



# THE RIVER

## Meditation by Katrina

Down by London's river  
Chimes of clock  
Marking time  
Overlapping sounds of running water through pipes and channels and rivers and drains  
Location affecting the sounds  
Lapping onto bank  
Thudding against boats' sides  
Sounding sinister in enclosed spaces or storm  
Cheerful and light- hearted over pebbles  
Foghorns calling  
Ships warning bells  
Associated sounds ; mechanical, human, vehicular,  
Birds shrieking  
Rope creaking as pulled in different directions  
Clank of chains  
Slapping of ropes against flagpoles  
Boats rocking and tumbling whilst at rest.  
Sounds blending harshly on the ear  
Or pleurably.  
Sounds of people harsh in physical actual sound  
Harsh in the content  
Inner voices critical or approving  
In all our experiencing and learning every day  
Do we hear You?

Movement of water  
Of people  
Vehicles  
Boats  
Water muddy brown one moment  
Sparkling another as weather changes  
Smooth reflections  
Distorted reflections  
Ripples in river constantly shifting and moving  
Patterns made and re – made very second  
Swirling , smooth patches, ridges sliding in and out on banks when calm  
Splashing vigorously when agitated and stirred  
Violent and destructive depending on the stimulus each moment of the day.

Gulls squabbling bring the seaside to mind  
Elegant heron standing tall  
Surveying, arrogantly , his patch.  
Gracefulness and delicacy in the length of leg and movement.  
Solitary Cormorant standing in stillness on wooden post in river  
Turning his head checking what is going on  
Black silhouette against grey and white background of sky and buildings.

Memorials to past event and peoples  
And trades;  
Tragedy and pleasure ; war time and peace time.  
Shadows and light chasing each other over the constantly moving surface of the waters  
Lit from lamp and buildings  
Lapping sound of water connecting with bank echoing the sound of the sea.  
Chimes of the hour coming up the river heard just over traffic's noises.  
Light and shadows cast by moon and sun  
Sounds of water swirling  
And brushing and shaping land masses  
Soundless without men and machines.  
Sound of wind breathing  
Creation coming into existence  
Chaos responding to the touch of Your hands  
Mater creator of all , delicately moulding, manouvering, playing, colouring the earth and sky.

Daylight  
No hint of darkness to come  
Late afternoon and daylight lingers  
Clouds white and grey  
Patches of blue  
Sky touched by violent flush of orange yellow  
Spreading out behind clock's tower  
Mirrored in ripples in river  
Swiftness of changes to different parts of sky at different stages of  
Colour  
And light  
Changes  
As daylight slowly retreats  
To make room for night  
Almost see Your hands controlling the light levels.  
Finding You down by London's river.  
Standing on a bridge see the city buildings  
Jumble of architectural styles  
And periods of history  
Towns/ villages within a city  
Others stretches of river almost rural  
Less intensive buildings  
Cows and fields and open spaces  
Historic buildings where people led very different lives to us  
Royalty  
Aristocracy and Upper Middle Class  
Through the centuries and changing of society  
Presence of Churches and Chapels  
Cathedrals and groups meeting together in homes  
You could be found down by London's river.  
Daylight or lamplight  
Filtering through trees, branches and railings  
Squares, rectangles , round of windows  
Ornate lamp stands  
Speak of homelife/ hospitals surgeries and clinics/ businesses/ cafes /  
shops and places of leisure  
Surrounded by light  
Looking out for You and Your light/

Finding You down by London's river.



# THE RIVER

## Prayers for Others

Holy God,  
whose Spirit moved over the waters at the dawn of creation,  
hear our prayers for all who thirst today.

We pray for those who are spiritually thirsty,  
who long to know Your presence, but don't know where to find You.  
We pray for those who are alone and without hope,  
those who long to feel needed and loved,  
those who are searching for meaning and purpose.

O healing river,  
**pour down Your waters, and heal Your people.**

We pray for all who are physically thirsty,  
who don't have enough water to drink, or feed their animals,  
whose fields are parched, whose crops have withered;  
those who have to walk long distances to find enough water to survive,  
or who have to be content with water that is unclean.  
We pray for those whose homes and villages are torn apart  
because of drought or famine.

O healing river,  
**pour down Your waters, and heal Your people.**

We pray for those who are thirsty for justice,  
who long for an equal sharing of resources among peoples and nations;  
those who put their lives at risk to protect streams and rivers and oceans;  
those who are working to find clean water,  
and make it available to those who need it.

O healing river,  
**pour down Your waters, and heal Your people.**

God, we ask that you would open our hearts to the needs of all who thirst.  
Give us courage to work together for justice,  
to stand alongside those who are thirsty,  
so that all people, everywhere, may live without want or fear,  
and may discover the abundant life You promise to each one.

**In the name of Jesus Christ—the source of living water—we pray. Amen.**