



Have you ever watched the TV show “The Repair Shop”?

It takes items that have been much loved from different people who want them to be restored and fit for purpose again.

It is a programme that really resonates with me; I am fascinated to see what skilled workmen and women can do to give these, often badly damaged, items a new lease of life. When I reflect on it, there are 5 stages to repairing these items. I have called it the “Re-Pair” shop.

The 5 stages are:

REPENT
RESTORE
RENEW
REVIVE
REJOICE

Before we take anything along to the repair shop there needs to be an acknowledgement that it needs fixing (REPENT)

Next the process of bringing back to its former condition starts (RESTORE)

Sometimes bits may need to be replaced or renewed to improve the condition (RENEW)

Once these things are in place then new life can be brought back to it (REVIVE)

And finally, the joy of seeing everything as it should be (REJOICE)

In a very simplistic way, I can see how these steps are what happens with us in God's hands. There are obviously many more layers within each of these steps, but this helps me to understand just a little bit of God's love for us, and the grace and mercy he wants to pour on us.

Turning to scripture, the following texts help me to understand what God is offering to every one of us:

1 Peter 5:10 "and the God of all grace.....will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast."

Psalms 51:10 "Create in me a pure heart O God and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

Psalms 85:6 "will you not revive us again that your people may rejoice in you?"

This Lent, we have an opportunity to put ourselves into God's hands and allow him to bring us back to what he intended, and 'fit for purpose'.