

# Free Press

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Dear Friends,  
SO here we are again, suitably refreshed and recharged after three months Sabbatical and with so much to write about over the next few months.

However, let me say at the outset that I am delighted to be back not just with the Thought but also into 'normal' church life again. Three months can seem a very long time to be 'out of it' but Sabbaticals are not an option, they are there for a reason.

In addition to precious time with Prospects in France where Margaret and I worked with and for people with learning difficulties, visits to see old friends in our previous church Circuits in North Devon and Buckinghamshire, and our summer holiday in Denmark, I was privileged to take in two retreats for myself and also do some serious (and not so serious) writing.

The first week away was at Lee Abbey in North Devon and the second week saw me at Caldey Island off Tenby. These were times of quiet for reflection. In ad-

dition to all this I was able to finalise a poetry collection which hopefully will be ready for publication in autumn, and also Zoe the family dog and I put paws to her second book which is now 80 per cent complete and will be launched at the Christmas fair at my church in Caldicot at the end of November.

I shall now need to provide Methodist HQ with just a two-page summary of my Sabbatical as soon as possible, which means picking and choosing from 36 closely-typewritten journal notes.

Not an easy job, but I want to get it done while all is still fresh in mind. My working title for the thesis was always meant to be 'God Amongst The Disadvantaged'.

As we go along, perhaps you will be able to judge for yourself how well I stuck to that theme, or not...

For now, great to be back, and thank you to the editor for assuring me she thinks my page 'sits well' with her paper. It is a true privilege writing to you, but one I never take for granted.

Thought for  
the weak



with the Rev Preben  
Andersen