

THE BOOMING CLOCK ON THE BELL TOWER

By Bill Pugh



The grey stone Church stood on a commanding position near the corner where two tram lines intersected, one pointing to the city in one direction, and the suburbs in the other. The notice board was strategically erected, so passers-by could easily read it. Each Sunday's text was placed on the board in large letters. Every hour the church clock sounded the time. Some said that the twelve midday chimes on Sunday would remind the preacher to finish up his sermon!

One minister, a little chap with a challenging voice, had a sense of the dramatic. On the last Sunday of one year, the text on the board was from the prophecy of Habbakuk: "If the vision seems slow, wait for it ..."

Reflection:

Read Habbakuk 2: 1–3. What may God be saying to you or your Church as you stand on the threshold of a new year?

The preacher stressed that sometimes we are impatient. Why doesn't God act now? But of course things happen in God's time, according to God's plan. It will happen. Have a little bit of the virtue of patience, he told us. Just before 12 o'clock he sat down, finishing with his text for the day. On cue the clock struck 12 booming sounds. A few moments of silent meditation. Then, without announcement, we rose to sing the last hymn.