

***For we're like creatures of the wind, and wild is the wind
Wild is the wind...***

There's very little by David Bowie that I like yet his cover of the 1956 movie title track ***Wild is the Wind*** is amongst the most haunting and beautiful pieces of music I know. Bowie's interpretation probably makes this my favourite song of all. You could listen on Youtube and be enthralled too, especially the black and white iconic version. I really really enjoy this song and it is special too. When I hear it, it reminds me of someone I loved dearly who has died; it reminds me of them and also some amazing times spent with them. It is a song that is part of the fabric of my experience, what the music producer Pete Waterman calls '*the sonic architecture of our lives*'. It is a trigger to recall past experience and emotion liberating both laughter and tears.

The verses of the song say that we are like creatures of wind and indeed we are. There are over 123 references to wind in the Bible; many more for breath. Wind is both creative and destructive. We read that the Lord breathed over the oceans of chaos to bring about our universe in the great act of creation...we read the Lord brings destruction through the wind wiping memory from the surface of the earth. There are many biblical images of God's Holy Spirit being like the wind and being breathed into us to give us life. With poetic licence another of the verses in the song reflects this, '*With your kiss my life begins, you're spring to me, all things to me, don't you know you're life itself!*'

We know too that at the last, when the breath of life leaves us, we are no longer here. '*The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away...blessed be God for ever*', I read at funerals. God breathes the wind of life into bodies as we are born and begins the creative journey of forming us into his likeness... and at the last he reclaims that wind, drawing it from our earthly bodies as we join him forever in his heavenly place.

One of the great privileges and responsibilities of a priest is to carry people through times of grief and to support them through the funeral of a loved one. A funeral can be a time of great trauma as well as immense healing. It is a time of goodbye-for-now. At funerals I often encourage people to reflect upon who the deceased was to them in their beauty and brokenness and to recall the special moments with and characteristics of their loved one. At most funerals, hymns or indeed other pieces of music are chosen because they reflect the person or become a trigger to recall special moments with them. The songs bring the loved ones to mind and can be sources to aid the mourning and to pour balm on the grief. No doubt the reader too will have hymns or songs that recall loved ones and some amazing times spent with them. Cherish those hymns or songs. Let them liberate your laughter and your tears.

The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away...blessed be God for ever.

For we're like creatures of the wind, and wild is the wind.

Wild is the wind.

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