

# Sydenham Life



June 2026

In and around the parish of St Bartholomew

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## Ordinary Time



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If you come to church at any point this month, (or indeed next month, or indeed any time before November!) you are likely to find me and Jim wearing green. This is the colour we wear the most, usually for 33 weeks of the year, as it represents the season of “ordinary time.”

After the great feasts of Christmas and Easter, and their respective preparatory seasons of Advent and Lent, we find ourselves in the second, longer part of the church year where the feasts are small and scattered, and there is no particular thematic story for us to travel along as a community. This time is ordinary, but it is not mundane.

As this season begins we look around and see the signs of summer. The last of the horse chestnut candles blaze against thick green foliage as roses and rhododendrons spring into life. The days continue to lengthen, and the scent of sweet chestnut trees remind generations of English people of exam time even decades after leaving school.

In the church too, we wear green and have flowers around on a constant basis, though our candles don't turn into conkers at the end of the season. We mark this season of no particular feasts by taking the lead of the world around us as it praises God through living and growing.

You see, ordinary time isn't called ordinary time because it's mundane. Rather it is called ordinary time because each Sunday, and therefore each week, is marked by an ordinal number. Each week is marked as “The *n*th Sunday after Trinity.” And this is the thing with ordinal

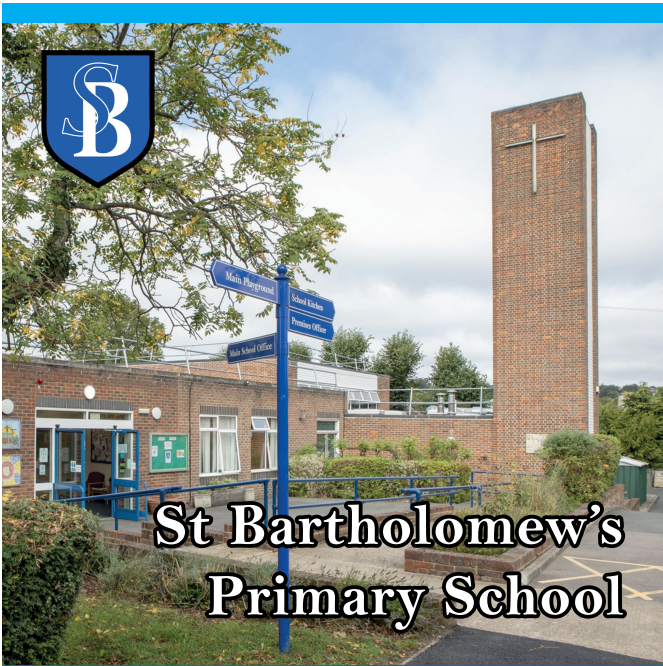
numbers: they can't help but indicate progress. As any six-year-old will tell you, their seventh birthday is coming soon. As anybody in finance will tell you, the fourth quarter will follow the third. As any sports fan will tell you, the second half will come after the first.

When we mark ordinary time, we mark progression through the year and through a season of very visible growth. Not a mundane season, but one full of life and produce. In this season we note our own personal progression through the years and seasons of life, not a mundane progression, but one full of change, be it exciting or fearful, painful or joyful. In this season we note our personal and corporate progression through God's created time and space, not a mundane journey, but a pilgrimage of mystery and communion and fellowship with God and one another.

Ordinary time is not mundane, but one of marked growth and progression and change, reflecting our very organic nature as humans and the dynamic nature of God's kingdom.

If you find yourself in a church, looking at priests wearing green for the 20th week in a row and wondering when, oh when, we will leave this ordinary time and enter something extra-ordinary, take a moment to consider the extraordinary way in which we change and learn and grow, and give thanks to God that he leads us on this journey.

*Mthr Bea*



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# From the Editor

Recently, I was walking down St Michael's Row in the City of Bridgetown, Barbados, near the historic St Michael's and the Angel's Cathedral. It is a place where I have attended the Wednesday ten o'clock Service with my Mother when I am on holiday. I overheard a conversation with two pupils from the St Patrick's Roman Catholic School; I knew this from the uniform they wore. One child said to the woman who was possibly in her mid-thirties, "mummy will you be my mother forever" And the lady who was smartly dressed as if she had come from work said "yes". Then possibly her niece asked the same question and although the other girl may have said something the nice lady answered in the affirmative.

