



# Castlehill Angel

## Christus resurrexit!

Dear family

It has been a year since the last edition of *Castlehill Angel* largely because of the difficult events that dominated much of the Cathedral's life during that period. Those events have left their deep scars in the lives of many individuals and in our community life together. But if Easter is about anything, it is about the death of one who bears those scars and his rising to new life bringing us with him to new beginnings.

This year, as we do each year at Easter, we contemplate resurrection – resurrection discovered in the early morning by women visiting the tomb of a crucified itinerant preacher who had upset the religious authorities two thousand years ago and resurrection today. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is either a load of nonsense or it was the greatest event in human history. And I believe the latter more than ever and that were it not so, we and hundreds of thousands of Christian communities across the world today consisting of several hundred million people would not be gathering each year to celebrate Easter.

But it is all rendered meaningless unless we, the body of Christ, the Church, grasp the new life that is offered through Jesus. We need to put on our resurrection glasses and begin to see everything around us in the light of resurrection. 'Behold I make all things new; do you not perceive it?'

We also need sometimes to remember that for resurrection to happen, death must first occur. Before every Easter there is

Good Friday. John's Gospel says that 'unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies it bears much fruit.' There are things we all need to let go of in our lives, to let die in order for resurrection to happen. Perhaps it is the mere routine of church life or the habits that crowd out spontaneity or perhaps it's prejudice of one sort or another we need to let go of. The much loved and recently departed John Humphreys (great friend of Susie Schofield and URC minister) wrote that God created life and created us for life: life to be lived with celebration, joy and with love for the sharing of God's Kingdom, the speaking of God's justice and in gratitude for God's grace. And it's all the things that stop us from doing that which are the things that need to die within us. That is true of us all as individuals but it is also true of us as a community.

A stone's throw away from the Cathedral, the old water front of Dundee was dying. It was decaying and ugly. And now it's gone. Tayside House, the Hilton Hotel, the casino, numerous flyovers to the Bridge, the 1960s railway station – all gone! And after a period of desolation, the rising black hulk (or perhaps hull) of the V&A, the meccano-style construction of the new railway station and hotel, the green expanse of Slessor Gardens and Malmaison are all coming into being. New life bringing new hope and optimism for the city. Such hope and optimism should be infectious. And it is a wonderful opportunity to be infected; to seize upon that optimism and re-energise, breathe new life into the redevelopment of the Cathedral buildings to give it new life in a city that itself is celebrating new life.

The events of the last year have stalled the development process and now is the time to raise it from the dust that is gathering on the plans. And in the midst of that, we need to ask the hard questions of what we retain and what we let go. And there will be pain in that process but it is absolutely necessary if new life is to flourish. Your Vestry has decided to let go of the side aisle pews on the pulpit side which are rarely occupied to allow tables and chairs to be set up for coffee hour on a Sunday and at other times. This will mean that this really important and growing part of our life together can be more spacious and comfortable. The Ark Nursery with the Vestry are letting go of some of their respective rainy day pots to allow St Roque's Hall to be redeveloped this year allowing endless possibilities for its use. Good Friday becomes Easter Day.

The same applies to the diocese. The Bishop is retiring and I believe some very hard questions need to be asked – do we let go of some of our numerous church buildings, do we do ministry in a radically different way and, if so, how? Should we even be a separate diocese? Should we be letting go of some of the structures that might allow new shoots of growth and vitality? These are all questions I believe we need to be asking in the coming months.

But in the meantime, I want once again to thank you, my Cathedral family, for your love and support over the last year. Ian Cowie of the Iona Community speaks of 'Havens of Welcome' in reflecting on the hospitality given to Jesus in Bethany as people turned against him after the cries of Hosanna on Palm Sunday. Martha, Mary and Lazarus offered a haven of welcome and understanding in the midst of strife. So many people are in need of such a haven and I know many of us have found that at St Paul's – so many of you have told me that; I did not realise until this last year that I would be one of

them. Let us never lose that; indeed, let's build on it.

