

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Remember a big red bus
On a big blue day
That took a little girl to the city
To feed the pigeons
And see the changing of the guard
When the sky was so vast
And high above you
And the world around you oh so large

Remember the man who told you stories
As you looked up wide eyed and spellbound
Of adventures out in Africa
When he served for King and Country
And how he came up smiling
When H.M.S. Ark Royal went down in '41

Remember the father whose hand you held
Who chose the paths you walked
And lead the way
But now the world is smaller
And the arrows of direction
Beneath his feet have disappeared
And you are now the guide
You are the lifeboat
As his ship goes down once more

And you love him in the rain
As you loved him in the sun
And you love him as you always did
As he becomes the child now
And stands helpless
With one foot in the light
And the other in the dark

And you will always
Hold the hand you held
As you watched the changing of the guard
Hold it tighter now
As you rock your memories
Gently in their cradle
Like a mother rocks her baby

They are precious
Tend them like flowers in a garden
Keep them bright
You are their keeper
And they are the reason
That your love will carry on

By Geoff Carder