



Pastor's Page

The Show Must Go On.

I went to my very first fancy dress party at the age of five dressed as a 'little white bull!' The reason (you may well ask!) was that I loved the popular song of the day with that name sung by the Cockney rock star Tommy Steele. This was back in the early 1960s. It was therefore with nostalgic enthusiasm that I responded positively to the suggestion recently from a lady at church that a group of us go and see him in the musical 'Scrooge'. I must admit it felt a bit strange planning to go to a Christmas production in early summer but I was advised that the show would quickly sell out. So not wanting to miss the opportunity or disappoint this lady I swiftly ordered tickets for the production.

A week last Thursday I was at this lady's house enjoying a nice meal and chatting about all sorts when the topic of 'Scrooge' cropped up. "Well" I said "it's hard to believe after all these months that next Wednesday we'll be off to see Tommy Steele". "Yes, It's come round quickly hasn't it?" she replied. I felt excited for her as I knew this was a lifelong ambition and I also knew that she very seldom went out to the theatre. So after reminding her of the transport arrangements and 'pick up' times I bid her farewell in my usual manner. A few days later I was at a friend's house in Herefordshire when my mobile phone rang. Answering it I heard the voice of the brother of this lady who sounded very agitated. He explained that his sister had been rushed into hospital with serious breathing problems. I assured him that I'd be praying for her as I made my way home. With that I left my friend's house and began my fairly short return journey. The drive took me about an hour and a quarter and at approximately 11.00pm I was turning into my road. It was at this juncture that the mobile phone went off again and I heard the same voice now telling me that this lady had died. It was hard to take this news in but I offered to help in any way that I could. There were a few more phone calls that night and a visit to her house before I eventually went off to bed, tired and rather numb.

The next day was a bit of a blur with all my planned activities being punctuated by phone calls and visits to various members of this lady's family. Then it was Wednesday – the day of the show!! The poignant question was "should we go or not?" Well, though in many ways it seemed wholly inappropriate we all felt that the right thing to do was to go. This appeared to be confirmed when another member of the church happened to be walking past the bus stop that we were leaving from and we persuaded her to join us making use of the 'spare ticket!'

Well the show was brilliant and the lady who had suggested it and was so looking forward to it would have loved it. But...much as she had hoped that she would see Tommy Steele, God obviously had other plans! It was time for her to meet her Lord and Saviour face to face and to be with him forever.

This woman didn't know her earthly life was going to end last Monday (the 'Scrooge' ticket is a poignant reminder of that) but she was ready. The last thing she said to me was "can we have a bible study this week?" "Of course we can" I said not knowing that in 24 hours time she'd be in the presence of the author!

None of us know when that day may come but let's pray that we too will be ready.

25th October 2009