

28th May 2022

Trust

“It was grim ... and there is this huge stuff about trust.”

Alastair Campbell, Diary, 1 June 2003, as reported to the Hutton Inquiry

On a recent extended and unexpected stay in Kings Cross station in London due to a cancelled train, I had some hours to kill in the station concourse. I was under no pressure of time, and I like people-watching anyway. So I sat on a bench and wiled away the time between a crossword and enjoying the people around me.

Then, all of a sudden, a lady, struggling with large suitcases and several bags, plonked herself down beside me. She was clearly harassed, hot and bothered, *trauchled*, as we would say in Scots. And finding a seat was clearly an important goal for her. Then, once she'd got her breath back, she turned to me, and, in a broad Glasgow accent, said: "Haw son. Goanae keep an' eye on ma stuff. Ah'm burstin' for the loo. Back in a jiff. Just make sure it's no' nicked." And with that she was off, to be about the aforesaid personal matters.

Now, there's trust for you! Giving charge of all her "stuff" to a complete stranger. No checking out my credentials, or even figuring out that I was a fellow countryman. It was total acceptance and trust.

What was it in me that made her trust possible? Answers on a postcard please. Because, you see, I don't think it was anything in me *at all*. The trust was hers to give away, and, at the end of the day, I was the beneficiary of that, as much as she benefitted from the safekeeping of all her stuff in a station concourse. To be honest, I'm not sure I would have been as trusting as that lady, even if I *was* bursting for the toilet. But it felt good that she trusted me in the way she did. It made my day!

Trust matters. It's ours to give away, and it benefits the one who's to be trusted. It can be easily broken, of course, and many of you reading this will know what it's like when trust is damaged or abused. So let's keep valuing trust. Let's feel good about giving it away. Let's be pleased when we take it on board. And let's be grateful for a lesson from a *trauchled* traveller – who was *very* relieved that her trust had been well placed.

A prayer for today

I trust you, Lord, as always.

I pray that you can trust me to look after your stuff! Amen