And so drawing on both Ian Cowie and John Humphreys, may our hearts and homes be like that home in Bethany making space for those in need. For it is then that we welcome the risen Christ. May we live for, with and in God freely, willingly and delightfully reaching for the passion of Jesus because then the new life of Christ will shine from us as individuals and as a community.

I wish you all a joyous and blessed Easter – indeed, as one Bishop puts it, fifty days of unremitting joy!

With love

*Jeremy*



# IT'S NOT WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING AT, IT'S WHAT YOU SEE THAT MATTERS!

'Wake me up if there's anything interesting out there' said Mike, the retired Army officer sitting opposite me as we pulled out of Delhi station early on a misty February morning bound for Agra on the Gatiman express train. The Gatiman is India's fastest train and according to the timetable, it covers the 200kms between Delhi and Agra in 100 minutes..... though in practice it runs on Indian time and so arrives every day, on average, 23 minutes late.

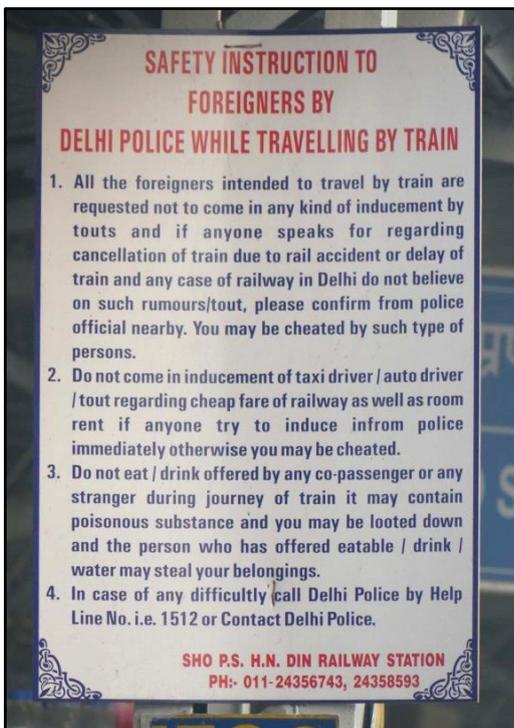
My sleepy interlocutor and his wife were one of nine couples I travelled with for two weeks in February on a journey around India's Golden Triangle from Delhi to Agra and Jaipur and back to Delhi with a short detour to Ranthambhore National Park to look for tigers. Two days in Delhi had already marked me out to my fellow travellers as some sort of photography 'geek' or possibly even a photography freak! "I mean, why else would she be taking pictures of rubbish?" Conversations at dinner hadn't yet got round to the 'recently retired geography teacher' bit and my assertion that I

consequently see things differently. I often wonder when I found my geographical eye, nurtured and encouraged as it was by my wonderful teacher of Geography at school but one day the eye opened and I started to look at the world in a different way. The problem is that once you've found it, it becomes addictive. As my daughter once said, "Why do you always have to turn a perfectly good holiday into a fieldtrip?"

And so, on that morning in February, having avoided being defrauded, poisoned or robbed at the station and, while the ex Army officer and his wife settled down to snooze away the miles to Agra, I installed myself beside the window, got out some hand gel and tissues (indispensable on trips to the sub continent!), cleaned the window to a sparkle and looked out on the passing view as city gave way to suburbs and suburbs merged into countryside. Here is just a flavour of what I saw and captured with my camera lens. It's not perhaps what you

might expect as photographic souvenirs of a trip to India but bear with me.....

Before the train left the station, I'd taken two images which speak of the reality of life for many Indians.. ... the first shows a young man collecting rubbish, mainly plastic bottles, to earn a few rupiah from a recycling plant and the second the manual labour which still underpins much of the Indian economy. There are 18 men working around the railway tracks in the scene, almost all of whom are lifting, carrying, dragging or pushing, apparently with little regard for health and safety or the train approaching from the left! Most of these men are casual labour who turn up every day in the hope of being hired for the going daily



rate of about £10. Unemployment and underemployment remain a major problem for India's urban poor but cheap labour fuels many sectors of the economy. Commodities, in cardboard boxes and

bales are still moved in huge quantities by hand but the process puts roofs over heads and food in stomachs.



