

As I See It by Joan Barnett

A New Gadget

Ecclesiastes 3:1. KJV. To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under the heavens. 6. A time to keep and a time to cast away.

I recently bought a new gadget or more to the point replaced one that had broken beyond repair some years ago. I had considered getting this new gadget for a while and like everything it was put to the back of my mind.

What prompted my new purchase was a chat with a friend at the drop In. My friend, like me is also a very keen fan of audio books. As a volunteer in a local charity shop he sometimes comes across audio books although some are from the earlier generation of abridged ones on cassette. Rather than see them thrown away because most people use smart devices these days, he gives a donation and listens to them before bringing them along to the drop In, for others to enjoy.

Now you can imagine what my new gadget is. I came home from drop In and rang Cobolt, I knew they still provided the small cassette players and blank cassettes if anyone wants to purchase them. Once I had finished the book I went to my stack of old recordings and took myself on a journey down memory lane.

Listening to myself and our daughter playing our guitars and singing a variety of songs at least forty years ago. No doubt she would probably want to throw these reminders of her school days in the nearest bin. For any parent, reliving those days of musical instrument playing and the inevitable misplayed notes, certainly sends us back to those far off days when everyone wanted to be Hank Marvin or a Beatle. At least you can relive those far off days every Saturday morning along with Tony Blackburn with the Sounds of the Sixties programme on Radio Two.

I may not be able to see anymore on the outside which means I can spend many happy moments along with my memory or imagination.

I have always liked the book of Ecclesiastes with his way of going straight to the point. There was a time to cast away my old cassette player and buy a new one. Those seasons for everything will continue to come round while we turn to them as The Byrds used to sing!