

MONMOUTHSHIRE 50p Wednesday, January 10, 2017

Free Press

Dear Friends,

What a return journey from Denmark that was! After having peacefully seen in the New Year with my 92-year old mother, we left a few days later on what seemed the wrath of Storm Eleanor, as slowly she took us twisting and turning to Hook van Holland and the overnight ferry back to Harwich. Rain, wind, sleet, you name it, and practically the whole way. But thankfully we got to our destination unharmed, although we were told on our arrival home that three people on the same German motorways we travelled were not as fortunate.

Thought for
the weak



with the Rev Preben
Andersen

Although Margaret and I have done the Denmark trip more times than we can remember over the years, we never take for granted what it means to arrive and to return safely, especially with the speeds often experienced on the German autobahns regardless of the weather conditions. We often get back home, vouching "Never again", - until the next time, and the one after that. "Ah, well, as long as we can keep going and enjoying it, eh?"

I believe it is in our human nature to be adventurous and trust that despite the dangers all will be well, and if we are honest, don't we just love the freedom that a long car ride can give you? I know I do, and overall, I enjoy the getting there and the journey home as much as anything. However, we need to be sensible.

A vital part of New Year in Denmark is reminiscing on the year that went and trying to anticipate the one ahead. We rarely get it right though. For example, who could have anticipated that North and South Korea are actually planning to sit down round the same negotiating table, I believe on the very day you read this? Where did *that* come from, but what positive news this is for January.

Wherever and however you travel this year, I pray that you may know God with you, and that you may always feel safe in his loving care. Margaret and I never finish a long journey without saying 'Thank God for safe travel.' It's a simple thing to do, but all too easy to forget.

Rev Preben Andersen