

PODCAST REVIEW



The Tortoise Podcast: No weddings and fourteen funerals

“ There are no Spring weddings, no Christenings, only funerals. ”

Jan Gould is the vicar for a Church in Wales in the parish of Glen Ely in Cardiff. It is a poor neighbourhood where church is still an important part of the community. Usually, there is a natural balance between births, deaths and marriages. But coronavirus has interrupted that balance.

Now Jan is dealing with a sea of funerals, and coping with the restrictions of lockdown are making the job of a parish priest all the more difficult.

The doorbell at Jan's vicarage has been ringing more than usual and the pandemic has taken its toll.

Her congregation has scattered and grown at the same time. Services have moved to Facebook, pastoral care takes place over Zoom. Live streams come straight from Jan's dining table. Hundreds of mourners have been replaced by just a few, and large families must decide who can attend the service to grieve.

On *The Tortoise Podcast*, journalist David Taylor speaks to Jan as she explains how the change in funerals since the COVID-19 outbreak has been upsetting for everyone concerned. Jan explains how the emotion of satisfaction she usually has at the end of a funeral has gone, and how she feels that the deceased and their loved ones are being sold short.

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