

21<sup>st</sup> November 2020

## Authors

**“So let great authors have their due, as time, which is the author of authors, be not deprived of his due, which is further and further to discover the truth.”**

*Francis Bacon, The Advancement of Learning*

I enjoy writing, and, over time, I hope I've touched on some important truths. Tonight, as part of the Iona Community's month of events, seminars, lectures, conversations and study, I'll have the privilege of participating with other *Wild Goose Publications* writers in an "Evening with Authors", when several of us will have the opportunity of sharing some of our writing. I've been invited to read two pieces I've written which arise from areas of concern important to the Iona Community.

The first, "The Age of Innocence" from *Welcoming Each Wonder*, is a story of a youth worker who'd had a leg amputated as a child, but, out of that tragedy, had developed a remarkable empathy with young people who were experiencing their own tough times. The second, "The Basket Maker", from *A Blessing to Follow*, is about homelessness, and the way the uncaring nature of a city can exacerbate the rejection many experience.

Both short stories were written a long time ago, so, while I was editing them, I read them aloud again, to give me an idea of timings and how they would sound on the on-line event. And as I read them, I cried. It was if they had been written by someone else.

Francis Bacon reminds us that time will not be "deprived of his due". "Further and further" the truth of these stories was revealed to me today, that tragedy can speak to us of hope, and that we have to challenge injustice where we find it. In a remarkable way, my own writing had spoken to me once more of these truths. Time was my "author of authors". Now, all I have to do is dry my eyes, listen to such truth again, and resolve to go and do something about it.

### A prayer for today

*Lord, speak to us of your timeless truths, and make them new for us again. Amen*

*An original reflection by © Tom Gordon* Also available at <https://swallowsnestnet.wordpress.com>

**The "Authors' Event" highlighted above is for Members, Associates, Friends and Young Adult Group Members of the Iona Community. If you would like to participate, please sign up as an Associate, Friend or Young Adult Group Member at <https://iona.org.uk/movement/membership>**

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