Thoughts on Christmas:



I was at home this morning having had an adventure yesterday. So, I read the reading for the day to myself.

It was from The Revelation to John, the very last book of the Bible and written as he recalled his dreams. Today's portion included the phrase, 'heaven was silent for half an hour'. The commentator, I also read, had done some research on this and apparently there was a Jewish tradition that the angels stopped their constant worship of God to allow God to listen to the prayers from earth.

My adventure was having 'a bit of a do' in the church yesterday morning which resulted in a trip to A&E. All well now, I hasten to add. Nicky was with me and sort advice from 111 who sent an ambulance. Before it arrived, a Community Responder call Peter arrived to begin checking me. Thank you so much Peter and Nicky.

It has made me think about silence in life, the chances we give for others to speak to us one way or another. Christmas has become very inward looking, centred on family and overindulgence. Can we find time to be silent and listen to the world as it celebrates and groans? Two paramedics and a volunteer responder were waiting for someone to call, to break into their silence. The hospital is far from a place without sound, but it waits for us with our life stories.

Maybe amongst all the razzamatazz we can find some space to listen to the people around us. Much of the trouble on our streets and in our homes is there because we don't listen.

Frank Wright