

Janet juggles motherhood and mediumship

THE EDITOR'S E-MAIL INTERVIEW WITH A SERVING MEDIUM

Below, Kent clairvoyant Janet Glasgow answers a series of pertinent points about her life and psychic gifts. Along the way, Janet, who auditioned at the Spiritualist Association of Great Britain last month, tells of the best and worst days in her life, and how she developed her mediumship. The first question put to her was, "Were you raised as a Spiritualist?"

NO. As a family, we occasionally went to the local C of E church. I remember that the vicar was great fun and enthusiastic.

Do you have a family? If so, how many children do you have? What are their ages?

Yes. I have John, my husband, and four lovely sons. Our children's ages range from twelve to twenty years old.

What do they make of their mum's mediumship?

The boys ask me lots of questions, so I've always answered them honestly, but simply. Our eldest has had a few mediumistic experiences of his own.

The next one down is totally uninterested and a bit scared by it. Still, three out of four isn't bad!

How much time are you able to devote to your mediumship? After all, looking after a family involves a huge amount of shopping, cleaning, cooking, ironing, housework, getting the children to school on time, etc. Is it difficult to juggle being a mum and a medium?

I ran our house with military precision when the boys were younger. I am a stay-at-home mum, though less so these days, and didn't go out in the evening more than once or twice a year for the first ten years. It was a very busy time.

It is much easier now that they are older. John and the boys are incredibly supportive of what I do. It's always a juggling act, but between us I manage to get out the door.

Without their support, it could have been a different story. I'm very lucky in that respect.

What's your husband's occupation?

John is a mechanical engineer in the construction industry working in London.

Does John have a belief in the afterlife and spirit communication?

He does. John has a natural ability himself, but has never felt the urge to pursue it. I've always felt that he's "an old soul."

How did you meet? How long have

you been married?

Many moons ago, I was a session singer. I met John in a rehearsal studio at London Bridge. It's funny looking back, as it was called "Clink." We've been married for 25 years now.

Where were you born and when?

In Orpington, Kent, in 1964.

What psychic gifts do you have?

I am mainly clairsentient, but also have the gifts of clairvoyance and clair-audience.

Where did you develop them?

Initially, I sat in a circle run by a lovely lady called Beryl Constable. It had such a peaceful, encouraging feeling to it, which was definitely down to Beryl.

Later, I was lucky enough to sit with Jean Blackabee, another lovely lady medium, who taught me so much about mediumship and the Spirit.

Jean was very patient and very honest, which I have always appreciated. She also took me out as a fledgling, which was a great help.

At the same time as sitting in Jean's circle, which I did for about five years, I attended medium/tutor Glyn Edwards' courses at the Gordon Higginson Foundation. These, too, along with Glyn's encouragement, have helped me to explore this wonderful gift. I intend to keep exploring.

What do your neighbours and friends think about you being a medium?

Our neighbours don't know, as we only say, "Hello, nice day," etc, but my friends are fantastic about it.

My three oldest friends are not in this way of life, but always genuinely interested. They knew me before, so we mostly talk about other things.

What's the most satisfying aspect about being a medium?

I think it has to be the look on someone's face when they realise that I couldn't possibly have known something. This can only mean one thing - that their loved one is not gone.

Have you worked abroad? If so, do you find that audiences and congregations are different to those in the UK? If not, where would you like to work overseas?

No, I haven't. I don't like flying, so it would have to be tempting. I've always fancied New York though.

What advice would you give to fledgling mediums?

Be absolutely sure you are consistently linking with the Spirit to a good standard. Of course, if you are you will know this. Be kind to yourself, but honest too. Take care of your gift.

From a medium's point of view, what makes a Spiritualist church really good?

Definitely the people in it. Hymns with everyone joining in, an experienced chairperson, smiling faces on the door and people just wanting to be there.

What can the congregation do to help make a medium's demonstration successful?

To be open to the experience and not judgemental.

Do you give private sittings as well as demonstrating at various Spiritualist churches?

Yes, I do sittings at home and sometimes in Spiritualist churches.

What was the best day in your life . . . and the worst?

That would be the day I met John and each day the boys were born. The worst was when my brother Ross died. Absolutely. He passed instantly in a motorbike accident just before his 21st birthday.

It was a tremendous shock to us all. Many people still sorely miss Ross all these years later. He was a lovely, lovely person.

My mum and I both know when Ross is around, which is a great comfort, but we always miss his physical presence.

What is your philosophy of life in no more than two or three sentences?

I think we are here to experience and learn from life, so be the best you can be - and enjoy it!

If you were stranded on a desert island, which three or four luxuries in life would you miss the most?

Oh easy! A pen, notepad, iPhone and mascara.

Similarly, if you had to leave your house in an emergency, which three items would you grab on the way out?

Assuming I was on my own in the house, they would be my bag, car keys and photo album.

Do you have any hobbies or special interests away from the psychic scene?

Being with my family and catching up with friends is important. I really enjoy taking our dog Archie for long walks in the fields and woods nearby. I love the sea, so we drive to the coast quite often.

How do you relax at the end of the day?

I am a "Coronation Street" fan, so catch up on that. I read a lot and talk John to sleep (unintentionally!).

What really irritates you in life and other people?

Selfishness and rudeness. I do like good manners in people.

If you could change anything about yourself, what would it be?

I am one of life's pleasers . . . and it's exhausting. I am nearly 50 and still say "Sorry" to people who shut the door in my face or tread on my foot.

If you knew you had just one more day on earth, how would you spend it?

Get my boys, John and all our friends and family. We would eat lovely food, drink good wine, sing loudly and hug a lot.