

## Sources of Inspiration

Ever since I have been compiling 'Side Notes' to accompany the weekly emailed service sheet, whilst the church has been closed for public worship, I have been looking and listening for inspiration for different topics. Some of the strangest ideas came to mind and, as I wanted issues that were interesting as well as informative, some made it and others didn't.

Not a lot of the content has been about faith or church, but every now and then there was the odd line, in a programme I watched or that I read, that made me stop and think - about faith in general, my faith or what was happening in my life at that point.

Below are three that made me want to share the way I saw them. Maybe, as you continue your day after reading this, you may hear something that relates to the way you feel either personally or spiritually and you might reflect on it in a different way.

### **'A wall grabs a shadow out of the air'** (*Gardener's World*)

This came from a feature on a grasses garden in America. It was about how architecture interacts with gardens, and the person being interviewed explained that he liked walls in his garden because they are surfaces for shadows to dance on.

This struck a chord with me as shadows are very much like our personal faith. They can be weak or strong, dependant on the environment or the focus that is on them. Every so often, what we say or do is visible to others, just as shadows are seen on a wall. Those experiences can be fleeting or long-lasting, but memorable. We should always be on the look-out- for the shadows of others, but I hope that the shadow we cast is one that is created by faith.

### **'Be a signal rather than a noise'** (*David McCandless*)

This line was from a presentation given to my company about the understanding and visualisation of data, and how, rather than just turning out the same old thing day after day, you should look at your contribution to the process and rather than being part of the noise of delivery. You should be a signal that people

can tune into and from which get clear understanding. With faith, a lot of the time, I feel I am part of the noise. The ongoing process that happens day-in, day-out and doesn't make a huge difference, but every now and then there is a clear signal that lets me get past the noise and direct my faith for a wider purpose. I think 'Side Notes' has let me be understood a little clearer, as many of the topics are from inside my head, but I feel that I am just less noisy and nearer a signal. However, there are many at church who are emitting loud and clear signals, allowing others to tune in and expand their faith by the message they transmit.

### **'You are like a kite, dancing in a hurricane'** (*Spectre*)

I was watching Spectre one evening, and James Bond had been foiled. His nemesis, Ernst Stavro Blofeld, uttered the line to him as he was trying to make sense of the situation, which was hard to comprehend.

At work, things have been incredibly busy for me and the responsibility seems to be layering up as lockdown continues. During this period, I have had to undergo some very steep learning curves to understand new processes and systems. At times, my head was a jumble of facts that made little sense and, owing to the volume, I was struggling to the point that I expected to forget some detail that would have a large effect on my work.

This line about the kite made me realise that that was how I felt at that time; so much information to process in too many directions. The lesson I learnt from this was that if you

feel the wind of pressure blowing too hard, reach out for support and don't get sucked up into the hurricane. Use the support of others to help you get through the storm. The same can be said for many things that happen to us in life and there is nothing wrong in asking for help from people you know will support you.

If you hear or see a line that catches your ear or eye, take a second to see why it resonates with you. You may discover a little more about yourself or your faith.

**Simon Watts**