

Cancel and continue!

During her first major tour, an up-and-coming 'cellist experienced the most awful experience of any performer. Part way through her third piece, in front of a packed audience, she froze! Nothing she could do - she just stopped playing and was unable to carry on. Audience members were refunded and ushered out and the musician in question reckoned the end had arrived – of her musical career, and of so much more besides. Her agent's advice was very simple: "Cancel and continue." I first heard this tale on the radio, as the very successful musician that she went on to become was being interviewed. Although I am unable to remember this musician's name, her agent's advice has stayed with me and helped me through many a challenge.

We all face ups and downs in life – both private and public. Losing the vote for AV in the National Referendum will have been hard for some to bear, and losing seats in the council elections even more so. Some of us may have failed tests, maybe a driving test, or had to deal with the fallout of an accident, or other personal disaster – maybe even had to face the fact that it was our fault in some way. Such things are extremely hard to cope with, they challenge us deeply and often have no simple remedies.

To me, the phrase "cancel and continue." does not negate those difficulties, nor belittle their challenge. It does not imply that the consequences of our actions do not matter, or that we can simply walk away when things go wrong. This phrase speaks instead of directing energy forwards, of seeking to live rather than give up, of taking a deep breath and doing whatever can be done to make amends. Forgiving others and seeking forgiveness from those that we hurt, from God and from ourselves, is an important part of this. To "cancel and continue." then helps us to choose life.....

As we move further into the Summer months this year, may the sunshine and showers encourage new growth in all around us, and in ourselves too. Like that 'cellist, may we learn from our mistakes so that we can step forward into future life, in all its fullness.

With best wishes as we continue our journey, ***Rev Christine***