

PASTOR'S PATCH



Here in the UK we don't see a lot of what goes on in the spying community. It happens in the shadows. There could easily be an MI5 or MI6 member among us in the congregation, but we wouldn't know about it.

Colonel Oleg Antonyevich Gordievsky was one such spy. He had risen through KGB ranks to chief of the London station. The only problem was, he was a British spy. We shouldn't think it only happens that way around; the shoe can just as easily be on the other foot, just think of the Harold Philby case in the 1900's.

Hebrews 13:1-2 says, *"Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."*

Yes, God has his spies too! Sometimes they come as angels, and there are records of people saying they had an encounter with someone, but that person was unknown to anyone and never seen again. Angels? There is also the story of the soon to be new Minister who turned up for his first service dirty, and in tramps clothing. He was roundly ignored and badly welcomed. It was only when the church elders got up to say that the new Minister was expected but had not yet arrived, that he got up and introduced himself. Oops.

Clearly I could not have performed that feat because I'm no make-up artist like Sherlock Holmes and I fancy you would all have recognised the ruse!

But the principle remains. As we open ourselves daily to shining the light of Jesus into our fellowship and throughout the community, we must be constantly in prayer to ensure we keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters and showing hospitality. In fact hospitality is one of the nine core spiritual disciplines given in *Rule of Life – Practising the Way* (<https://www.practicingtheway.org>), apart of course from being very scriptural. Let's love, and practise hospitality, regardless of who we meet.

Colin Opie