

15<sup>th</sup> July 2022

## Moments

**“Minor things can become moments of great revelation  
when encountered for the very first time.”**

Margot Fonteyn, *Margot Fonteyn: Autobiography* (1975)

It was a minor thing, yet it became a moment of great revelation, and it felt like I was encountering it for the very first time. A minor thing for me became a moment of great revelation that I will cherish for a long time.

One of our daughters had organised a barbecue in her garden. It wasn't marking a special event, just a chance to get together with family on a Saturday in the long summer break from school. (What is it about barbecues on a balmy afternoon?) Burgers and beer; chairs and chocolate; sausages and soft drinks; kebabs and conversation; salads and savouries; dressings and deserts ... A happy, routine family gathering. Eight people, ranging in ages from ten to seventy-two, and six dogs, of varying sizes and provenance. A barbecue on a balmy Saturday afternoon.

When the food was almost gone and everyone was lounging about and relaxing, I took my seat, and bent down to retrieve the beer I'd placed at my feet. And that's when I had the moment of great revelation. For as I looked up and cast my eye around the assembled company, everyone was smiling. Even the dogs, crashed out in the warm sun, seemed to exude happiness. In that special moment, all was right with the world. Political turmoil was a distant memory; world conflicts were put to one side; concerns for people with Covid didn't take precedence anymore. In that moment of revelation, family, health, happiness mattered more than all else, and life was good. A minor thing? Maybe, or maybe not, and on that day it was only one moment among many. But the moment didn't disappear before it offered me the "great revelation" of happy, contented family life, as if I was encountering it for the very first time.

So as I write this, I thank God for such a moment of great revelation. And I thank God, perhaps even more, that I was attuned enough to be aware of it. For if I'd allowed my mind to be preoccupied with a host of other things, a minor thing might have passed me by, and the moment of great revelation might have been missed altogether.

### **A prayer for today**

*It is no minor thing to know your love.*

*But it is a moment of great revelation when I realise that! Amen*