

November 2022: The view from Win Hill

As many of you know, Richard and I enjoy walking, and enjoy living where many walks that have been special to us for decades are now right on our doorstep. Recently we walked up Win Hill again, having not done so for a few months. The prompt that sent us up that particular hill, rather than any of a whole range of other local walks, was a stray remark from someone we met out walking.

'It's only a little hill, but from the top you get a 360 degree view,' our fellow walker had said. Win Hill has long been a favourite of ours and, as we stood on the top, looking all around and identifying familiar landmarks we found ourselves, for the first time – astonishingly - wondering whether part of that 'favourites' label is simply because of the 360 degree view. We still can't decide.

We walked home, back to the political and financial turmoil that has been dominating our news for the last few weeks, and I found myself reflecting on what we see, and how. In our daily circumstances I don't think we ever have a 360 degree view, but I am certain that it is helpful to try to see what others see when they look at the same things as we are looking at. A few days earlier I had read recent comments from Guy Singh-Watson, the founder of the Riverford Organic Farmers business, which has now been employee owned for almost five years, and has just won a Good Governance Award from the Employee Ownership Association. 'Power,' Guy Singh-Watson said, 'should not be confined to one individual or clique.' He spoke of the best decisions resulting from listening to those who see things differently, resulting from balancing the desire for personal achievement with the desire to serve. He spoke of the importance of honesty, and of questioning our own ideology.

I don't know whether or not Guy Singh-Watson would agree, but to me many of his values sound like Christian values. Christianity teaches that we belong to one another and to the whole creation, and should value all to whom we belong. Each person's gifts and skills are valuable, but as resources to be used for the good of all. All our ideas and actions, Christianity teaches, should always be held up to the light of God's eternal love and wisdom. As I pray for those in leadership roles, I pray that they may indeed work for the well-being of all creation today, and for the well-being of the world of tomorrow.

Yours in Christ,
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