

TFD#63 23rd June 2021 "Summer Solstice"

Thank you Mark, and good morning everyone. Well believe it or not we have now passed the longest day. On Monday morning the sun rose at 4:38am but from here on in, the days are getting a tiny bit shorter and the nights a tiny bit longer. Don't let that depress you because, we still have the summer ahead of us, and by all accounts the next couple of weeks will be quite hot.

The summer solstice is made famous by the Druids, many of whom meet at Stonehenge on 21st June each year to worship the sun. This year numbers were lower due to Covid, and actually people gathered there against government advice, but it all seems to have passed off safely and peacefully¹.

I didn't know much about Druidry, so looked online to discover a bit about their beliefs. It's quite interesting. The British Druidry Order has its own website² and Druidry was officially recognised as a religion under charity law in 2010, allowing them to receive tax free donations like the Church of England³.

Writer Emma Restall-Orr explains in "What is Druidry?"⁴ that it's a polytheistic faith and philosophy of living that gives space and honour to any deity but in principle worships the spirits and deities of a person's local environment.

Apparently with its emphasis on spirituality and the environment it's spreading among young people who have become disaffected by organised religion.

Well I don't know if anyone listening today is attracted to the Druid beliefs and practices, it would be lovely to meet you, but can I tell you as a Church of England minister why I find it wonderful to be a Christian. Christians believe that Jesus Christ himself is the creator of everything. In the Bible, referring to Jesus, it says, "Through him all things were made without him nothing was made that has been made" (John 1:3), and "For in Jesus, all things were created, things in heaven and on earth... all things have been created through him and for him" (Colossians 1:18).

So we believe everything is made by Jesus and for Jesus. That's why I don't worship rivers or the moon or (at this Summer solstice), the Sun, as much as we all appreciate it. It was made by Jesus and for Jesus. It's a privilege through Jesus Christ to know the one who made us and who loves us, and with whom we can have a personal relationship. Get in touch if you want to chat more. Meanwhile, enjoy the sunshine, the weather is set to be blue skies over Huntingdon all day today- what a great gift from above for us all. Thanks for listening.

Followed by "Here comes the Sun" by the Beatles.

¹ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-wiltshire-57550606>

² <https://www.druidry.co.uk/>

³ <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/druids-recognized-as-religion-in-the-uk/>

⁴ <https://druidnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/What-is-Druidry.pdf>