

August 2021 - Pond Life

Ponds come in all shapes and sizes, but for me most of them have something in common; I could sit and peer into them for ages! I've been peering into our pond recently.

Our pond is a recent addition to our garden; it's only had water in it for a few weeks. It began with excitement – we both love ponds – and planning. Where? How big? Where would the viewing spots around the edge be? Then, of course, hard work. It always amazes me just how much soil seems to come out of any hole you dig! And then, as with every pond we've ever dug, I had to slow down and resist the temptation to rush to fill the pond too soon, taking time instead to check the liner at each stage, putting in water and mud carefully.

Our new pond is already teeming with life; mosquito larvae, countless tiny wriggly things that I don't know the names of, and even a few diving beetles. The more closely I look, the more I see. And in my view, very little beats the pleasure of sitting by a pond as it gets dark, watching bats attracted to the water.

I like our pond because it is beautiful. But it also helps me reflect on my life and my faith. In life too, I suspect everything worth having has times when it feels like sheer hard work. There are times in life too when I need to slow down and reflect, and in my faith I find it absolutely essential to have times regularly when I let God be in charge and simply wait to see what will turn up. So far, God has always surprised and delighted me. With my faith, as with my pond, I find the deeper and more closely I look, the more I see, the more I learn and the more I feel rewarded. And like with the bats by my pond, I never know when I will notice God is there; sometimes I have to learn to wait patiently.

My prayer for myself and for us all, is that we will all discover ways in which we can explore God and our faith, and we will all grow to know him, and ourselves, better as we do so.

Yours in Christ,
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