

## Poetry Corner

### Divertissements

The cornerstone of modern earth  
Is cut from rock of endless mirth.  
Four hundred years past Pascal said  
Man loves distractions in his head,  
To hunt, to war, and now to shop,  
*Divertissements* are his God-block.  
And this is how he builds his world,  
Desire around sensation hurled,  
Until he hears his spirit moan:  
"You cannot live on this alone."

### The Second Sunday of Easter

In Bengo church the daffodils  
Spring upwards from the windowsills,  
And though it's evening the light  
Remains an hour, so all is bright.  
Fresh colour on the stained glass shines:  
The verdant green, the red that's wine,  
And flowers burst about the nave  
As if it's risen from the grave.  
But a year older we all sit,  
Together alone, thinking it  
Happened, and the absent are wrong,  
Now convert Pan's at Evensong.

### The Meaning of the Creative Act

"God demands of man a creative act",

Nicolas Berdyev

Sandcastles left next to the sea  
Suggest an aristocracy  
Neglectful of the tide of time,  
The world of sin and Adam's crime.  
Creative acts are how we find

The paradise for which we pine;  
The progress man achieves is less  
Than the state of creativeness.  
It's late now, but the children laugh  
As Time consumes their morning graft,  
And this is how I'd like to be:  
A Maker laughing at the sea.

Stephen Bardle



## Why women bishops have clergy husbands

The first three women bishops to be appointed (Libby Lane to Stockport, Alison White to Hull and Rachel Treweek to Gloucester) all have clergy husbands.

Why? Prof Linda Woodhead has speculated: "The most amusing suggestion I've heard is that the Church is looking for women bishops with experience of managing male clergy."