

It can all change

A statue of St. Christopher still flaunts his goodly deeds.
The groans seep from the sports bar as the England team concedes.
Some streetlights flicker on to match the glow from Marks and Spencer.
The one that lit the park stays dark, some kids have nicked the sensor.

A chill has caught the air; a dog sits howling sad seductions;
she's popped into the shop to check the deli bar reductions.
A jogger limbers past the lights, routinely checks his wrist.
An angry soul waits on a bench; he needs a catalyst.

A bus screams to a halt, the crowd spill down the rumbling stair;
from warm dry steel to tarmac and a breeze that sweeps your hair.
A fire truck streams by, it bibs the klaxon, saying 'cheers.'
Shop windows share the urgency, reflecting blue-tipped spears.

Danni marches home, the kids were back an hour ago.
Her boss insists she stays on late, she's scared to tell him no.
Evander stops, walks on, then stops, the bank has pulled the loan.
He'll have to tell Anyetta that the debt is hers alone.

Sally brushes by, her face is feeling slightly dry.
She'll get the nicer moisturiser that she's loath to buy.
Vincent sideswipes Callie just because he thinks he's right,
she'll Google 'cheap divorce without solicitors', tonight.

Paula's just met Nigel, and the world is vivid swirls.
She's going out for films and popcorn with her favourite girls.
Raimon's walking Taco, though his mind is nowhere near.
He hasn't felt a thing since Valentina died last year.

The wheelie bin outside the park has lazy swarms of flies on.
An orange billow slowly swells upon the far horizon.
Some pigeons watch the glow increase, it bleeds out smoke around it,
a high-pitched whine, the birds take flight, they'll leave it where they found it.

The town looks up, a second to absorb the lethal sight,
then all is thunder, dust and smoke as shockwaves stab the night.
The park's a line of blazing flame, that streetlight's ringed with flares.
The trees are burning, bodies lie, the infant Jesus stares.

An angry man dives off his bench, drags Paula from the blaze,
he beats the flame on Vincent's shirt, snaps Callie's frozen gaze.
He ties his shoelace round Evander's arm to stem the bleed,
asks Danni to bring help and makes sure Sally's legs are freed.

Raimon's in the moment, running back and forth to help.
The woman drops her bargains on her dog, who gives a yelp.
A bus has stopped again, but no one's getting out their seat.
The football lads pile out and stare, struck silent in defeat.