

2nd November 2021

Imagination

**“Imagination is the beginning of creation. You imagine what you desire;
you will what you imagine; and at last you create what you will.”**

George Bernard Shaw, Back to Methuselah, ‘The Serpent’

I was walking in the hills above Loch Linnhe in the Lochaber area of Scotland when my eye caught a flash of red in the greens and browns of the bracken. On closer inspection, I saw a little model cottage, with bright red walls, a white roof, black door and white-painted windows, about nine inches high and a foot wide. Slightly askew, it was set in the heather about a yard from a little burn, with what looked like a house-sign at the burn’s edge, and a tiny path running to the cottage door. It was too far from the track for me to investigate. Which is a pity, for if I *had* known the origin of the little red cottage, my imagination wouldn’t have run riot as it did.

A replica of a cottage which had been a special holiday-base for recent walkers? The location of cremated ashes in a place of special memories? A memorial to a child, the placing of their favourite doll’s house by a path where they loved to play? A marker, the first of many hidden in the hills, for orienteering competitors to find and record?

A little red cottage may yet be the beginning of a longer Tom Gordon story. And all because it triggered off my fertile imagination.

Imagine, released in 1971, was the best-selling single of John Lennon’s career. It contains these lyrics:

*Imagine there’s no countries. It isn’t hard to do,
Nothing to kill or die for, no religion too.
Imagine all the people living life in peace ...
You may say I’m a dreamer, but I’m not the only one.
I hope some day you’ll join us, and the world will live as one.*

Imagination is an amazing tool. For John Lennon, it showed him a world where all people lived in peace. For me it was the enriching of ideas for stories. For George Bernard Shaw in today’s quotation, it was the beginning of creation. And you? Might you use your imagination to find a better world or a more relevant Church? Can you “imagine what you desire” so that “you create what you will”? Go on! Use your imagination!

A prayer for today

*Lord, you have blessed me with a creative mind.
Help me to use my imagination for you. Amen*