross at Applecross in the year 673 - a mighty red bearded man who turned this little corner of Scotland into perhaps the second most important Christian settlement in the country. The first and better known was our eventual destination, the magical island of Iona.*

*A place to prepare, a place to begin a journey... this is Applecross - a sanctuary and staging post, lapped by the waters of the Inner Sound on one side and sheltered by craggy hills on the other. I loved this place”...*



*The pilgrim group at Applecross*

Landward access to Applecross, until recent years, was only possible via the treacherous ‘Bealach-Na-Ba’ pass, one of the highest roads in Britain, with some tremendous gradients and all single track!

The Church of Scotland Church at Clachan, just a little way outside ‘The Street’, is built on the site of St Maelrubha’s monastery, though nothing remains of the monastery today other than the cross-slab standing by the gate and three more fragments kept on display inside the Church. In the opposite direction, just south of ‘The Street’ are the lovely settlements of Camusterrach, Ard-dhubh and Toscaig.



### **God’s first Word to us... *the Book of nature***

“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands,” and “their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world”  
(Psalm 19:1, 4)



*Moonlight, by Journeying Associate Leader, Huw Riden*



### **Lindisfarne Gospels Pilgrimage**

Friend of Journeying, David Pott, will be leading the *Lindisfarne Gospels Pilgrimage* in September of this year.

David writes; *This Lindisfarne Gospels Pilgrimage is supported by Durham Diocese and Newcastle Diocese and various other partners and is very much associated with the forthcoming Lindisfarne Gospels Exhibition at the Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle. A major feature will be the carrying of a replica of St Cuthbert's coffin and we will also have a facsimile of the Lindisfarne Gospels with us. Detailed information about the pilgrimage can be found at <https://durhamdiocese.org/mission-discipleship-and-ministry-/growing-in-faith-and-discipleship/northern-saints-trails/the-lindisfarne-gospels-pilgrimage/>*

Do contact David if you live in the North East of England and would like to help with the pilgrimage: [dlpott@gmail.com](mailto:dlpott@gmail.com)



## Sometimes

A sign in the forest on the Camino de Santiago...

*"Sometimes you find yourself in the middle of nowhere, and sometimes in the middle of nowhere you find yourself"*



## Ukraine and Russia

We pray for the people of the Ukraine and the people of Russia; for their countries and their leaders, and for all people caught up in war...



## Singing Birds and Silence... A collection of poems by Janet Wilkes



Janet first travelled with Journeying to West Wales some ten years ago. *Singing Birds and Silence* is her second book, her first, *After The Blossom*, is autobiographical and a lovely read.

Janet's debut poetry collection is a treat. The poems speak with a grounded, real-life quality, that capture the moment perfectly – you can't help but be caught up in the occasion...

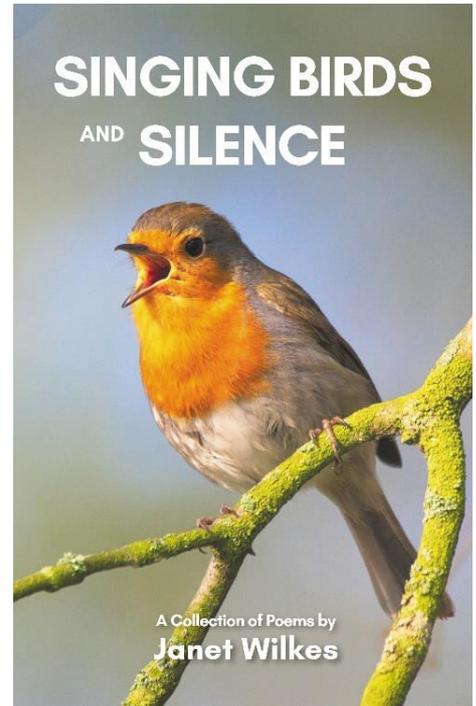
'There are many forms of writing poetry and anyone can do it', Janet says. 'All you need to do is take a pen and describe the place you're in, ether where you are or in your thoughts'. Janet does this wonderfully. Here's the title poem:

## SINGING BIRDS AND SILENCE

*Singing birds and silence remind me of  
Christmas long ago with coal fires, candles,  
Sweet chestnuts, crackers and a pine tree that  
Scented the room and shed needles on the  
Brown linoleum that covered the floor.*

*We put cotton wool on its branches to  
Look like snow and made little lanterns from  
Toilet rolls and a star from two equi-  
Lateral triangles, painted yellow.*

*After Christmas it went back outside, back  
Into the heavy London clay that was  
Our garden. It liked it there where it grew  
A little taller each year that passed and  
Greener with the silence and singing birds.*



Janet's collection of twenty-seven poems may be obtained direct from her. Please email:

[janetwilkes1947@gmail.com](mailto:janetwilkes1947@gmail.com)

You are invited to make a donation to, Blesma, The Limbless Veterans, a charity dedicated to assisting serving and ex-Service men and women.



## Summer in the Valley

*Tintern Abbey and the Wye Valley*

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August, gather at 11 a.m.

From historic Tintern Abbey we walk in the spirit of pilgrimage through the lovely Wye Valley.

Along the Way we'll see part of Offa's Dyke, discover Brockweir village with its whitewashed Moravian Chapel on the banks of the river, admire some wonderful views and listen to readings and reflections for Summer.

All Day walks are free and dog-friendly. For details and to book your place, please follow the link:  
<https://www.journeying.co.uk/day-walks?id=931231>



*In the fields above Brockweir village*



## Friday Gathering

Each Friday at 10 p.m. (UK time) ... A time to pause and prayerfully hold in our thoughts all those connected with Journeying. We have no particular format and there's no linking over the airwaves. As always, *hope you can be with us.*

Peace on the Way,  
The *Journeying* Team.

You are welcome to share this Newsletter with anyone you think might be interested

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