

**HEROES**  
**WORK**  
**HERE**

THANK YOU  
THANK YOU  
THANK YOU

# proud to be a nurse

**Bex Lawton** reflects on the  
highs and lows of nursing

*2020 is the Year of the Nurse and Midwife  
And what a year it's turning out to be?!  
The WHO say we are 'the backbone to every  
health system'  
And during this pandemic the backbone has  
held the weight of our national health system  
Protected vital services  
Flexing, extending, moving*

*With nurses coming out of retirement  
Shortened maternity leave  
Nurses being redeployed  
Coming out of the office and onto the wards  
Moving out of their family homes to work and  
protect loved ones  
National pride in our NHS is at an all-time high  
And I've never been so proud to be a nurse.*

I often feel God's pleasure as I nurse too  
 When I challenge unsafe practice  
 When I take extra time to listen to and reassure  
 anxious parents  
 When I'm thorough and don't cut corners  
 I am His hands and feet  
 Bringing His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven  
 I am Salt, I am Light  
 What a wholesome and honourable picture  
 I paint of our profession?  
 All glory and sacrifice.

But I wonder about the days that aren't so  
 heroic?  
 The mundane days where I'm on the phone  
 chasing results  
 Chasing people, 'Answer your bleep!'  
 Or hectic days when everything runs late  
 2 o'clock drugs are given at 4  
 And none of my patients have got the best of me  
 What does God think of my nursing then?

What about the days that I'm not proud of?  
 When I'm cross  
 Maybe because somebody has used the last vial  
 of antibiotic from the box and hasn't bothered  
 to order anymore  
 'Who does that?! How inconsiderate! What's  
 wrong with people...'  
 Mmm, yes, maybe I've groaned and moaned  
 Or indulged in that conversation about a

colleague even though I felt the prompt not to  
 but I just couldn't help myself... or didn't want to  
 What then?

Still proud of me then, God?  
 I'm learning that what pleases Him is love,  
 faith and obedience.  
 Humble and open hearts  
 Sometimes that looks heroic and newsworthy  
 Seemingly deserving of a weekly clap  
 But so often its unseen  
 Ordinary and everyday  
 Sometimes I please Him when I'm nursing  
 But sometimes I please Him by not  
 By taking a break  
 By resting  
 Prioritising my family or relationships  
 So yes, I am proud to be a nurse  
 But it's just a fraction of the whole  
 Being His is what truly defines me  
 His love shapes, inspires and drives me  
 And remains unaltered no matter what  
 I do or don't  
 I cannot add to or diminish it  
 Earn it or become disqualified from it  
 His love for me is resolute and unending  
 I am the apple of His eye  
 And He rejoices over me with singing. 🍏

**Bex Lawton** is a paediatrics staff nurse and CMF nurses &  
 midwives 'poet in residence'. She also shares performances  
 of her Christian, nursing focused poetry on Instagram as  
 possiblybex