

God is present

By Jenny Hayes, Okehampton Quaker Meeting

I was given a card with a picture of a carving of these words on it.

‘Bidden or not bidden
God is present.’

These words have been translated from the Latin writings of Desiderius Erasmus. I believe they are true.

To bring that truth alive, it helps to connect it with everyday experience. The author John O’Donohue, expresses one aspect of God’s presence very clearly.

‘Your capacity to care is God; we are vulnerable because we carry in us a deep strain of God’s caring. Our love for our friends and family, our concern for the world and for the earth, our compassion for the pain and desperation of others are not simply the product of an ‘unselfish gene’ within us. They issue from that strain of God within us that prizes above everything the kindness and compassion that love brings. Anywhere care comes alive, God is present.’

Awareness of the presence of God can come to us through various avenues, the love and caring of others, the beauty of springtime, a sense of peace or consolation and in countless other ways.

The awakening and prompting of our caring for other people, prepares a place from which we are able to act with true humanity. When we respond to that prompting, God’s presence in us can be wonderfully tangible and life-enhancing.

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