

# Memory Makers

*Assembly by Sarah Curl, Chaplain, October 2019*

---

One of the greatest gifts that God has given humanity is the beautiful gift of memory. In a sense, memory allows us to relive a moment, a place a person that was so special to us.

**We are the memory makers.**

Think about all the people you know, your friends, acquaintances, people you are at school with, family members, staff at school, people from outside school, people you like and people you are not so keen on.

You are making their memories. Just as they are making yours.

When I was little, about 5 years old, I went to a small village infant school, I loved school but I didn't like break times and lunchtimes, why? Because at the end of the playground were the toilets. They were dark, gloomy, and often there were spiders lurking in there and I didn't like going in.

But what I remember most is in those toilets at every break and lunchtime was a tall girl called Kim, she ruled the toilets and she hung around there with her friends. She scared me, she was tall and frightening, I don't remember what she did or said, but my memory at 5 years old was that this girl was scary.

And then one day I came to school and she had gone, she had moved to another school, and I wasn't so frightened anymore. School became a less scary place.

By the time we went to primary school, we had moved house and on my first day I went into my class, and guess who was there - Kim, and guess what, Kim had taken it upon herself to rule over the girls loo's. And so at age 7 the fear of this girl started again.

My memory of Kim wasn't a good memory.

Many years later when I was 24 years old, I was sat at Waterloo station in London waiting for a friend, when I noticed a tall, blonde woman staring at me. Not recognising her I smiled politely and with a big smile on her face she came over to speak to me, she asked me if my name was Sarah (my maiden name) I said Yes I am Sarah, she sat down next to me and said 'you probably don't remember me but I went to school with you, my name is Kim'.

Well I was quite shocked, we began to talk about our lives and I learnt that she was a Nanny in London and she was going home to Somerset to see her family. We talked until her train arrived and it was lovely to talk to her, I didn't tell her how frightened I had been of her when I was little.

I'm really glad I saw Kim again, as it changed my memory of her, and I remember her now as a woman, with a smile and a big heart.

And it made me reflect on how other people remember me, it makes me think of my actions and how I treat people, take my work here in Wells Cathedral School, in twenty, thirty, forty or fifty years time some of you won't remember me at all, but I hope some of you will, and I hope that your memories of your Chaplain at school are of a warm, smiley, friendly person.

In the Psalm we heard, it says in verse 6 'the righteous man will be remembered forever'. So if we are memory makers, how do we want to be remembered?

The choice is ours, how people remember us will be through our words, kind and encouraging words can make one persons day nicer, can make them feel good about you and themselves, nice words make us feel valued, that we belong, but an unkind word, putting someone down or being shouted at can destroy us.

Our actions are the same, being generous and helpful, being supportive and kind will make others feel good. But being unhelpful, dismissive, or showing off and bragging can make others feel like they don't fit in or they are not good enough.

For all of us, we will reminisce and look back on our past and we will remember moments, places and people, I hope your memories are special ones. And whilst we are looking back and reminiscing about our past others will be too so how will you be remembered. You are a memory maker and the power is in your hands, in your words and actions.

Psalm 112:6 "Surely he will never be shaken. The righteous man will be remembered forever."