

Elspeth Brown

All Manner of Things

Faith is the bird that feels the light and sings when the dawn is still dark. Rabindranath Tagore

Plastic choking sea creatures --- Lockdown

A rainbow shines over a sandy bay,
bladder-wrack sways round rocks,
a crab shimmies low, hears a curlew cry,
water clear and clean to sea bed.

Mangroves and rainforest threatened --- Lockdown

Cacao pods, passion flowers, pangolins,
under the green tangled branches,
monkeys, cassowary, toucans
The forest gives shelter in the musky air.

Hum of the bees silenced --- Lockdown

Let flowers still grow by the pathways,
loosestrife, sheep sorrel, self-heal,
tortoiseshell, and brimstone butterflies,

natterjacks, newts, spawn in ponds.

Rising seas --- Lockdown

May the Maldives still glow on the ocean,

fish swim over live coral reefs,

trumpet fish, hawkfish and angels.

May egrets still perch on the roofs.

Bird numbers dropping --- Lockdown

Let fieldfares still visit in winter,

skylarks still sing from the sky,

tawny owls call in the dusk and the dark,

guillemots teach their young how to fly.

May there still be hope

for all manner of things to be well,

for all manner of things to be well.

Elsbeth Brown's recent publication, a poetry pamphlet, *Starling and Crane*, was published by Indigo Dreams. Previous publications are *A Crab in the Moon's Mouth*, *Markings*, and *Skunk Cabbage*, IDP. Her immediate poetry interest is in the human connection to the environment. She has enjoyed reading at many poetry events and was recently one of the first prize winners in Scottish Pen for her *Declaration of Dunbar*.