

Pilgrim to the Dawn Exeter

1972

*'A winters day,
- In a deep and dark December...'*

What was I doing here,
Locked in a mental institution?

Alone, crying deep into the small hours,
Gladys Knight and Michael Jackson echoing in my head.

*'...It's so sad to be alone,
help me make it through the night...'*

*'...You're always running here and there,
you feel you're not wanted anywhere...'*

2013

Strolling around Exeter's Cathedral Green,
Relaxing in the Close.

Enjoying the post-traumatic calm,
No stress disorder any more.

Praying in our Lady's Chapel,
Lighting a candle in thanksgiving.

*'...I'll be there, yes I will,
You've got a friend...'*

*'...There'll be peace in the valley, someday,
there'll be peace in the valley, someday...'*

Carole King and Elvis, reverberating,
DARE I HOPE?

David Woolger, February 2013