



The Seventh Sunday after Trinity, 26th July 2020

Dear Friends,

Last Tuesday, July 21st, the Church in Wales celebrated, as it does every year, the life of Howell Harris. He was born at Trefeca, near Talgarth in 1714 and became a schoolmaster at Llangors and Llangasty between 1732 and 1735. On Whit Sunday 1735 he underwent what is described as a profound religious experience after receiving communion. As a result, he held informal services with his neighbours, urging them to pray and receive the sacrament. Despite being refused ordination in the Church of England, he continued to preach, and, together with Daniel Rowland and William Williams Pantycelyn, he became one of the leaders of the 18th century Welsh Methodist revival.

In my sermon on the Parable of the Mustard Seed, which was part of today's Gospel Reading, I mentioned the life of Howell Harris as an example of great things starting from small beginnings, which is one of the messages of this parable.

Metaphorically speaking, there are mustard seeds in each of us. Like the seeds in the parable they can germinate into something much larger; something that we can do for God, for the church and for the community using the gifts, skills and abilities that God has given us.

As we read the Parable of the Mustard Seed, may we take time to discern the mustard seeds within us and ask God to give us the courage to let them germinate. They may not appear to us to germinate into anything great, but their germination will enable us to play our part in God's service.

With every good wish

Jeff

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