

Website Reflections

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When I was asked to write a reflection for this slot on the Amersham Free Church website it caused me to reflect (yes) on what a reflection really is. And of course the most obvious answer is that it is a reverse image of the real thing. Which is why when I look at myself in a mirror I don't see myself as others see me – the only way I can do that is to look at a photograph of myself, fixed in the time when it was taken and therefore not necessarily as I am at the time of looking.

That led me to ponder upon exactly how others do see me, and how different it is from how I see myself – or would like to be seen ! The two could be very different.

The Welsh Presbyterian minister who married us was called The Revd Geoffrey Holland-Williams – not you would think a name that in its totality was very common. But he had the unusual experience of reading his own obituary – because someone of exactly the same name had died and the local press jumped to the (wrong) conclusion that it was our man and printed a glowing article about him and all his attributes and achievements over the course of his life. He said that he had never realised what a nice person he was !

Now I'm not suggesting for one moment that the same would apply to me. But it could be quite a salutary experience to face up to the harsh reality of discovering how we appear to other people, warts and all. Or for that matter to an all-seeing, all-knowing God.

This reminded me that I had written a light-hearted poem a while ago which I thought I might share:

WHO AM I ?

I have often attempted to try to discover the answer to why

I should need your suggestions to help answer the question

Which I put to you now – who am I ?

Since first put in my pram, I've become who I am

And I haven't become someone else,

And over the years, Through laughter and tears

I have slowly turned into myself.

