

5th May 2021

Whispers

“Hush! Hush! Whisper who dares!”

A A Milne, When We Were Very Young, 'Vespers'

This month has seen the publication of my latest book, *Whispers of Wisdom*, which I'll be officially launching with a series of on-line events. (Information about this is being made available separately.)

This is my second book offered as a resource for those living with loss. Drawing particularly on my work in the past decade in bereavement support programmes with *Acorns* and *Stepping Stones*, it offers stories of how people have faced, and come through, aspects of grief and bereavement. It explores the importance of listening, the adjustments we make if we are to find meaning after a loss, issues of faith, strategies for coping, bereavement during the Covid-19 pandemic, and much more. But whatever insights it offers, the primary purpose of *Whispers of Wisdom* is to allow the voices of bereaved people to be heard. This will allow others to find hopefulness in the struggles and uncertainties they experience in the strange, uncharted territories of their own bereavements.

Each chapter ends with a poem or a reflection, drawing together the insights of people with whom I've worked and from whom I've learned, and laying them out in what I hope is an encouragement to many others.

These are *Whispers of Wisdom* from bereaved people to others who are bereaved ... But they are also whispers to me, and all who offer bereavement support. What do these whispers say? Something like this ...

*Please stay with me; don't feel obliged to know
What feelings I might have, where I should go
Within my mind, to find the peace and rest
I crave, the comfort that's my only quest.
Don't say you understand – that's not the key.
Just stay with me.*

That's an important whisper to listen to, to heed and to act upon.

A prayer for today

*Lord, whisper to me of meaning and understanding
through the voices of your people. Amen*

Whispers of Wisdom by Tom Gordon is available at www.ionabooks.com

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