One of my most persistent and worrying memories of India is plastic rubbish. Plastic lies around everywhere mainly in the form of water bottles, plastic bags, food containers and discarded packaging. Household rubbish, much of which is in various stages of malodorous decomposition, is bulked out with the unmistakable colours of discarded plastic. Waste ground beside the railway lines provides convenient tips and is littered with the detritus which the march of modern convenience leaves in its wake.....



Apart from the visual pollution which the plastic creates, there are serious long term impacts on the environment. However, it also threatens the well-being of India's sacred cows which are dying daily in their hundreds across India from the complications of ingesting plastic as they forage on rubbish tips.

The 'plastic problem' is fast becoming a major environmental issue for India as these recent articles in the India Times will explain if you'd like to learn more:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Indias-problem-with-plastic/articleshow/53615734.cms>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Cattle-class-survives-on-plastics-nails-wires/articleshow/53596109.cms>



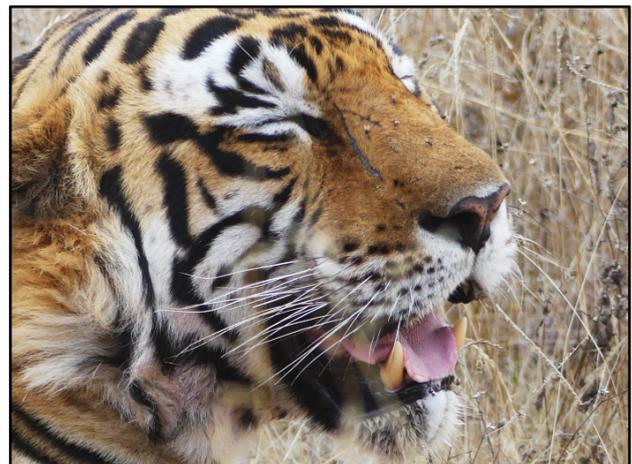
Once you leave the sprawling metropolitan area of Delhi and its satellite towns behind, most of the journey to Agra takes the rail traveller through the rich agricultural lands of Uttar Pradesh. A child of the 60s, I remember vividly Sunday school lessons about the starving millions of India. While I wouldn't wish to give the impression that the spectre of hunger no longer stalks the country, the rail journey certainly confirmed that in this corner of India at least, there have been huge improvements in agriculture mainly deriving from the implementation of the so-called Green Revolution. Much of the farmed land produces two or even three crops of wheat in a year, assisted by irrigation and the use of high yielding varieties and has seen production of wheat double in the last 30 years. For many miles we sped through wheat fields which stretched as far as the eye could see. However, man cannot live by bread alone and increased calorie intake and a reduction in hunger does not necessarily reduce the incidence of malnutrition which is still rife among India's children.



Over bridges which offered tantalising views of rural life to our arrival in Agra, there was plenty for my geographical eye to look at and to see but in case you're wondering, I didn't wake Mike!

Now, I do understand that there will be some people who are reading this who do not share my enthusiasm for the informal sector of employment, environmental degradation or wheat yields and will be wondering what else I saw so the following are for you.....

.....beautiful reflections at the Taj Mahal and the most humungous and gorgeous Bengal tiger.



*Val Vannet*

# Lent Study, March 2017

**“All God’s creation is included in the redemption of the world”.**

This year the Lent study groups focused on our responsibility as Christian people to care for God’s creation. The source book was A Christian Guide to Environmental Issues by Martin and Margot Hodson who are closely



connected with the work of A Rocha (The Rock) a Christian environmental organisation which originated in Portugal. A Rocha now has a ministry in many nations worldwide, teaching and living out a sustainable Christian lifestyle in community. God’s covenant, which brings about a relationship of commitment between God and the whole of creation is the foundation of this way of life.