Sadly, the reason why I was in Barbados at this unusual time, is that my Mother Evangeline Alisha Cave has passed away following a brief illness on the 21 April 2026 at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Barbados after a second heart attack. We were called in the early hours of the morning to be told that she had taken a turn for the worse. My brother and his partner collected me and we got to the Hospital. I could see from the monitors that her blood pressure appeared to be half that of what I had come to expect. I could hear my Mother's laboured breathing. We held her hand and she slipped away; mummy had held on until we got there. We had lost our Mother as did the many others who also considered her Mother, it is not an accident that many called her 'Mother Cave'.

The tears would not stop flowing from our eyes. A nurse came beside me and placed her hand on my shoulder and Dr Kirton and the other nurse who stayed with my mother overnight. My mummy, the 'best' mummy in the world, had passed away.

The day before the funeral there was a viewing from 4 pm to 6pm at Tudor's Funeral Home in the Ivy, St Michael. It is the oldest funeral home in Barbados and run by Sheryl-Anne Tudor a decedent of the founder. Like a real old-fashioned business, she lives right next-door at the funeral home. The funeral took place at the headquarters of the Salvation Army, Reed Street, not far from where mum was born.

My Mother had said over many years that she "wanted no eulogies" and I would have followed the instruction to the letter. However, her niece, who bears a strong resemblance to my Mother

suggested that there should be tributes and it was not the same thing as a eulogy. Although I think many individuals said many kind things. My Mum had selected retired Major Denzil Walker and Brother Winston Evelyn to lead the service. Also officiating were Major Robert and Paula Pyle.

The Hall was full apart from an area at the back where the ceiling needed repair and so was cordoned off, and for which there was a collection made. Prior to the actual service there were tributes and there was a Flag Worship dance that was elegantly performed. The Salvation Army Band performed with a wonderful trumpet sound and the beating of drums. Many kind things were said and her brother-in-law sang and gave tributes. Her grandnephew, who is a drum prodigy, showed his mastery of the drums with his grandfather also playing the drums in support and a wonderful poem read by her grandniece.

After the service a lady approached me and identified herself as a patient in the bed beside my Mother, she recounted that my Mum had asked the nurse for a ginger mint but they had none, something which I knew that my mum kept in her handbag because she was diabetic. The lady was able to say that she was able to give her a mint which I know would have been a great comfort to my Mother. The funeral service then proceeded to Westbury Cemetery, from where one could see the large cranes at the deep-water harbour. At the grave side the Salvation Army trumpeter played a beautiful melody accompanied by a musician who beat a drum and sang praises. In the warm air and breeze coming off the harbour I was transformed as if the time had gone backwards to an earlier time in history and I was on the West Coast of Africa.

Geoffrey Cave, Sydenham Life Editor

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# Thomas Campbell of Peak Hill



I love visiting Westminster Abbey. It has history that spans 8 centuries. You can enjoy the splendour of the architecture that includes the beautiful Henry VII chapel. But, for many visitors to the Abbey, it is a place to learn where the royals were coronated, buried, married or had their funeral services. It is not just royals who are remembered there. With an estimated 3000 bodies buried within the church, many were considered to be the great and the good of their time.

So, there I was looking at the Sydenham Society website, a wonderful source of local history and inspiration. I found someone - the name Thomas Campbell – an 18<sup>th</sup> century poet. I like 18<sup>th</sup> century history – the period of *enlightenment*. To my surprise his final resting place is in Westminster Abbey – Poet's Corner. There is also a statue of him close to Shakespeare's monument! Before this discovery, I never knew of his existence or relevance

as there were many other more familiar poets and writers resting or memorialised there.

Thomas Campbell was born in Glasgow in 1777. He won a bursary to attend the University of Glasgow at the age of 14 and 3 months. He clearly was a bright young boy. Whilst at university, he won prizes in Greek, Logic, Ethics and Humanities. He excelled at debate and translation, particularly in verse.

At the age of 22 he published *The Pleasures of Hope*. It is a very long poem in two parts; it is formed of rhyming couplets. I found this stanza that described what I feel about hope.

