



July 2022

Dear Friends,

I love living in the Dassett! I love the wonderful views from the Country Park that sometimes stretch all the way to the Malvern Hills. I love walking along The Slade from Fenny Compton to Farnborough and watching the farmers harvesting the wheat. I love walking around the lake at Farnborough and seeing the swans and ducks or gliding along the canal near Fenny Compton on a narrow boat. The scenery can be spectacular. I love to see the changing seasons in the foliage and flowers. I delight in the colours, the smells and the variety of birds and animals I see - domesticated, farmed and wild. There's a fox that visits my garden ...and rabbits - they can cause havoc but are lovely to see. I love mountains and valleys, moorland and farmland. It's awesome. And I mean that in the true sense of the word.

We live in an amazing part of the world and the variety of scenery on our doorstep or within a day's drive is simply incredible.

I grew up by the sea in Wales and love walking the coastal paths, soaking up the the different smells and taking in the the views and looking in wonder at the vastness of the ocean. I love the variety of coastline that we have around the UK, little fishing villages and harbours, cliffs and hills, rocky outcrops, sandy beaches, old castles. I love collecting shells or pebbles, eating fish and chips and watching the sun go down while listening to the lapping of the water.

In my travels, I have been fortunate enough to have seen stunning scenery and wildlife around the world. As Louis Armstrong said (or rather sang) '*What a Wonderful World*'. In the song, there is no mention of the source of all this wonder and beauty. As Christians, along with members of the other major faiths (and therefore the vast majority of the population of the world) we would think and talk of God as creator. We talk about seeing God, feeling God's presence and understanding something of his awesome power through the wonders of his creation.

There is nothing more wonderful than saying Morning or Evening Prayer on the hills, by the lake or on the beach. It somehow makes the praise and wonder so much more real. Surrounded by nature you can almost touch God.

In Paul's letter to the Church in Rome he states "*Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made.*"

Are there places that you go to, or have been to, that have struck you as particularly beautiful? Are there places that you go to, or have been to, that help you to feel particularly close to God? Are there places that you go to, or have been to, that help you to understand and see God's 'eternal power' and 'divine nature'?

*Rev'd Nicki*