

Love for the Future

David Osbourne

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We are on a journey into an unknown future and it doesn't look good. To make a difficult journey you need the right equipment and skills. So, as we face serious environmental and social problems such as climate change, mass migration, pollution and species loss we need new technology and new ideas.

But for a long and hard journey attitude and character are also important. In this week we will be exploring what it is that we need in order to face the future and be able to respond creatively to its challenges. David Osborne believes that among other things we need a sense of wonder, humility and true simplicity; compassion, justice and a change of attitude with regard to the world; and also faith, hope and wisdom. Holding these together we need love.

None of these is achieved once and for all. They require us to develop and practise disciplines in which we open ourselves to the energy of the loving creator God. These disciplines are not esoteric practices. They are simply ways of being human, which are good for us, and good for the world. They include taking time to look at what we are a part of, and to perhaps get mucky as we handle the soil from which everything grows; using our imaginations to get into other people's situations, and taking action to make them better; thinking about our own lives, what we really need, and what is actually important; telling stories and listening to other people's; making music, praying about our concerns, and worshipping God.

Much of this happens in a normal week at Iona Abbey. In this particular week we will be considering how these can be a part of our lives in other places as well, and how they can enable us to be people with love for the future.

David Osborne has been an Anglican priest for thirty years, and a Member of the Iona Community for fifteen. He has also been an engineer in Scotland, a schoolteacher in England and Nigeria, and involved in adult education, training and consultancy in various parts of the UK. He has contributed to



various Wild Goose publications, including *Pushing the Boat Out: New Poetry* and *Dandelions and Thistles: Biblical Meditations*, and is the author of *The Owl and the Stereo: an Introduction to Radical Christianity*. He also wrote *The Country Vicar*, published by Darton, Longman and Todd, and *Pilgrimage*, published by Grove Books.

David is currently the Rector of four parishes in Somerset which include the Glastonbury Festival. He was instrumental in developing the Diocese of Bath and Wells environment policy and chairs his local Green Group. His reflections on journeys draw on his own experience of long solitary walks in Britain and mainland Europe, as well as reading of other people's travels. His other interests include music and birdwatching.