**Last Rites** When giraffes lie in empty skin Desiccated turning into dust When vultures are too hungry to fly Feathers moulting under a hostile sky When polar bears are dressed in skin and bones Staggering lost on barren ground When cyclones fill the darkening sky And bitter rain drowns the land When Earth's distress fills the air Will we listen? Will we care? The when, is now Last Rites Are being said **Christine Fowler**