

12<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## Together

**"Catch my eye, take my hand,  
This bond is tighter than we ever planned.  
Give me courage so I can land.  
We know that divided we'll fall, so together we stand."**

Ariana Greenblatt, *Together We Stand*

A few days ago, I published a "Thought for the Day" on the theme of "disasters", reflecting on how we cope with the "s\*\*t happens" times of our lives. Towards the end of the piece, I wrote this:

The Japanese poet Mizuta Masahide wrote this poem when his hut went on fire:

*Barn's burnt down.*

*Now*

*I can see the moon.*

Little did we know that this would be the day when Glasgow would witness one of the worst disasters in decades, when an iconic Victorian building, metres from Central Station, was destroyed by fire. Amazingly, nearby buildings were saved, and no one was injured in the blaze. But this disaster will affect Glasgow and its people for a long time to come. A friend was in touch. "My wife was heading south by train," he said. "But with no trains in or out of Central Station, her plans were scuppered. I'm trying to see the moon in this." And as I listened to young people tell stories of their fledgling businesses wiped out by the fire, with stock, equipment, records up in smoke, they were clearly struggling to see the moon too.

But remarkably, not one of the people whose businesses had been destroyed thought only of themselves. An owner of a nail bar who'd lost everything was concerned about the other small-business owners who'd also lost their livelihood. A man who'd escaped from his hairdressing salon was grateful that his partner, his customer and all the other folk in the building had got out safely too. Another business owner said, "We're all in this together. We'll pull through. That's what we do in Glasgow."

Yes, it's disastrous when s\*\*t happens, and we feel for people affected. But when we're trying to see the moon in this, one way is to value the resilience, empathy and togetherness that are clearly in evidence. Pretty good foundations on which to start rebuilding, don't you think?

### **A prayer for today**

*Blessings on all who suffer; strength to all who help; peace of mind to all who struggle.*

*An original reflection © Tom Gordon*

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