Bradford North Prayer Column: November 2025

Earphones and acorns

Are you among those who walk about wired up with ear buds or headphones? More and more people seem to, and it rather prevents casual greetings or passing remarks as you meet on a path. If they don't just pass by, deep in their electronic world, they have to snatch them off with a, "Sorry, what?" It may dull traffic noise for them, but it must also deafen them to shouted warnings. What are they all listening to? I always imagine it to be some sort of music, but for all I know it could be Radio 4, or even a blogged Bible message: and as we watch their inner hearts may be being touched, opening to a seed being sown – that word of God that can grow into a great tree, a sturdy oak of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, for his glory (Is 61:3). Pray that it may be so.

The mention of oaks reminds me that this has been a remarkably good mast year, with heaps of acorns dropped under trees. And it occurs to me that each acorn has a potential for growth, if jays or squirrels don't get them first, and they don't get trodden underfoot. Each might turn out different: size, branching patterns, life span, quality of timber, and beauty of grain. And each would have to make the best of the terrain it fell into. We can't tell in advance. Nor can we tell the potential of a newborn Christian – those in whose hearts the seed of the Word has just been sown. It depends on their nature and circumstances, and even more on the path the Lord chooses for them and the spiritual gifts he bestows upon them, just as it has with the rest of us, and is doing still. Pray for each other, and with each other, tuned into God as we do.

Roy Lorrain-Smith

A prayer for each week

Seed-sowing Lord, casting your word widely to all who will listen, please open the ears that have been unable to hear, that you may be glorified. Amen.

Culturing God, nurturing all fresh cotyledons, and training up saplings in the way they shown grow, please continue to guide us all, day by day. Amen.

Harvesting God, eager to reap from your people the benefits they bear, please bring our work fully to fruition, that it may delight and glorify you. Amen.

O God of glory, rejoicing in your oaks of righteousness, revelling in their beauty and fidelity, may we all sense your presence and share your joy. Amen.

Your own prayers