

As I See It by Joan Barnett

What is that in my pocket?

Ecclesiastes 3:1. NIV. There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens.

I have found it very useful to wear an apron in an attempt to keep my clothes clean, especially when eating meals. My aprons are cotton and always have pockets. It is amazing what you can carry around with you leaving your hands free.

My apron has double pockets, plenty of room to put my cordless landline and the mobile phone. They easily fit into one pocket leaving room for my empty glass after I have drunk the water. My morning routine after breakfast while the sighted assistant is listening to radio 4 Extra in another room, I am doing my daily Bread bible study then sending out the first of the daily text messages on the mobile phone. This is when I work my way through a glass of water. Well, we are told to drink plenty!

After this I need to carry everything out of the lounge, into the hall in order to use the computer for the next session of daily text sending by e-mail. Now you have an idea of how some of you receive these messages.

One lunchtime I had prepared the vegetables ready for cooking in the steamer in the oven. Fish cakes were on a baking tray ready to go in the oven at the same time. While the kettle was boiling the water to go on the vegetables, I opened a packet of fresh blackberries. This entailed pulling the clear top off which is usually a simple task but not on this occasion. Somehow it flicked and I felt a blackberry hit my foot. I stood still not wanting to tread on it and called the sighted assistant who came along and picked up 3 blackberries off the floor. I thought no more about it and continued to sort them into 2 bowls. The water boiled and was poured onto the vegetables and everything was put in the oven. Timer set for 30 minutes. All very simple.

Later while eating my dinner, I happened to notice my pocket front was wet and could not understand why. The sighted assistant took a look and said I must have leaned on a blackberry although I could not remember doing this. I carried on with my dinner then put my hand into my pocket to get the tissue I had put in earlier and felt something cold and sticky, somewhat surprised at my comments the sighted assistant took another look and discovered a squashed blackberry. Rather messy but fortunately not soaked through onto my cardigan.

The next day When putting a tissue into my pocket I felt something stiff, on examination it turned out to be a dried blackberry, we had not removed everything the previous day. I scraped it out and the apron has been washed without dyeing all the other items a shade of pink. Much as I love blackberries, I prefer them in a bowl with some yogurt rather than in my pocket.

Ecclesiastes always has something to say that is relevant to our lives. Well, he was taking a look at life in general although the comments about how meaningless life appeared to be does seem rather sad. Perhaps he had a problem with his pockets! Our lives are full of ups and downs. We learn to cope and the bible is full of helpful advice once we start reading regularly.

Strange items falling into the pockets on my apron usually leave me smiling at how funny life can be.