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Security

"There is no security on this earth; there is only opportunity."

Douglas MacArthur, Attributed

We've recently renewed our subscription to our Internet Security Provider, which – as it says on the tin – provides security against malware, viruses, tracking-devices, and the like, on our PCs, laptops and tablets at home. Given a worry about burglaries and the unpredictability of some delivery services, our neighbours have installed a security camera at their front door. My car has a security system, which sends a "prompt" to an App on my phone if I've forgotten to lock the car door – which I can remedy, on the App, with my feet up, without having to go outside to lock the car.

The local manse now has a "doorbell" camera. (How I wish I had one in my parish ministry. I could have scanned my iPhone when the doorbell rang and decided whether I would answer the door or not. Mind you, I wouldn't have such a wonderful fund of stories about the strange encounters I had on my doorstep, at *all* hours of the day or night …)

Sorry! I've digressed. But, as you can see, this is all about security – from PCs to cars, from screening visitors to avoiding courier-related disputes. Security issues are all-too familiar these days. We can't go a hundred yards and not be under the gaze of a CCTV camera – for security. There are cameras at the Coop check-outs, the bus into town, inside and outside the local pub – for security. For personal safety; as an anti-crime measure; to stop anti-social behaviour – and all for security.

You'll have your own thoughts about security as I have mine. But think on this … In *The Open Door,* published in 1957, Helen Keller wrote:

> Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing.

Security, a superstition? I wonder … But there again, have we become so hung up on security such that the whole of life is about playing safe? Has security become our passion, and, if so, where did adventure go? And while we're on the subject, is security in our faith our goal, or might we be missing out any sense of risk – *and* Douglas McArthur's opportunity, daring or otherwise – along the way?

A prayer for today

Secure in my trust in God; bold in my adventure of faith. A daring opportunity awaits.

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