So, in the first session, we thought about the integrity of creation. We confronted the global, too often harmful, sometimes devastating effects of modern civilisation, recognising that humans have had an impact everywhere on earth – from the depths of the oceans to the upper atmosphere. Has the church neglected

its environmental responsibility because the emphasis of Christian teaching is on the relationship of people with God and with each other, the rest of creation as a backdrop to human activity?

***“Environmental issues pose a significant threat to the integrity of God’s creation.”***

Following sessions explored the effects of this activity on climate, water, soil and development. Bible readings for each session anchored our thinking in the wholeness of God’s love for all creation. Readings from the Hebrew Bible showed that in biblical times people had a deep insight into God’s love for the whole of creation, aware that humankind depends on all other animal and plant life. The same world view is found in Christian Scriptures . We read the parable of the Good Samaritan. In an environmental context, who is our neighbour, in need of fresh water to drink, good earth to till and conditions for healthy life and growth?

***“Through resurrection we become co-workers with Christ”.***

In their final chapter, A Covenant for Hope, the authors of our study guide admit that they reached a point of despair in which threats to the environment worldwide seemed insuperable and irreversible. They regained hope by learning about successful projects in Europe, New Zealand and Africa; and by involvement in local actions in communities.

***“The parable of the mustard seed shows that just making a few changes we can have a huge effect”***



## Finally: a brainstorm...

In addition to what we already do - within the cathedral community and as individuals - we could undertake the following:

- Enrol the Cathedral as an Eco Congregation
- \* More volunteers to work with the Castlehill Gardeners; perhaps grow vegetables in the tubs
- \* Make a renewed effort to make our buildings as energy efficient as we can – new lighting, heating etc.
- \* Raise the profile of Fairtrade
- \* Calculate our own carbon footprint and that of the Cathedral
- \* Toilet twinning
- \* Eat less meat especially beef



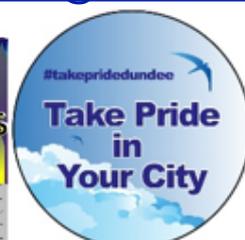
*“God, through Jesus has made his covenant with each of us. The covenant is with us, the earth and God. So we should not feel defeated by all the poverty etc, because we are connected through this covenant and all will be GOOD”*

Margaret Geyer

## CASTLEHILL GARDENERS AND BONNIE DUNDEE

Castlehill Gardeners look after the garden on the corner, the small raised part in the corner behind the low wall and the containers. Our aim is to make the front look as bright and cheerful as possible and to bring ‘a touch of the countryside’ to the corner site with bird-feeders attracting the birds who can be heard singing and chattering. The area provides an excellent education platform for the nursery children who learn about the visiting birds, insects, bees and butterflies. We welcome donations of flowering plants for our summer display and bird food which can be left in the cathedral for us to collect. If you would like to help please email [Catherine.lawson@hotmail.com](mailto:Catherine.lawson@hotmail.com)

We are also part of the Bonnie Dundee Group who work in close partnership with Dundee City Council in preparation for Beautiful Scotland judging in early August. The group look after 56 tubs throughout the city, a garden in the Slessor Gardens, Urban Orchard and a community herb bed at the back of the Overgate. Two new initiatives are a Garden of Remembrance with Signpost and Addaction to provide a ‘safe, quiet space’ for families who have been affected by drug and alcohol addictions and a flower and vegetable patch working with the Overgate for pupils attending the special unit at the old Rockwell High School. For those who would like to know what is going on in the city please visit [dundeecity.gov.uk/takepridedundee](http://dundeecity.gov.uk/takepridedundee) and then click on ‘Get Involved’ and then ‘local event’. If you would like to know more please email [Catherine.lawson@hotmail.com](mailto:Catherine.lawson@hotmail.com)



## The Anglican Communion in Australia and New Zealand – A Brief Encounter

I was fortunate to be able to spend a lengthy holiday in Australia and New Zealand during January, February and March this year, and, being a relatively regular member of the congregation at St Paul's Cathedral, I naturally took the opportunity to visit as many churches and cathedrals as I could in both countries. I've now visited all seven diocesan cathedrals in New Zealand and two in Australia (Sydney and Perth), as well as local churches in both countries. All of the cathedrals and churches were beautiful buildings (with one exception, a cathedral in New Zealand – my travelling companion will know which one I'm referring to!) but because of our itinerary, I was unable to celebrate Mass in all of them.

