



Robert and Jill were travelling by bus when the following brief conversation ensued between brother and sister. Robert, wise and experience at 11, Jill eager and inquisitive at 9. 'What's that Robert?' 'That's an observatory.' 'What's an observatory?' 'That' said Robert gently but firmly, 'is your assignment for today.' Jill did not argue. She smiled happily and the minute she was home, took down an encyclopaedia and read all about observatories. This may seem a bit odd but nobody can know too much these days. What you discover for yourself you tend to remember, so why not get your books or laptop out and see what you can discover.

John Wesley had a very ready wit. One day he was walking down a narrow alleyway when he was confronted by a pompous man who shouted, 'Step aside fellow! I never make way for fools.' 'Oh', replied John Wesley, smartly stepping aside to let him pass. 'I always do!'

All will be well - Iris Hesselden
This is my journey, this is my life
This is the path I must take
Sunlight and shadows, laughter and love
Learning from every mistake.
Enjoying the happy and glad times
Leaving the sad times behind,
Seeking the strength as problems arise
Searching for new peace of mind.



After putting her children to bed, a Mother changes into old slacks, a droopy blouse and went to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more lively, her patience grew thin. At last she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with a stern warning. As she left the room, she heard her three year old say with a trembling voice, 'Who was that?'

Discovering hope for the future
Rainbows will follow the rain
Believing that life is eternal, certain that love will remain,
This is my journey, on through the years
Wherever I travel or dwell,
Facing tomorrow, joy in my heart
Knowing that all will be well.

During the very last Gentlemen versus Players cricket match in 1962, batsman Peter Parfitt was caught out by the Rev David Shepherd, who was then a member of the England team. Returning to the dressing room, the batsman apologised to his captain, Freddie Trueman. 'That's alright, Peter', declared Freddie. 'When the Reverend puts his two hands together, he stands a better chance than most of us.'

Gladys Dunn was new to the area and decided to visit the church nearest to her new home. She enjoyed the service, the fine church, the music and the choir, but the sermon that morning went on and on and on. Worse it wasn't even very interesting. Glancing around, she saw more than one person in the congregation nodding off, but finally it was over. After the service, she turned to a still sleepy looking gentleman next to her, extended her hand and said 'I'm Gladys Dunn'. 'Me too!' he replied.

Back in 1941 a well known Methodist Minister said, 'When you get fed up with present day happenings, go out into the lanes and fields, and listen and look at the things of nature. There is no hurry in that world - that is why I am a dodderer. I lose all sense of time when I'm in the country. I forget that speed of machinery. To be a dodderer is a lost art these days, one that we should recapture.' His words still make plenty of sense. The speaker was the Rev George Bramwell Evans, better known as 'Romany' of the BBC and of Children's Hour.

As you go along the road of life, hold fast to God with one hand, and open the other to your neighbour.' Just one sentence, but what a wealth of meaning in it.

When you are stressed, seek out the company of calm, wise people. There is always a chance you will wind then up too.

There is a challenge us in these four simple lines
To each is given a bag of tools
An hour glass and a book of rules;
And each must build, ere his time be flown
A stumbling block or a stepping stone.
The question is - which will you and I leave behind us?