



Daffodil Day

What is bright yellow – with a dash of purple – sounds in fine voice, and fills a room with 2000 people?

Well...it's this year's Daffodil Day, held at Westminster Central Hall, London, on Monday 2nd March. Having never been to an event such as this I did wonder what I had let myself in for, but as it turns out not only was it a beautiful spring afternoon, the ladies (and some gentlemen) who attended were in for a treat with the excellently crafted programme full of congregational song, interviews, poems, solos and reflections.

Daffodil Day was started during the depression in the early 20th Century, with the aim of cheering the wives of unemployed workers. The tradition has continued but the focus has changed. Coaches and public transport bought hundreds from right across the South of England, with some travelling far further from across the country and even as far as Canada.

This year's theme, "The earth is the Lord's", helped us to understand just how important and beautiful God's earth is, though fragile too. Returning for a second consecutive year, Steve Wild provided all with a comedy reflection with his visual aids of an 'Adam and Eve' dolls to explore and revisit the majesty of the creation of God with words from the book of Genesis. Judith Simms, Connexional President Women's Network, also reflected with her personal experience on a trip to Iona, where she said she now understood what Psalm 145 in the verse 'Let everything that has breath praise the



LORD' and spoke of the illustration of the sea and the pebbles on beach sounding like they are clapping their hands; "Then it all made sense to me, that all of creation really does praise the Lord, our creator....if we take time to see and hear."

The Lord Mayor of Westminster, Cllr Louise Hyams, brought her greetings; whilst two pieces of English music, by Vaughan Williams and John Rutter, was performed by the excellent scratch "Daffodil Day Ladies Choir". Debut soloist Anando Mukerjee also sang two pieces and whose exquisite voice rang out to every corner of the Great Hall. Others who contributed to the afternoon's programme, was Polly Deal who performed two sketches, David Bookless who reflected on the issue around climate change and how we as Christians can respond to the situation. The final thoughts from Superintendent Revd. Martin Turner reminded us, whilst holding a mirror to the congregation that "We are the high point of creation, as we are each made in the image of God."

As the afternoon drew to a close a rousing rendition of 'How great Thou art!' filled the space and on to the street below. Speaking personally, I remember not so long ago large scale events for young people (MAYC London Weekends), filled the Great Hall and the feel of just how excited and refreshing that was to be involved with. Daffodil

day brought those memories back and I hope in the future that these sorts of events do continue for the next generation, so that as people of God we can understand a little more about him and each other as each day goes by.

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