However I did manage to attend Choral Eucharist at St James' Church, Sydney; St Paul's Cathedral, Dunedin; All Saints' Church, Dunedin; and St George's Cathedral, Perth.

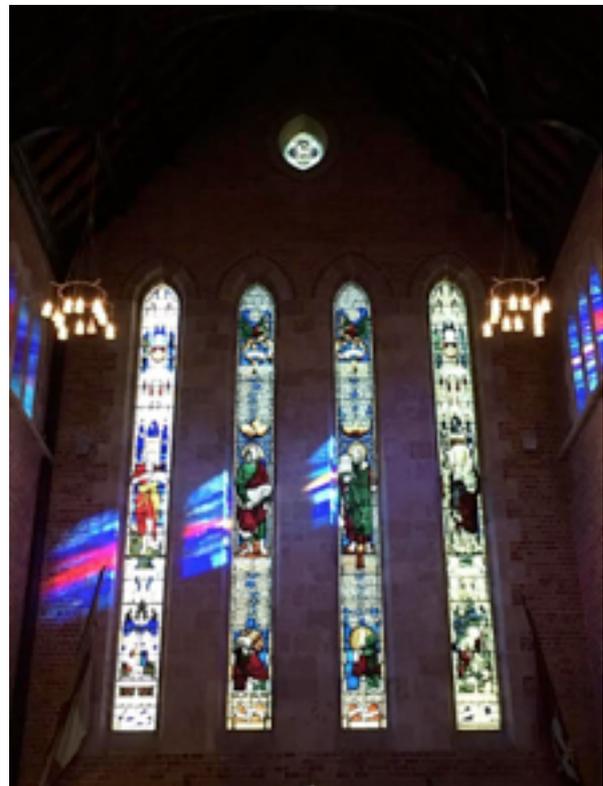


St George's Cathedral, Perth

Given my passion for Classical music, the musical highlight has to be the service in Sydney where the Mass setting

was Zelenka's *Missa Paschalis*, performed by choir AND orchestra. If you haven't heard of the composer, he's the Czech equivalent of J. S. Bach – how thrilling and spiritually uplifting it was to hear a wonderful choir supported by full orchestra including trumpets and drums, in a church that was full to capacity!

Although there was no orchestra at St George's Cathedral on the first Sunday in Lent, the choir gave us a very moving plainsong Mass setting, again to a large congregation in a very beautiful building blessed with two organs!



Windows of St George's Cathedral, Perth

Proving that size isn't everything, probably the most prayerful service was in All Saints' Church, Dunedin, where our own Andrew Metcalfe is now a stalwart.

There was a small but decent choir and a good-sized congregation. It is sad to report that our namesake cathedral in Dunedin was very sparsely attended – I have to say, though, that the congregation there was friendly and welcoming, as were all the congregations where I worshipped. In fact, once they realised they had a Scot in their midst, absolutely everyone appeared to have a Scottish connection, whether a granny in Inverness, family members in Glasgow or roots in Dumfries and Galloway.

Although my encounters with our fellow Anglicans on the other side of the world were all too brief, they were positive, welcoming and friendly, more than sufficiently so to make me very keen to visit again.

*Bruce Maher*



Organ, St George's Cathedral, Perth.