*With thee, sweet Hope! resides the heavenly light,  
That pours remotest rapture on the sight:  
Thine is the charm of life's bewilder'd way,  
That calls each slumbering passion into play.*

*His poem was a great success – quoted in the House of Representatives in Washington, and in a thousand other places..... and it took up various topics familiar and interesting to the public mind, and touched them artistically, —wrongs of Poland, wrongs of India, the French Revolution, negro slavery, mutiny of the Bounty, &c. (The Aldine Edition of the British Poets)*

He worked hard to support his family, not only writing poetry but offering his services as a tutor. He was making connections that also offered him access to literary celebrities. His style of poetry is referred to as lyrical having musical or songlike qualities. Much of his literary work was influenced by his adventures abroad, particularly in Germany. His poem entitled *Ye Mariners of England*. *A Naval Ode* written in Altona, captured the patriotic spirit of England, during the Napoleonic Wars.

The second stanza of this poem makes reference to two much revered Naval heroes – Admiral Robert Blake and Lord Admiral Horatio Nelson:

*The spirits of your fathers  
Shall start from every wave!  
For the deck it was their field of fame,  
And Ocean was their grave.  
Where Blake and mighty Nelson fell  
Our manly hearts shall glow,  
As ye sweep through the deep,  
While the stormy winds do blow,--  
While the battle rages loud and long,  
And the stormy winds do blow.*

This poem was well received and is still associated with the Royal Navy.

In 1803 Campbell married his cousin, Miss Matilda Sinclair, in St. Margaret's, Westminster. The couple eventually "took a house" in Sydenham – Peak Hill. At the time it was described by others as a *lovely and rather aristocratic place, —his dwelling is even now pointed out to strangers*. The family lived there for approximately 13 years before returning to London.

He was passionate about accessible education; he conceived the idea of a London University and in furtherance of this idea, he visited Berlin to inquire into the German system of education. London University was

eventually established in 1826. It would later become the University College London referred to as the 'Godless College of Gower Street'. The University admitted everyone, regardless of religion. He also was elected the Rector of the University of Glasgow by strong student support. The faculty were not so keen!! He was re-elected to the position much to the chagrin of the faculty.

Even though Campbell was immensely popular in his own day, his diffidence led Walter Scott to write, 'He is afraid of the shadow that his own fame casts before him'.

*In 1838 he was presented to Queen Victoria by the chief of his clan, the Duke of Argyle, at the first levee held by the young Sovereign after her accession to the throne. He had loyally offered her a present of his works; the Queen accepted them and graciously sent him in return her picture.*

By the 1840s, he realised that his poetry spoke to a generation he could not charm. His health was failing so he decided to leave London to live in Boulogne. On the 15<sup>th</sup> June 1844, he died. His body was repatriated to

London and his funeral service at Westminster Abbey was attended by a host of men of all ranks and parties of literary men, of artists, and of friends including Sir Robert Peel, Disraeli, Thackeray and Macaulay and a guard of Polish nobles. A Polish officer placed a handful of earth from Kosciuszko's grave on his coffin. A thunderclap interrupted the service (The Illustrated London News).

The life-sized white marble statue of Campbell bears this inscription:

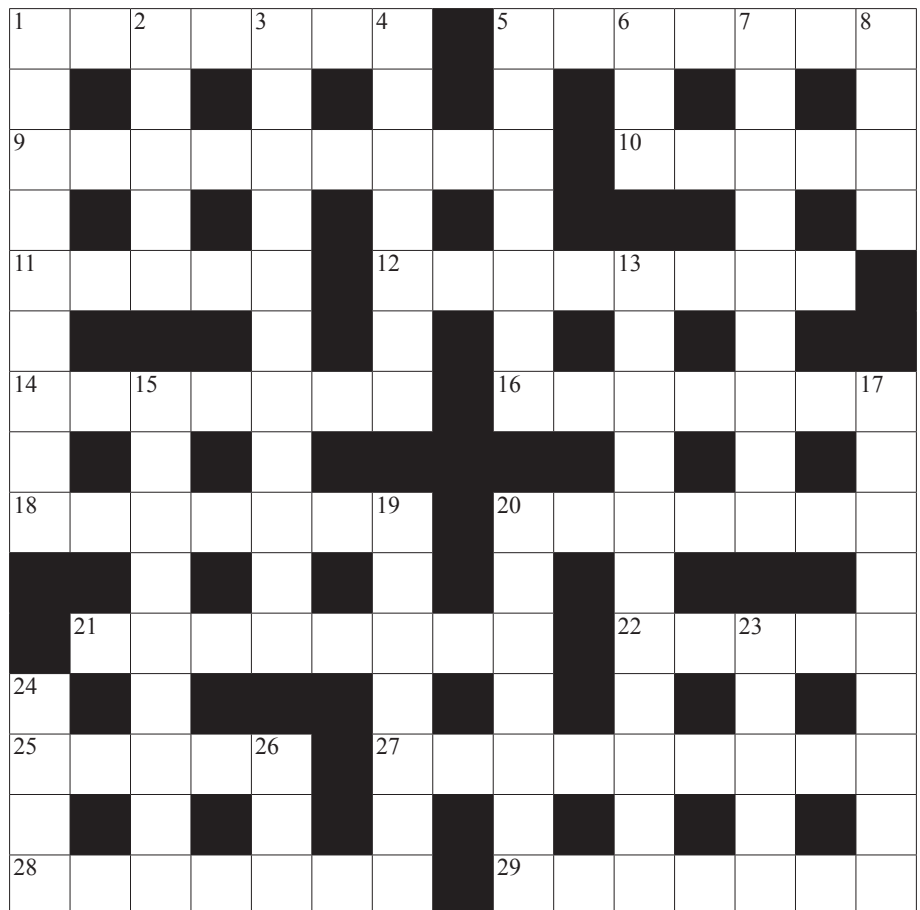
*This spirit shall return to Him who gave  
its heavenly spark:  
Yet think not, sun, it shall be dim when  
thou thyself art dark!  
No! It shall live again, and shine  
In bliss unknown to beams of thine,  
By Him recall'd to breath, who captive led captivity,  
who robb'd the grave of victory,  
And took the sting from death!*  
(T. Campbell)

