



PICTURE OF THE WEEK

9th May 2020

Mary Northen

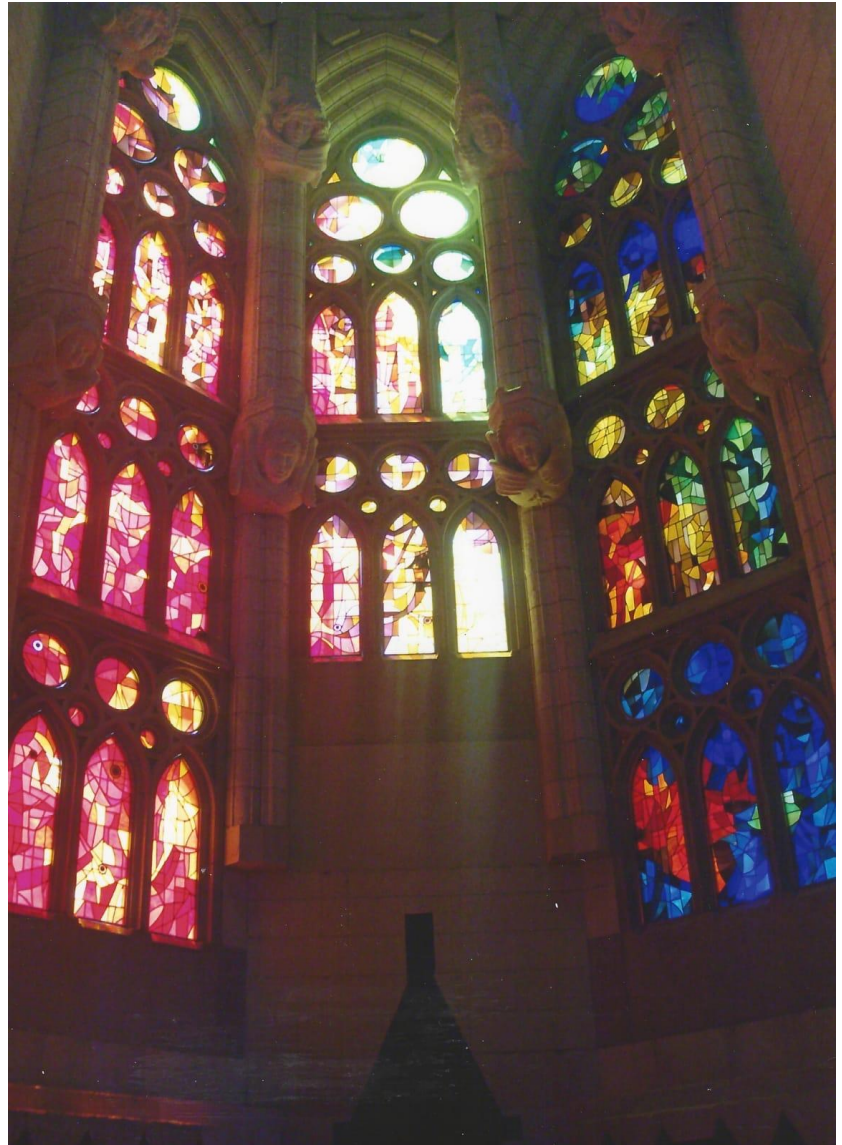
Stained glass windows and rainbows.

This is my photograph- capturing for me a moment in time. I am no photographer, and the light and angle etc are all wrong. But, nonetheless, it gives a glimpse of the incredible colours illuminated as the rays of sunshine shone through the windows of the Sagrada Familia - the cathedral designed by Antoni Gaudi in Barcelona. (Later to be concentrated as a basilica)

It was a moment I will never forget. Although there were so many other tourists present at that moment, there was a stillness and a feeling of peace and indeed, awe, as we almost breathed in the cacophony of colour irradiated by the sunshine. It was wonderful and a lovely appreciation of the diversity of the colours and beauty in God's natural world.

Antoni Gaudi was nicknamed "God's Architect, and his works were primarily influenced by his passions - architecture, nature and religion. He started his work on the cathedral in 1883, when he took over as chief architect and continued until his death in 1926. He was quoted as saying "my client(God) ...is not in a hurry". And he believed that God had all the time in the world, so there was no need to rush its completion. In fact, still is unfinished, it has an estimated completion date of 2026- this being by then, a very long time in the making.

The building itself is a very controversial one- and it evokes all extremes of feelings, from curiosity, admiration and wonder, to downright dislike; indeed George Orwell called it the



"ugliest building on earth." But I don't think anyone could deny the beauty of the windows.

It was in these recent days of seeing rainbows in windows everywhere, in support of the NHS, that I remembered the beams of sunshine illuminating all the colours of the rainbow in the cathedral, the colours from God's natural world. And the sense of peace, reassurance and joy that it gave me.

And in these difficult times, and even in "life before covid19", when things have been difficult, the inexplicable beauty and wonder of God's natural world has always reassured me in my faith - making me think of the age old words "there must be a God".

I am, I know, one of the lucky ones, in having a garden. To work in, to dig, to grow plants or just to sit in. And it brings me great peace and joy. Sitting here this afternoon I can hear the vibrant song of "my " little robin - the one who shares the task of my digging , supervising !!! And then taking the worms to feed his family.

And the colours of the glass windows, of rainbows and of the beauty of nature, all bring joy and hope.

And as the words on the card someone sent me recently said, - "with all its broken dreams..... it is still a beautiful world".

God's very precious world.