

# Free Press

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## Dear Friends

As we continue – and conclude – my immediate and reflective thoughts on the sabbatical, I feel I can do no better than remember the summer holiday we had in Denmark, which gave my mother an ideal opportunity to catch up, not just with Margaret and myself, but thanks to the sabbatical and school holidays, to see our daughter, fiancé and two grandchildren as well.

When you are 88, wheelchair-bound, living in a comfortable but not very large apartment, we soon found that the best way of visiting Mother was to pop in for an hour or so either on the way to or returning from a day out somewhere, and it worked beautifully. And I know that none of us will ever forget Mother in her bedroom window (well, not literally perhaps, but you know what I mean) sitting there waiting for us to arrive, and at the end of the visit, there again, seeing us off until the next day, from that same window.

If ever there were someone happy and content and filled with an awareness

of God's spirit with her, and accepting of her disabilities and yet eternally grateful for all the help she receives from social services, family and friends, this is Mother. And she never stops saying so. "I am so thankful, I am not afraid of dying, but God willing, I still have a lot of living to do, and I am intent on coming across for Heidi's wedding in March." Knowing my mother as I hope I do, I will put nothing past her! And as she always says to anyone who cares to listen: "I realise that not everything I hope for may happen, but I always relish the anticipation." A good rule of life, I think.

So, I finish my sabbatical memoirs with Mother. And you may remember that the title for my thesis was 'God amongst the disadvantaged'. Many might say she belongs in that category, but don't even suggest that to her! Where there is life, there is hope, and where Hope is, there God is too. With Paula in that window. We could do worse than follow her example. God bless you all.

Preben

Thought for  
the weak



with the Rev Preben  
Andersen