

Melissa's Thought for the Month - April 2016

I know that you know that I am now “95 years young”! I don't do old! After all why should I? The Duke of Edinburgh is only six months younger than me and the Queen five years. They certainly are still filling their very public roles in Church and Country. I did notice today that there was no mention of the Royal Maundy but if I remember rightly we were told last year of its discontinuation as a public event. After all the changes in the value of money and the coming of the “Welfare State” make a big difference.

At the same time, people are living a great deal longer. Did I gather rightly that the oldest man is now 112 years old? I am sure that David Attenborough was shown on television going deeper in the ocean off the Great Barrier Reef of Australia than anyone has been before. That shows the wonders of modern technology inventing the “submersible”. He is I believe 88!

Being “old” is much more an attitude of mind than anything to do with years. A very long time ago one member of the Church Drama Group to which I then belonged was always “elderly in her approach to everything”. She would actually have been in her thirties, but so set in her approach to everything that there was no room for change or development of ideas.

When Jesus said “You can only enter the Kingdom of God ‘as a child’” I am sure he meant just that every child is asking questions. All my life I have been asking the questions, “What is it?”, “What is it called?”, “What does it do?”, “How does it do it?”, “Why does it?”.

Of course, I am still doing it! I chose to follow the science side in my later education. When I was very young the big question of the day was “Do you believe in Science or Religion?”. Many people stopped going to Church because they could see the way the scientific approach was logical. That was clear enough, what many failed to recognise was that there was no reason to “throw out the baby with the bath water”.

Science discovered gradually more and more about how the created world “worked”. Evolution may well demonstrate how living things developed over time, but it had nothing to say about how things come to be in the first place or where the grand delight of the Universe originated.

If we are to retain the child-like approach we need to keep on asking questions! I know that I still do. I still find new discoveries in space and in nuclear fusion are exciting. In the same way I am constantly learning more depth for the wonder of the love of the God we worship. It is good at the end of every day to be able to ask “What new aspect have I glimpsed today?” Our knowledge, our experience of God should grow a little every day or we should be asking “Why not?”.

Melissa.