



Something Different

Because he lives  
I can face tomorrow  
Because he lives  
All fear is gone  
Because I know he holds the future  
And life is worth the living  
Just because he lives

## From Kevin Maltby

*"Just been going through Gill Parkin's Godly play - as you say, a real treat. One comment coincided with a thought I've been having in my daily walks and Thursday applause moments, that, on balance, people seem nicer and more aware of each other. It brought to mind (inevitably, with a mind like mine) an early exchange in 'A Christmas Carol' when nephew Fred visits Scrooge –"*

"Bah!" said Scrooge, "Humbug!"

"Uncle!" pleaded the nephew.

"Nephew!" returned the uncle, sternly, "keep Christmas in your own way, and let me keep it in mine."

"Keep it!" repeated Scrooge's nephew. "But you don't keep it."

"Let me leave it alone, then," said Scrooge. "Much good may it do you! Much good it has ever done you!"

"There are many things from which I might have derived good, by which I have not profited, I dare say," returned the nephew, "Christmas among the rest.

But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round, as a good time:

a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time:

the women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely,

and to think of people as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave,

and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys.

And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it *has* done me good, and *will* do me good; and I say, God bless it!"

*And therefore, I've been thinking, it is important we should say, as Scrooge said towards the end of his transformation,*

*"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."*

And on a similar theme

*A Painting a Day ... Jenny Hawke*

It seems the strangest thing that isolation is actually growing a daily miracle.

Friendships are deepening.

Connections strengthened where before familiarity brought a flippant care.

And I am again overjoyed by the truth that we are all innately good.

Good to one another.

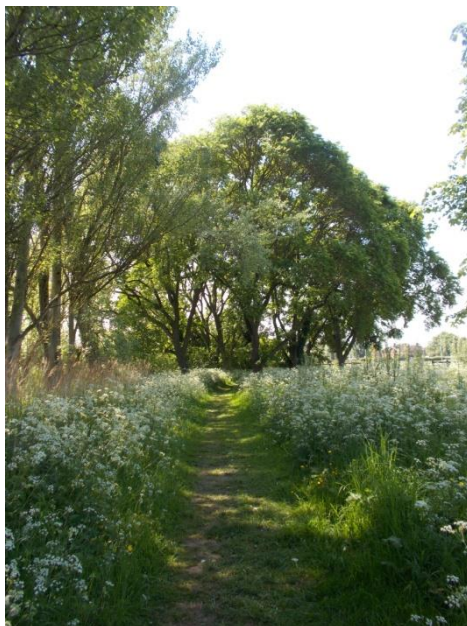
Good to strangers as well as to friends.

As Rob Bell famously wrote in one of his books, "Love wins!"

Love always wins, and so often it's displayed amongst the minutiae of our lives, sprinkled like fairy dust over weary hearts.

We are beginning to dance to a music we thought we had forgotten.

So dance on my friends, and when this is over, let's take the music on with us into whatever comes next.



Scarlett has written her own response to Psalm 23 after suffering Covid 19.

The Lord Is My Shepherd I shall not want

He makes me lie down in the sunshine in my own garden

He leads me through the stillness of the lockdown.

He restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his names sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley that is Covid 19 I fear no evil.

For you are with me

Your rod and staff, codeine and paracetamol comfort me and aid my recovery.

You prepare a table before me

Despite panic-buying in the supermarket.

You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me through the lockdown

and all the days of my life.

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.



A song you might like to listen to ...

## The Blessing

*At this unique and challenging time in the United Kingdom over 65 churches and movements, representing hundreds of others, have come together online to sing a blessing over our land. Standing together as one, our desire is that this song will fill you with hope and encourage you.*

The Lord bless you  
And keep you  
Make His face shine upon you  
And be gracious to you  
The Lord turn His  
Face toward you  
And give you peace

Amen, amen, amen  
Amen, amen, amen

As we receive, we agree, amen

May His favor be upon you  
And a thousand generations  
Your family and your children  
And their children, and their children

May His presence go before you  
And behind you, and beside you  
All around you, and within you  
He is with you, He is with you

In the morning, in the evening  
In your coming, and your going  
In your weeping, and rejoicing  
He is for you, He is for you

He is for you, He is for you  
Amen, amen, amen  
Amen, amen, amen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUtll3mNj5U&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1fj5YBYvOTIDw1TbubS8fsgxOYou8nStN43MXKbgpXFimQ7TqbXKdxb8Y>

Or search for “The Blessing UK”