

Friday Evening Message – 10 April 2020

"If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?"

Hillel's familiar saying inspired me to put together these simple thoughts. Perhaps the Hillel sandwich from the Seder was in the back of my mind...

Anyway, it set me thinking about how we look after ourselves and others, particularly during these difficult days.

I find great peace, comfort and spirituality in observing the natural world. My love of nature and its transcendent power is captured, in my opinion, in this lovely poem that I discovered. I hope it speaks to you too.

Tall Nettles by Edward Thomas

*Tall nettles cover up, as they have done
These many springs, the rusty harrow, the plough
Long worn out, and the roller made of stone:
Only the elm butt tops the nettles now.*

*This corner of the farmyard I like most:
As well as any bloom upon a flower
I like the dust on the nettles, never lost
Except to prove the sweetness of a shower.*

And I couldn't resist something from Winnie the Pooh by A.A. Milne. I've used it before in school assemblies before, and in fact, it appeared in a corporate email I was sent earlier in the week to remind us that none of us is alone.

**"Piglet sidled up to Pooh from behind.
"Pooh!" he whispered.
"Yes, Piglet?"
"Nothing," said Piglet, taking Pooh's paw.
"I just wanted to be sure of you."**

Shabbat shalom everybody.

Peter

Norwich Liberal Jewish Community

norwichljc.org.uk

