

## Receiving

We have had a beautiful spring and I have spent more time in the garden than usual. One simple observation is that, having pruned back some large shrubs, the consequent growth and renewal of plants that were previously shaded has been very noticeable and rewarding. My reflection simply being that when we allow ourselves more space to receive God's light, we can grow and be renewed.

The author Selwyn Hughes in an issue of his daily devotional, tells a story about receiving, which happened at a time of darkness and deep despair in his life.

'Do you know what turned things around? It was a little bird. While I was sitting in a park feeling thoroughly disillusioned a sparrow hopped on to my hand. It stayed there for several minutes and, as I looked at it, I reflected on what an amazing bird a sparrow is. Through all the seasons of the year he continues with us here in Britain. Right through the wintry weather, through snow and the bleakest day in January the sparrow stays at home and braves the stormy blast. The thought came into my mind: "If he can fight, so can I". A sparrow sent by God pulled me back from the edge of despair.'

Nature has ways of 'speaking' to us that can be encouraging and restoring and refresh our spirits. Jesus said: "Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find".

One way of asking is to observe the wonderful world around us.

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