

Jean Dowse, Silver

It is 1940 and I have been evacuated, with my two older sisters, to Cheddar. We are billeted with the Baptist Minister and his family. My mother and father were not church people, and I found church going - four times each Sunday - quite an ordeal. However, this Sunday morning in Sunday school there was a sense of excitement. We have been in Cheddar for a year and I am now 6 years old. There is talk of a Sunday school outing to the seaside. What is the seaside? It is a place called Clevedon, with sand - I know what sand is, my father is a builder after all - and sea which they say is a lot of water and you can put your feet in it!

The day has arrived, and we are packed up with sandwiches and drinks, and we walk in a crocodile to the church. There we get on to the charabanc and there is lots of scrambling to sit with special friends.

It seems a long way and with the excitement and petrol smell we all feel slightly sick when we arrive at the seaside.

We see the sea for the first time and it is the biggest thing I have ever seen in my life. The water is moving in and out, and it goes on for ever. We get out towels, for modesty, and with a lot of squealing we manage to get into our costumes (knitted of course) and approach, very cautiously, and put our feet in this cold, cold sea. The boys get adventurous and go right in, and the teachers have to get very wet trying to keep them in order. What a wonderful day, we made sandcastles, ran in the sea to wash the sand off and get water for our moats and collected shells to take home to keep to remind ourselves of this day.

SEASIDE

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We dried ourselves and sat on the beach to eat our sandwiches and had our drinks. Then it was time to get dressed and say goodbye to the sand and say we will come and see it next year. We all pile onto the coach and within not too many miles we are all asleep, dreaming of the wonders we had seen.

Maybe next Sunday I will think Sunday school is the place to be, anticipating the Christmas party.

P.S. I still go to the local Baptist church.