

Jo Jones *reflects on*
Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus' transfiguration is a glimpse of eternity. In this moment of timelessness he is joined by Moses and Elijah, their presence a physical embodiment of Jesus' teaching that he is the fulfilment of the Law and the prophets. Such is the awesomeness of this moment that the disciples fall over with fear. If before they had doubts, now they know that Jesus is no ordinary man. How much, too, Jesus must need the encouragement of this moment – to hear God say, "This is my Son, the Beloved", before he begins his journey towards Jerusalem, knowing the suffering he has to face.

I was once walking, wrapped up in my worries, when a snowdrop caught my eye. Transformed by frost, it sparkled. I marvelled. By chance I was carrying my camera. I took a photo. Enlarged, the transformation of the ordinary to extraordinary grew. I felt as if I had been given a moment out of time, a gift from God. I had new courage to go on. Jesus took time to go away with just three of his closest companions to be with God. Retreat centres can provide opportunities for time away with God. Or it might be a glimpse of a frosty flower. We need to take whatever opportunities present themselves, to give God a chance to speak to us, so we know we too are God's beloved, and are strengthened to face whatever will come. ☺

A greener church

Part 3 – recycling

by David Shreeve

David Shreeve continues his series on how churches can become greener.

So what's so new about recycling? Churches have been leaders in recycling for years, having organised untold numbers of jumble sales and bring-and-buys over the years. While we can sort our home waste into recycling bins, there is still more we can do, and churches are ideal places to provide additional facilities for recycling those objects we

may no longer need, or which can be put to good use. It doesn't necessarily mean large collecting bins getting in the way or spoiling the appearance of the church. A small cardboard box at the back of church doesn't take up much space, but can do an excellent job of collecting old mobile phones, spectacles or books. The members of a church in London decided to bring their cartons to church and collected so many that they qualified for a regular visit from a commercial collector and were very surprised to earn some money from it. ☺



A glimpse
of eternity

Dear God, silence us with your awesomeness and renew us with your love, so we may be inspired anew to do your will. Amen.

Walking with Rosie

Love

by Gillian Cooper

We stop for coffee at Rosie's favourite seafront café, the one with the dog ice creams. A teenage boy comes in with his dad and sits down at the next table. Rosie is enchanted. She gazes at him, paws to attract his attention, rolls over to have her tummy rubbed. I look more carefully, and realise that he has the build and hair of one of the boys she grew up with. "It's not

your boy," I tell her. But she is happy anyway. Rosie enjoys her new life with me. But she will never forget that first love, for the boy who played with her.

Deep within us all, there is an awareness of the love that created us and everything around us. We are not always conscious of it, but sometimes at a special sight or sound, an act of kindness, music or poetry, something stirs, and we gaze on God with adoration once more. ☺

“Ash Wednesday is full of joy... The source of all sorrow is the illusion that of ourselves we are anything but dust.”

Thomas Merton (1915-1968), American Trappist monk, writer, theologian, poet and social activist