

# There is always room for everybody: Barbara Caldicott

## For Hamish

To my darling little one.  
I want to tell you a story.  
One day you will be old enough  
To understand its meaning.

Pa Dean was a lovely, gentle man who  
Taught Tony and me many things  
About life.  
This one has stayed with me.

When I was just a wee girl my family  
Was gathered for a family reunion.  
My brother and cousin were newborns.  
Everyone fussed over them.

They were beautiful little boys  
Cute. Just like you.  
Pa was sitting in his favourite armchair  
A baby on each knee.

I stood in a corner, no one noticed me.  
I felt big, really big. I was four. And alone.  
Pa saw me standing there, forlorn.  
He said, 'Barbara come and sit with me.'

He moved Tony and Peter to one knee  
The empty knee was for me.  
Cuddled and kissed, I nestled into him.  
He said, 'There is always room for everybody.'

I have never forgotten his love, and most  
Importantly what he said to me that day.  
I have practised his lesson throughout my life.  
There is always room for everybody.

I have always involved my friends and strangers  
In conversation, groups, telling jokes, laughing.  
At school, working life, clubs and in sports.  
Reaching out.

So my little one my wish for you is to always remember  
Pa's gift of inclusion, and you will have many friends,  
Make new ones and others will remember you for your

Kindness.