Angela Morgan MITG

## June — Mthr Bea

### Across

- 1 Engineer learnt about hotel entrance (7)
- 5 Forward has ball with one in front and five on the inside (7)
- 9 1lb seed from a tin vessel (5,4)
- 10 Abraham's last debtor cuts the grass (5)
- 11 When a choir eats a snack (5)
- 12 Fan retcons a previous version (8)
- 14 Alleged drunk erupted (7)
- 16 Country's space secreteer (7)
- 18 Colonel has apparently salacious scheme (7)
- 20 NATO's posh fatigues (7)
- 21 Lie out naked and heat buns carelessly (8)
- 22 Abraham's son is a man at heart and a child first (5)
- 25 Mthr Bea leaves wiring to dry (5)
- 27 Gail bemused at son going back for rose-tinted spectacles (9)
- 28 As for sir going topless, later, but not tomorrow (7)
- 29 Abraham's cousin Terry loses rupees in a game of chance (7)



### Down

- 1 Strange, Idle man takes cold hard US cash (9)
- 2 Clothing article (French one) accepted after stripping (5)
- 3 A rough estimate of a single-digit reign? (4,2,5)
- 4 Centre piece torn from gymnast's garment and replaced with soft cat (7)
- 5 e.g. a piece of writing (7)
- 6 Dash up M4 (3)
- 7 Occupational therapist at work when her head goes up a vegetable (3,6)
- 8 Put two hands under each noble (4)
- 13 Important to treat "faintnig" [sic] (11)
- 15 Vote before revolution ends! It's destroying our rivers (9)
- 17 500 come up with exciting system of government (9)
- 19 Former partner tries, in court, to show what a dinosaur is (7)
- 20 Listen, you've essentially broken a tool (7)
- 23 Fish in New England, not North Dakota (5)
- 24 Thames water suppresses a strike (4)
- 26 US Soldier, good show (3)

# The healthcare costs I didn't see coming

One Thursday last September while walking to my piano lesson I twisted my ankle and nearly fell to the ground, save for an automobile parked on the pavement that as I was falling served to provide something to brace upon which enabled me to avoid a total collapse onto the ground. Despite not falling to the ground, my ankle immediately swelled up and started to throb. I stood there for a few minutes ascertaining my options, then decided I was capable of walking. So off I went to my piano lesson.

