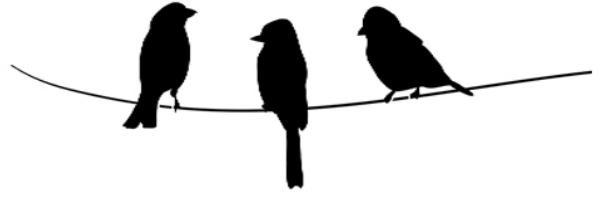


Birdsong

It's breakfast time - and in our 'postage stamp' back garden many dozens of small birds are enjoying the produce.

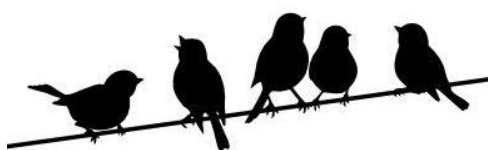


Two wrens are performing acrobatics in the clematis; a robin is splashing in the old wok-cum-bird-bath, hotly followed by a sparrow; families of blue tits and great tits are picking the insects off the pot plants; a blackbird is listening for worms whilst its mate is preening its feathers on the garden table. It is like observing a small bird jamboree. The magpies, sparrow hawk and the neighbour's cat are absent. They drop in later and the scene can be harrowing.

There's a super little book by Simon Barnes (a journalist, wildlife columnist and writer for RSPB) called 'How to be a bad birdwatcher'. *'A delightful ode to the wild world outside the kitchen window - leaves you with the warm feeling that a shared love conquers all.'* (Daily Telegraph).

Our 'Garden Breakfast' is always a scene of activity and harmony – in contrast to the brutal predator-prey scenes. They reflect the ways of the world as reported in the news, in nature series, or experienced personally. We know that things are not perfect, that accidents, also conflict and the struggle for survival result in pain and death. In a recent documentary about his life as a journalist Jon Snow spoke of the many harrowing and disturbing events he had reported. Yet despite this, he said, 'It is good remember that the world is filled with good people: people with no malicious intent, people with courage and kindness, generosity, vibrancy and hope.' Yes indeed! Good always outweighs the bad; love always overcomes hate.

As we journey into shorter days of autumn, or in times when we feel anxious or threatened, it is good to remember the great Song of Easter – of hope come to life through God's Word.



*Morning has broken, like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word.*