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## THE ARK NURSERY AND MARIE CURIE



Four staff members, Mandie Gavine, Alanah Anderson, Susan Dunlop and Kirsten Conradie are doing the Marie Curie Abseil on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. If you would like to join them please contact Hazel Mitchell on 01382 736627 or email [nutella11.hm@gmail.com](mailto:nutella11.hm@gmail.com)

Most people associate Marie Curie with elderly people dying of a terminal illness but the nursery staff want to highlight the fact that Marie Curie nurses are there to help the whole family (and children especially) so that they can maintain a level of normality and routine at an already challenging time. Through their Information and Support Services, Support line and online resources they offer guidance around helping a child say goodbye to a loved one and how to support a child through grief.

If you would like to support them donations can be made at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ARKNURSERY](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ARKNURSERY)

*Catherine Lawson*

# EARTH HOUR



As part of our Lenten devotions the Eco group highlighted Earth Hour for those of the congregation able to take part. At 8:30pm UK time 29<sup>th</sup> March I duly switched off my electricity at the mains and turned off all mobile devices. Wrapped in a blanket (heating is gas but has an electric pump) and with four candles lit (homage to the two Ronnies intended), I joined thousands of others across the globe switching off for Earth Hour. So what did I learn?

1. It wasn't dark - the street lights stayed on, and due to no curtains yet in newly decorated front room, the light shone in, though not brightly enough to do anything.
2. The silence is, well, silent. No hum of the freezer, no Radio 4, no music. For someone used to be continually surrounded by sound the noise was almost deafening.
3. It's actually quite hard to read by candlelight when you're used to electric lights. I ended up blowing out three candles, holding the last one close to the book – not too sure how good that was for my eyesight!
4. I read several chapters of the Lent study book. A number of times it suggested I looked at something on the web, several other times I myself wanted to Google something.

5. By 9:15, despite the blanket, my nose was getting cold. Usually I'd be moving around – not so wrapped in a blanket and holding a candle. And of course the kettle (electric) was out of bounds.

As 9:30 approached I finished my Earth Hour with a prayer, flipped on the mains, put on the lights and, of course, the kettle. In the longer term, it's made me more conscious of the amount of electricity I use day-to-day, but I'm aware how quickly I'll slip back into bad habits. Perhaps I should celebrate Earth Hour more often!

About Earth Hour: It was started by the World Wildlife Fund in Australia in 2007 to highlight climate change and show commitment to the planet. The idea quickly spread across the globe, the UK joining in 2008. People are encouraged to switch off non-essential lights 8:30pm local time for an hour. This year 187 countries and territories took part, and over 3000 landmarks switched off (<https://www.earthhour.org/2017-highlights>). If you're interested in joining the cathedral eco group please contact Susie.

*Susie Schofield*

*Eco group*



# Glen '15

It was the morning of August 10th, when we set off for Glenalmond. Since we had returned from our family holiday, I had been looking forward with anticipation to this new experience on which I was embarking. Two others from the cathedral, Ailsa and Zimmie and I were off, ready to participate in the Scottish Episcopal Church's annual youth camp. This was to be our very first Glen experience.

Before we knew it, we were speeding down the road filled to the brim with excitement and a little uncertainty to what would be our home or, more correctly, our castle for the next week. When we arrived, we felt instantly welcome. Despite being surrounded by teenagers we had never laid eyes on before, we all had one thing in common. We were all church goers, we all had some kind of faith.

The week seemed to disappear rapidly as we were consumed by the activities. The sheer range of activities was incredible, going from drama workshops in the common rooms, to water polo in the school pool, not to mention the fantastic catering from the famous (around Scottish schools) dining hall which reminded me of something out of Hogwarts! Apart from this, there were other experiences to be had, for example, formatting and presenting your own mass (we did these in our "form groups"). There was the opportunity to make many friends outside your groups and open up about your faith life with your groups.

The three of us who ventured to Glenalmond for the one week in August returned with an experience we would remember for life; new friends who we couldn't wait to see the following year and many stories to tell. I was unfortunately unable to go to the Glen '16 which by all accounts was just as good as Glen '15, however, I am full of eager anticipation for the coming Glen '17.