Throughout the week I was walking without any inkling I had injured my ankle. When I moved it sideways it signaled me not to do that. Sleeping proved to be another matter. Somewhere in the night I would turn so I was laying on the outside of my ankle, and my ankle in no uncertain terms let me know it was not happy. This continued for a week, after which I decided I could no longer tell myself it was just a sprain – something was going on and I needed to address it. Having a healthcare background I knew it called for an X-ray. The next morning, I drove myself to Beckenham Urgent Care. Upon arriving there I discovered parking spaces were virtually nonexistent. I saw a row of cars parked along the street where there were double yellow lines and a No Parking sign: 7am–7pm. I did not understand how people could be parked there. I spotted a parking enforcement officer at the front of the row of cars. I pulled my car in behind the last parked car in the row and proceeded to walk to the parking enforcement officer to seek clarification as to who was entitled to park there. He graciously explained to me who could park there. As I did not meet the criteria to park in that location despite needing to go to the Urgent Care, I proceeded back to my car to move it and look for another place to park. As I approached my car there was another parking enforcement officer issuing me a ticket. I explained to him I was speaking to his colleague and was coming back to my vehicle to move it as I needed to go to the urgent care. It did not matter – he had written the ticket. Sobeit! As I went to remove it from the windscreen he told me as I already had the ticket I should leave it there and just go to the Urgent care. After all I was certainly paying for my parking. (Later I did try to appeal the £70 ticket to no avail.) Off I went to the urgent care where it was determined I had fractured my ankle and would need to be in a boot for a month.

The next day late in the afternoon I received a follow up telephone call from the doctors at the Princess Royal Hospital. Because of an abnormal blood clotting disorder, and due to my leg immobilized for an extended period of time I would need to have labs drawn and started on anticoagulation injections. The following afternoon off we went to the Princess Royal Hospital; upon arrival parked in their lot, and proceeded to A&E. Five hours later with labs drawn, yet no injectable medication in hand as by the time the doctor issued the prescription the pharmacy was closed. We were told we would need to return to the hospital the next day to obtain the medication. We walked

out of the hospital and to our car where we were met with parking ticket number 2 on the windscreen.

When one arrives at and walks into a hospital one's thoughts are usually focused on where to go in the hospital. Needless to say, we never noticed any pay parking signage or meters. I understand it on the streets but one does not pay for parking at a hospital in Canada or America. It just seems outrageous that hospitals charge to park. Hospitals are supposed to help people not profit from them! Not only do they charge to park, they ask you to determine how long you will be there. How are you supposed to know how long your A&E wait will be!!! I understand paying for parking when one is going shopping but when you are in need of medical services? It just seems so contradictory to an institution of caring.

As planned, we returned to the hospital pharmacy the following day to pick up my medication. Having heard my parking ticket saga, my daughter informed me that there is a Sainsbury grocery store near the hospital. What many people do is to utilize their parking lot by securing a car

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## May – Solution

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**Down:** 1 dd 2 HE ADS CAR F 3 BLAST\* - T 4 “SELLER” after SALT 6 “ANSARD” 7 I in ALBS with S swapped for I 8 (DEANS DYING HELL)\* 13 ELIOT< TROLLS 16 (ELBOW A (TIBIA - Is))\* 17 MI after HALL OU 21 C(onstitutes) L(ots) O(f) T(ailored) H(abits) 23 EYE with E swapped for ST

park entry ticket. Make a purchase in the store, and then get their ticket stamped by the grocery store. Sounded like a good plan to me, so we found the Sainsbury grocery, drove into the parking lot, parked the car, made a purchase and then went to the hospital to pick up my medication. Upon returning to the car we found parking ticket number 3 on my windscreen. This time, once again focused on

