

PASTOR'S PATCH

Alternative perspectives



Once again I was at Buckfast Abbey to meet and pray with friends. Having some minutes to spare before our agreed meeting time, I decided to walk and enjoy the grounds and Abbey. Coming to the Millennium Garden the sign on the right-hand arch says "Entrance". Being contrary, I entered through the left-hand arch labelled "Exit"! Often, such paths and trails are laid out to see things in a certain way: by doing it in reverse I was seeing an alternative perspective.

This reminded me of my spiritual journals. Every day or two I write a journal entry to record my thoughts, prayers and activities. Like many others down through the centuries, I find it so cathartic and helpful just to put into words freshly arising from the day. I also then read back in my journals to the same month in a previous year. So just now I shall be reading from March 2024 / 2023 / 2022 etc. This too provides an alternative perspective. I read things that I may have forgotten about: worries and concerns, questions and thoughts, conversations and events. I'll often then marvel at how trivial some of those worries were, how answers to questions later became obvious, and particularly how the Lord always met me at my point of need and answered my prayers in gentle, surprising or even miraculous ways. Even when I have been unfaithful, untrusting and ungrateful, the Lord has been gracious and faithful to me.

The Psalmist confidently proclaims :

*Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in obedience to him.
You will eat the fruit of your labour; blessings and prosperity will be yours.
Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots round your table.
Yes, this will be the blessing for the man who fears the Lord.*
(Psalm 128:1-5)

CHALLENGE

So why not take a reverse walk in your mind as well? Walk back through the years of your life, recall the events, challenges, joys and difficulties you have encountered. As a believer, behind every one of them you will spot the Lord close at hand gently leading and guiding you towards Himself. If you are not a believer, I can assure you the Lord was just as much watching over you, willing you to walk in His way and know His blessing all through your life. So find an alternative perspective on your life, and give thanks to God.

Darrell



GO BUILD!

FAMILY ACTIVITY DAY

FOR AGES 5- 10 YEARS

SATURDAY 8th MARCH 10am - 2pm
BRIXHAM BAPTIST CHURCH HALL

**CRAFTS, TEAM GAMES,
PUPPETS, LUNCH & MORE!**

**FREE
ENTRY**

Please book via our website www.brixhambaptist.org.uk



For more information contact
Maria Orton CYF Pastor on 07809 186963

Jonathan Oliverio presents.....

The Brixham Spring Sing!!

An afternoon of vintage Gospel singing!

Saturday 29th March at 2.30pm

at Brixham United Reformed Church

Teas and refreshments available.....

Entry is free.....

A retirement collection will be taken for the work of Cycle Torbay.