

As I See It by Joan Barnett – October

God Bless the Gadgets

Psalm 23:4. NIV. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for You are with me. Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

One morning at Drop In, the weekly meeting for coffee and a chat at the church of the Holy Spirit, Burpham, I was sitting at one of the tables when another member arrived, struggled with the chair while leaning on her stick and finally sitting down. "God bless the gadgets ". I casually commented. My friend was slightly baffled until I said that we may tend to think of gadgets as being the small often talking items that help many of us in our daily lives.

We then began a fairly comical discussion as to the number of gadgets we might come across. The walking stick being the first to come to mind. I wonder how many people have been grateful to whoever came up with the idea of using an item of wood to help keep them upright? There are many types of walking sticks and canes. Visually impaired people can often be seen using a white long cane being rolled from side to side with either a small cotton reel or a ball on the end so that it rolls over some of the various lumps and bumps in pavements. Pride comes before a fall, is often quoted. Anything that helps prevent tripping over possibly suffering a broken bone is worth overcoming the embarrassment of announcing to the world that you have a difficulty. As life appears somewhat harder on the joints as we move around, grab rails prove handy when negotiating steps, getting in and out of showers and baths where you need all your concentration in order to stay upright.

Wheelchairs of many and various forms may not be thought of as gadgets but just look at how useful they are. Large wheel that you propel yourself, battery operated ones for those with more severe difficulties and the amazing variety used by anyone determined to take up sport.

Assistance dogs probably do not come under the title gadget unless it might have been given it as a name. Disabled people have had their lives greatly enhanced by putting their trust in these well-trained animals.

Stair lifts can reduce any fear of falling down stairs. A problem can arise if you are half way up or down and a power cut happens. This brings in the next gadget. The alarm button on your wrist or hanging round your neck, press the button and help will soon arrive.

One friend told me her most useful gadget was the grabber or picker up of items sometimes they come with a magnet attached, even more useful.

The verse from Psalm 23 needs little explanation, being one of the most loved of the psalm. A rod and staff giving comfort make sense for anyone walking in unknown territory.

This is just the 'tip of the iceberg' when it comes to talking about useful gadgets. The most important thing to remember is that they are there to help us so go ahead, when offered a gadget say yes and use it with pride!