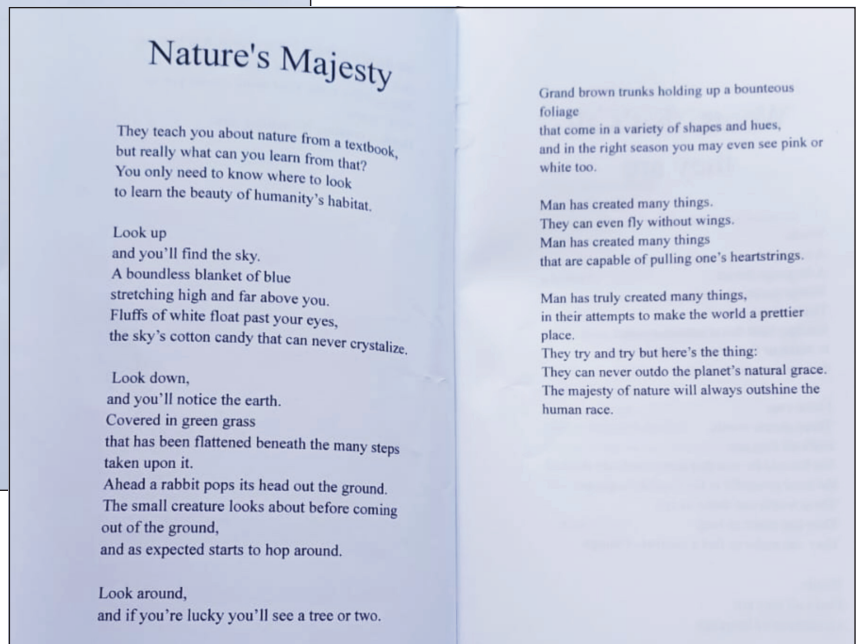
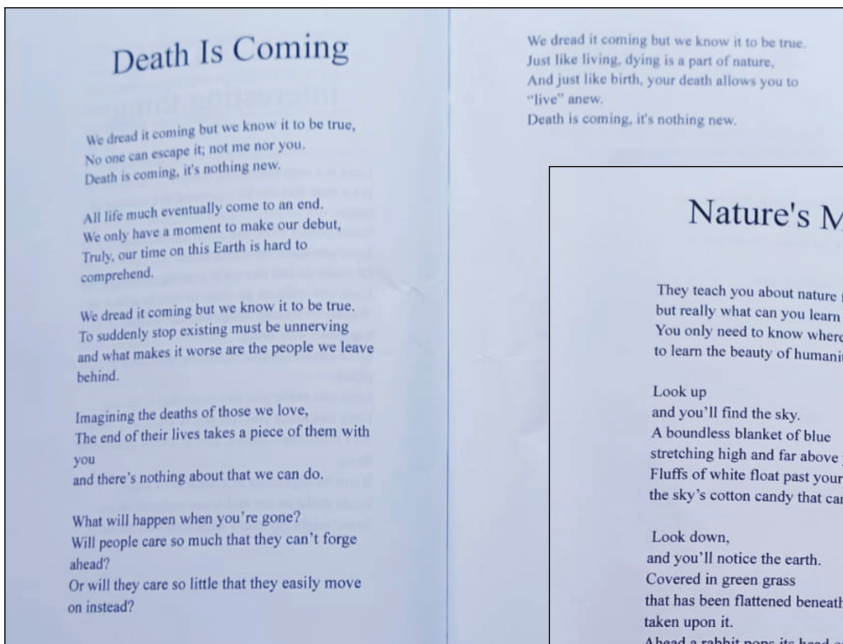
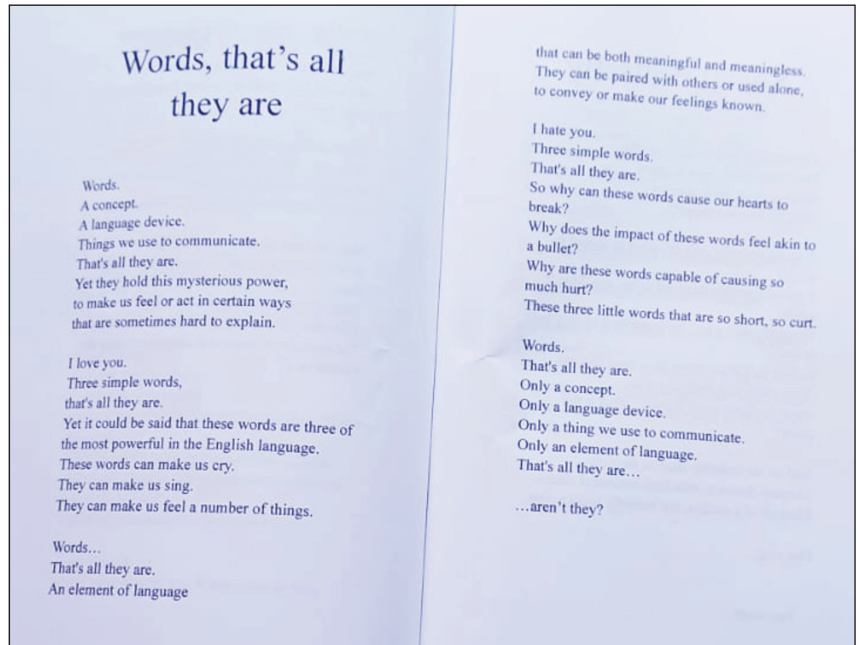
healthcare matters we had neglected to obtain the car park entry ticket and have it stamped.

In the end my medical escapade cost me 140GBP in parking penalties.

What have I learnt from this experience? Next time I am going to take the bus!

*Gerri Falconer-Ferneau*

## 3 poems from *A haphazard miscellany of poetry* by Amber Sally Rose





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