

Thought for the day – Monday 21st February 2022

By Revd John Marshall

Prayers like gravel and birds on the roof

Have you sat in the church and heard stones rolling across the roof-lights when they have been dropped by crows. Of course they might be snails as the bird seeks a tasty morsel.

I was reminded of the sound when I opened Mark Oakley's The collage of God and found RS Thomas's poem

Prayers like gravel

 Flung at the sky's
window, hoping to attract
 the loved one's
attention. But without
 visible plaits to let
down for the believer
 to climb up,
to what purpose open
 that far casement?

 I would
have refrained long since
 but that peering once
through my locked fingers
I thought that I detected
 the movement of a curtain.

R S Thomas from Collected Poems

Quoted in The Collage of God Mark Oakley Darton, Longman and Todd.

Jesus tells stories of the man who bothers his friend for a loaf of bread and of the woman who bothers the judge; and God is so much more willing to hear our prayers.

(By the way did you notice the reference to Rapunzel?)

And sometimes, and often it is good to listen or be aware of the signs of God.