

When Rhythms get out of Sync



The Millennium Bridge London

You will recognise this bridge and many of you may have walked over it.

It spans the River Thames linking the South Bank (Arts and Culture) with the City of London (Business and Finance) and it leads directly to St Pauls Cathedral (Spiritual).

It's a special bridge in our nation's capital designed to be full of meaningful hope and promise.

Its structural design was carried out by the consulting engineers that I used to work for and just before construction started I was approached and asked whether I would be interested in supervising its construction. In the event I declined and in some ways in view of subsequent events I am relieved I did so.

You will all remember that the bridge had to be closed very soon after opening because of concerns about the walkway swaying sideways under certain pedestrian loading conditions. These particular loading conditions had not been recognised at the design stage.

The bridge came to be known as the "Wibbly-Wobbly Bridge".

After a lot of research and testing it was found that a large number of people crossing the bridge at any one time could unknowingly walk in such a way as to create a rhythmic vibration that resonated with the natural frequency of the bridge support cables resulting in significant sideways swaying of the structure. The problem was eventually resolved by installing special shock absorbers that dampened the swaying effect. These special shock absorbers had originally been developed by NASA as part of the space programme.

For me there is a lesson to be learned here: If I receive a God given revelation I often feel an urge to share immediately. But in my enthusiasm I sometimes fail to wait for the full message or picture. Just as in this bridge design the full required criteria were not recognised. I need to learn to wait for all that God is revealing at the time before rushing in. I do need that quiet guidance from the Holy Spirit and when through over enthusiasm I start down the wrong track I trust Him and my spiritual family to supply that spiritual "damping" which sometimes my out of control enthusiasm needs so as to keep me on course to properly partner in God's plans.

That reminds me we already have our own David and Marie "Damp(er)s" keeping all of us on the straight and narrow