



# Courage, Compassion and Curiosity

Three companions for current times?

**'Courage, Compassion and Curiosity – the Queen had it all'**

*said Robert Janvrin, former Private Secretary to the Queen (1999-2007)*

Interestingly, these three attributes are gifted to us from birth. They do not have to be learned! They are the mainstay of life – the driving forces behind growth, understanding and progress. The problem is, as we get older, we tend to 'unlearn' them or 'box' them into 'safe' controllable corners.

We are not born afraid – our early months are devoted to exploring without any awareness of danger. If it were not so, we would never learn how to get about or develop any social or environmental skills. Fear grows with age and experience. Life teaches us caution, which is a good survival skill, but it also tempers our curiosity, and we can begin to question ourselves in every situation. For the wellbeing of a healthy, progressive society, we need to sustain a good balance of all three C's.

Jesus understood the ever-changing balance of our courage, compassion and curiosity. He said: 'Do not be afraid – I am with you!' These words can be found 365 times in the Bible... a daily reminder? He also said, 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. So when you find yourself being fearful, let fear call you to courage... get curious about the possible outcomes... and have compassion for yourself by choosing not to limit your life; and have compassion for your neighbour too.

Perhaps one thing we admired so much about Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth was that she seemed to keep a healthy balance of the three C's throughout her life. She had the Courage to face her unchosen destiny; the Curiosity to find out as much as she could about the world and its people; and the Compassion which she saw in Jesus, and so much wanted to reflect.

How better to sum up than with the words which gave courage to both her and to her father, King George VI...

***'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God.  
That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way.'***