

A LETTER FROM REV RONA

Welcome to June! It's one of the best months in this country with the natural world reminding us of its beautiful presence all around us.

I wonder if you have come across the superb BBC Sounds series called Soul Music? Various songs are covered telling stories of people from around the world and how the song impacted them. I was listening to Otis Redding recently – *Sitting on the Dock of the Bay*. It is well worth a listen. But June seems to me the perfect month to 'sit on the dock', or a bench, or somewhere peaceful, and just contemplate the 'tide rolling away'. I say this, but many people cannot recall a time when they just sat idly resting and mulling things over.



That made me think about another piece of music – this one a well known hymn, '*Dear Lord and Father*'. One of the verses talks about Elijah when he met God on the top of Mount Horeb. God wasn't in the thunder, the wind, the earthquake, the fire, but God was in the sound of sheer silence. That's the kind of sound we hear when we sit on the dock of the bay. Maybe not even mulling things over, but simply listening to that 'sheer silence'.

Humans have active brains, and with the 24/7 input from multiple devices these days, it is even harder to hear that sheer silence – there is far too much noise (literal, and internal noise) drowning it out.

But as we enter June, let's feel encouraged to sit on the dock of the bay (or whatever our equivalent), to look at the natural world blooming around us, to listen to the sound of nature and become more aware of the sound of sheer silence. It is God's way of telling us of his profound love for us.

I wish you a happy and quiet June.

With love, Rev Rona