

St James News: Thought for the day – Tuesday 30 June 2020

Pets – Jill Howard-Gunasekera

So many times pets relieve, on an almost spiritual level, a loneliness of spirit. They oftentimes force a smile from us, even if our thoughts before seeing them were far from smiley!

Their support to us is often through their trust and gentleness towards us, their playfulness and humour; their sixth sense at picking up on our moods.

It's time to play, Georgey seems to say, as he stretches out full length at the side of my keyboard, ...I know you're not gonna be able to concentrate for too long with me here!!

Georgey also sometimes gets into the cupboard where he knows we keep his treats if he feels we're being a bit lame in providing them at the appropriate moments.

We've hung a cloth up on our bookcase (ZOOM staging) for the Sunday service. It drapes down to the floor, I walked into the room this morning and Clara was fixated on the cloth, I wondered what she was looking at. Then I noticed a bit of a swishing tale peaking out. Georgey was playing, it seemed to me, wanting Clara to join in. As he sneaked out at one end, she gave him a large bat on his head!

They do make me laugh! And laughter apparently or cheeriness, however it comes to us has been scientifically researched it seems, to help us physically and mentally. After giving a group of people a common cold in a psychology experiment (they'd agreed to it) psychologists, who'd already given them a battery of tests to see if they were optimists or pessimists, wondered if the optimists would do better at fighting off the cold and not getting it quite so severely. It turned out there was not much difference, in the severity – however they noticed that the people who had a 'more cheery disposition, who smiled a lot more and found some sort of 'merriment' in their situation', recovered quicker.

Jesus also I think has a sense of humour, the great party miracle of turning the water into wine, I can see him enjoying the joke, that it wasn't really a miracle many would notice, apart from the master of the banquet, as they were probably

rather impervious to the quality of the wine at that point.

Bible Reading: [John 2:1-11](#)

Song: [I've got a love song in my heart by Matt Redman](#)

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, draw our hearts to yours with a love that is irresistible; unite our hearts to yours with a love that is immeasurable, and bind our hearts to yours with a love that is inseparable; now and for ever. Amen.

Miles Coverdale (1488-1568)