

7th July 2020

Magnets

“What is love?

**It is the powerful attraction towards all that we conceive,
or fear, or hope beyond ourselves.”**

Percy Bysshe Shelley, On Love

We're arranging to have a new kitchen fitted after this lockdown is over. It was all ready to go before Covid-19 hit us. So, we're still waiting ...

Among the dilemmas we had in planning the layout was: "What will we do with all the magnets which cover our current fridge-freezer?" There are so many of them, from all over the world, and there'll be no fridge or freezer to display them on in our new kitchen because our "white goods" will be integrated into the new units. So ... we're planning to have a metal board put on the wall to show off our fridge magnets. You see, the clue's in the name. Each one is a fridge *magnet*, and magnets will stick to any suitable metal. No fridge needed to display *our* collection of magnets!

Ever since we had a module in a physics class in High School on the properties of magnets I've been fascinated: the polarisation of magnets; magnetic fields; electro-magnets; north and south poles; iron-filings on paper that make amazing shapes when there's a magnet underneath ... I just loved it! Maybe that's where collecting fridge magnets comes from.

Fundamental to magnets is that they attract, they pull things towards them. It's what magnets do! And we say people have a magnetic personality when what they are, and how they present themselves, is attractive to people. We are drawn – mysteriously – into their company.

The poet Shelly said that the ultimate attraction, the most powerful attraction we know, is love, *towards all that we conceive, or fear, or hope beyond ourselves*. Love is our magnet, our fundamental attractiveness, and our mysterious connectedness to what is beyond ourselves.

I wonder if that's a clue to what "God is Love" and "Love is from God" actually means – an attraction to what is beyond ourselves? Now, there's an idea to stick on your fridge with a magnet, don't you think?

A prayer for today

Lord, your love is mysterious and powerful, and attracts me strongly.

I am so grateful I can stay connected to you for always. Amen.

An original reflection by © Tom Gordon

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