Glen, all in all, was one of (if not *the* best) camp I have ever been to. The three of us were privileged to be able to go.

*Benedict Auld*

## Graham's Soup Kitchen

We are now into our 5<sup>th</sup> year of serving a homemade hot meal from a large army container in the boot of a car parked in West Marketgate to those in need of a nutritious meal. Our turn comes around every sixth Saturday and we are on call from 7.30pm to 9pm. (The other teams are Edzel, Kirrimuir, Newport/Wormit and another two from Dundee as well)

The week before, the equipment must be collected from the area for us to use. On the evening, we need a cooking team to provide the meal plus four servers (with one acting as lookout as well), and a car. To make all of this work, we need volunteers to cover the numerous tasks involved such as cooking, serving, a car and driver, collecting equipment, washing the dishes and shopping.

We are part of the larger 'Dundee Drop In' (DDI) and we all try and work with the same guidelines providing a crucial city wide service such as hot food, company, conversation, signposting to relevant services, clothing, bedding, a listening ear, laughter and an occasional hug. Please help. [catherine.lawson@hotmail.com](mailto:catherine.lawson@hotmail.com)

*Catherine Lawson and Vivienne Moss*



Book Review:

## The Wicked Boy

Kate Summerscale

We can all remember how horrified the murder of Jamie Bulger made us feel. It was easy to assume that the two cruel murderers acted in a twentieth century manner after having been influenced by TV, film or dreadful publications. At the time, I was attempting to teach some of the most horrendous teenagers I'd ever encountered. They were in a residential List D school. Surprisingly, these tough guys with seemingly no morals, believed the crime to be unforgivable.

Now that a book called 'The Wicked Boy' by Kate Summerscale has been published, you might like to read a compelling account of a Victorian boy who killed his mother. Summerscale has described the boy's ambitious plans for his future life; his home life; planning the murder and his life in jail after all the court hearings. The author followed Robert's life after jail and his release right to his death. It surprised me that Summerscale mentioned so many other similar crimes which have taken place.

I recommend that you read this study, since it could apply to modern families. Robert's father used to go to sea for weeks at a time and the mother had to manage the finances, meals, school attendance, household chores and two adolescent boys. This could easily describe a modern family where the husband works on the oil rigs or is a long distance lorry driver.

Robert turned his life around and showed how caring he could be. He worked hard and he learned skills such as tailoring and playing musical instruments while in jail. During his lifetime, he taught music and gave pleasure by playing and used his practical skills. Notably, he was exceptionally brave during World War 1 and gained medals. While living in Australia, he endured severe hardships but he persevered to lead a useful, worthwhile life..

This thought provoking book is well worth reading.

*Ann Penhale*

Thanks to all our contributors for this issue: Jeremy Auld, Benedict Auld, Margaret Geyer, Catherine Lawson, Bruce Maher, Vivienne Moir, John Nicoll, Ann Penhale, Susie Schofield, Val Vannet.

*(John's collection, "On Starlight Beach" is available on Amazon ebook for £1.49.)*

## The Conversations

It is the only sane place -  
that world that we convene  
over coffee and cake,  
every now and then.

The jangle of the everyday  
fades away  
Quiet voices, once again,  
assert their authority.

And always the alchemy  
transforms the everyday  
and opens the door  
to that other world.

The veil is torn away  
and what was dancing  
at memory's edge  
comes to shine again.

We do not deal in shadows.  
Nothing has faded.  
The sun is at its highest  
in this particular sky.

The memory of small things  
vouches for the reality  
of all those greater wonders  
that dazzle our eyes.....

your Mother's celebrated soups.  
Mine telling us at tea  
of the books she was reading.  
Fathers and their foibles.

Those we love are not pinned  
as butterflies under glass  
but, moving between two worlds,  
surely freer than us.

Time is irrelevant at this table  
and death itself is forced  
to loosen its grip on all we love,  
all that has gone before us.

And, once again, I understand  
that faith doesn't exist  
in a vacuum. It is magnified  
by those of others.

*John Nicoll*