

## St James News: Thought for the day – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020

### Revd John Marshall

Miranda Hart Peggy and me and faith (oh and joy)

I was impressed by Miranda's writing on joy and faith, inspired by her little dog.

So there we were , Peggy and me, on the expansive dramatic Devon beach, shocked by joy. Well certainly I was shocked by joy. A light was shining through the greyness of the previous year or two, dominated by viruses, a break up and a general physical and mental fatigue that had pushed joy firmly to the recesses of my soul, feeling as though it was irretrievable, frankly Peggy seemed to bring it back when she ran from that wave.

Peggy was in danger on a narrow beach along the Thames, bounded by a high wall; she is following Miranda above her.

There were so many unanswerable questions for her yet she loyally and faithfully did what I was encouraging her to do.

It got me thinking about my own faith in ... well I say God, but you may say Life, or the Universe, or the Fundamental Goodness and Purpose of Everything. Because often we don't know why we go through rubbish in this life, why we are lonely and confused, why things hurt or break and, more to the point, why things break when we have done all we can for them not to. But a faith that it's all to a purpose, that we we're being led somewhere good through our struggles, that it can be redeemed even if we are the cause of it, would help so much with that, I think. And that day on the towpath at Kew, as I hugged a shaking Peg, I knew I would step back into having a faith at the centre of my life. I couldn't be bothered to question any more. I would rather have a Peggy like faith than not. Forget theological debate, I'll just believe, because it makes me feel safer, connected, in purpose, loved and approved.

The writer of the Hebrews says in 11.1

“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”

Paul says in Galatians 2.20 “The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Maggie reminds me Faith Acts In Trusting Him.