

A Christmas Message for Sackville from Mr Roberts 2017

This year I am going to try and use a bit of technology and no notes, so this may go horribly wrong but we will persevere!

When out and about at weekends with my wife, I have those signs on which are written sometimes witty, sometimes cheesy sayings. You will all know the sort of thing which says Keep calm and carry on, or versions of that.

The one which has stayed with me this year is this one:

“Enjoy the little things for one day you may look back and realise they were the big things.”

For me this is saying enjoy what you have while you have it and don't wait for something at some vague time in the future because that might not, in fact probably won't, ever happen and you will be very disappointed.

Don't take life, people, happiness or indeed anything for granted.

This is a special time of year and last Sunday I was looking forward to meeting some friends we haven't seen for over a year for lunch and then in the afternoon going with them to the Radio Sussex carol service at Chichester Cathedral.

We decided that on the way we would go to one shop in Worthing and visit my daughter and then set off for Chichester.

We got as far as nearly parking by the shop I wanted to visit and this happened. I ran up against a kerb and punctured a tyre. To cut a long boring story short, the friend I was due to meet later eventually turned up but his jack wasn't very good when a man parked next to my car offered us the use of a proper big jack, he also loaned us an air compressor and a torque wrench. Then a man came out of the house where we were parked and offered us tea to drink. We got back on the road really quickly and all was well thanks to the help and kindness shown to me by my friend and by some perfect strangers.

We got to eat a lovely lunch and to attend the super carol service. These are not big things, they are little things but so important and so enjoyable that for me they are the big things.

Up until last night, I was looking for something inspiring to really illustrate what I mean by the little things. Then I went to the Sackville Carol Service, in the scheme of the World not a big thing, but one which was quite honestly amazing. No-one could have left that church without joy in their hearts. Mr Feist felt immensely proud to be a part of this school; Mr Bush determined to make it into a lasting memory; Mr Grant said he was truly emotional (in a good way) and Mr Endersby looked like the proud father not of just 2 boys but also of a whole gaggle of year 7 students who performed like stars. There are not so many

occasions in the life of a Sackville teacher when you come away at the end and say, as I did, "Thank God I'm alive to be a part of this".

And that reminds me of the whoop of joy that Mrs Fleming and I heard and experienced when a group of sixth formers were told they had, as a result of their performance, won through to the final of a Mock Trial competition back in November. That was another small but remarkable thing.

Even yesterday afternoon, when year 11 got their mock GCSE results, one of my form group was elated at her English grades, and her delight gave me a real lift as well.

Moving on, this is Joseph Pascoe Roberts, our grandson, born in April this year, our first grandchild. He is a pretty small thing at the moment and we are really looking forward to every moment we shall spend with him over Christmas. No doubt he will become a much bigger thing!

And to carry on this self- indulgence, I have spoken a number of times of my daughter and her illness. She has spent more of this year in hospital than at home but here she is, at her new home, and guess who is bringing sunshine into her life!

So, my message is, obviously we want you to aim high and shoot for the stars but enjoy everything you do on the way to achieving your ambitions.

Enjoy the little things.

May I wish each and every one of you a healthy, blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Happy Christmas!

Mr Roberts

December 2017