



# THE KISS OF BETRAYAL

By Bill Pugh

A kiss can be a lovely expression of love. A child kisses her mother. A boy hugs and kisses his grandad. The kiss between a bride and groom, an engaged couple, a welcome kiss, a goodbye kiss. A lovely terms of endearment. Sadly a kiss can lead to betrayal and the breakdown of sacred bonds and relationships. Judas arranged with the religious authorities to identify and betray Jesus with a kiss. For a sum of money. Thirty pieces of silver to betray his special friend and Master. Not for any price would be

worth such a betrayal. And yet he did.

Many reasons have been suggested as to why Judas could even contemplate such a betrayal. Whatever the reason, he betrayed the Son of God with a kiss. The ultimate sign of affection used for a terrible betrayal. A kiss of death. How often does it happen that pretended affection can lead to terrible betrayal? Breakdown of a marriage. Paedophilia at the very heart of the Church. The kiss of betrayal.

## *Reflection:*

*In poetic and sacred praise, Christina Rossetti extols the most sacred, holy and loving kiss of all, as Mary holds her first-born son in that stable at Bethlehem.*

*"Angela and archangels may have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air,  
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
worshipped the beloved with a kiss."*

*Christina identifies him thus: "The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ."  
Surely the measuring rod for all true affection.*