

## **A Lenten think about the Repair Shop (bits from Beth's Ash Wednesday sermon)**

'The Repair Shop' is a TV show where people bring much loved, but sadly damaged and worn items for the team to restore.

Rather than make the item 'like new', the Master Craftsmen try, as far as they are able, to return the item to being in good condition and useable, BUT while retaining the signs that it has 'had a life'.

People bring to them old favourite toys, clocks, furniture, vases, paintings etc. And these are painstakingly worked upon by the craftsmen and women until they resemble what they looked like when original.

The joy on the owners faces when they see them restored is wonderful, some get very emotional as the memories come flooding back, as they recall their childhood most favoured items.... from their most loved relatives and friends.

NOW, God is in the restoration business too.



He loves to take our damaged, or hurting or broken lives and make them new again.

In the Bible, we see Jesus, again and again, being with the broken, the sick, the dying, the lost, the no-hopers, the failures, the losers in life, they all came to Him, and he made them whole again.

We all need some restoration today. We all need to feel those loving hands around us this Lent!

Think of the craftspeople themselves. They are like Jesus in that there is no judgement, nothing is too difficult, no story is rendered too demanding to embrace and no problem is too big to solve.

## **A Lenten think about the Repair Shop (bits from Beth's Ash Wednesday sermon)**

Their and His, quiet resolve to bring new life to the old and broken is unwavering. this programme that is designed to entertain I thought could be what God says to us this Lent.

### **So, this Lent, let us let the work begin. Our Journey to The Repair Shop**

What are we in God's hands?

Will with the **wood**.

Are we the wood to be gently cleaned of all the dirt of the years that have built up on us. Are there stains, splinters and cracks...where we have been damaged. And then, finding the grain, who we truly are and buffing and polishing us p again. God can do this!

### **Are you the leather?**

Suzie with her leather, she can take old , cracked careworn and dull, and gently nourish it with oil and conditioner and herbal ingredients, she can add bits of leather, sew them back together so it can be used for what it was designed for again. She can heal splits from the inside out and neatly and gently breathe new life into it, truing what was brittle into soft supple leather again. So can God.

**Teddies and toys, Amanda and Julie**, the bear ladies work with these

All of our childhood stuff, what a wealth of emotions to sift through here. Loved things that made littles ones safe, teddies, soft dolls, soft squashy animals...are all loving patchworked, cleaned re haired bald patch and reclothed until they can be used by future generations ..God can do this too!

Or are you **silverware, Brenton's** craft.

Soft, pliable, precious, silver, assayed by the maker, identified and stamped with his name and character and gifts..with medicinal antiseptic properties and a tendency to tarnish. All safe in Gods hands as he claims us all as his own..

Finally, **ceramics**

one accident can smash, chip and render a precious bowl, vase or statue useless and ugly, like the one-off life changing times in our own lives..-

Kristen is so loving, piecing them back , filling in the chips, slowly building it back to together again until the cracks can hardly be seen, but loving restored. Jesus said; you are the clay, and I am the potter....this is God's work this Lent.

**So, this Lent, watch the Repair Shop on the TV, feel what you are (I am the leather one I think!) and ask God to loving work with you too.**