

# Silent Reflections

May 28<sup>th</sup> 2024

## Gathering the Fragments

I expect all of us can think of times when something we love breaks and we try to mend it; or think of “junk modelling” with children where we use something that is to be thrown out to make something new.

Making and re-making is an integral part of our world (think of the story of Noah) but sometimes what breaks is inside us: a hope, a relationship.

We trust that God is also longing for us to be remade, and remade again, each time, perhaps, becoming a little closer to the image of God within each of us.

This evening is a chance to reflect on what may have been broken in our lives, whether visible or not, and to reflect on the hopeful times that we have discovered something new growing out of something we thought was broken and no use any more.

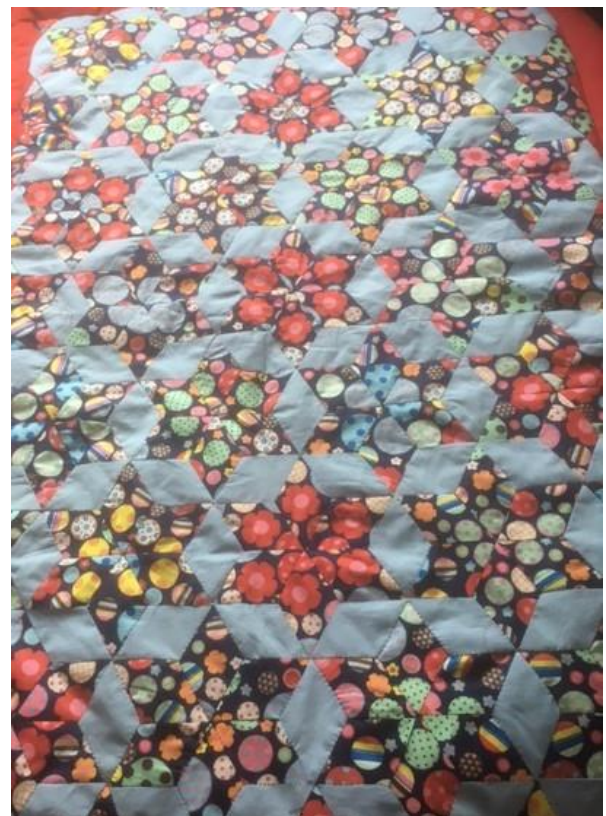
### A Quilter's Prayer

Quilting God,  
Take the ragbag of our lives -  
Delve in, and pull out fistfuls -  
The torn scraps of half-forgotten dream  
Ragged fragments of failed plans,  
Bits and pieces cut off, torn off,  
Half-finished, regretted,  
Or still taking shape.

Take blues of peacefulness and sorrow,  
Greens of growing, playing, or envy,  
Yellows of summer sun and sickness,  
Whites of calm, quiet and cloud,  
Reds of anger, pain and passion;  
Greys of soft mist, old age and sorrow;  
Scraps imprinted with memories -  
A face here, a landscape there -

Quilting God,  
Take these scraps of our lives  
And combine them with the fibres of your story.  
Pierce us with your sharp wisdom  
So that, backed by your eternal presence,  
Wadded with your incarnate fullness,  
The thread of your indwelling spirit  
Makes us one with you.

*Miranda Threlfall-Holmes*



**Kintsugi** is the Japanese art of putting broken pottery pieces back together with gold — a metaphor for embracing your flaws and imperfections.

Kintsugi is the Japanese art of putting broken pottery pieces back together with gold — built on the idea that in embracing flaws and imperfections, you can create an even stronger, more beautiful piece of art. Every break is unique and instead of repairing an item like new, the 400-year-old technique actually highlights the "scars" as a part of the design. Using this as a metaphor for healing ourselves teaches us an important lesson: Sometimes in the process of repairing things that have broken, we actually create something more unique, beautiful and resilient.



We may be able to think of many stories, from our lives, from those we may know, from the stories of our faith, where what has been broken or damaged in our lives and stories, has been re-created through God's mercy and eternal re-creation.

You may want to reflect on this pattern in your own life, of the life of a fore mother or forefather in faith.



## Conversation in the lounge

I said, "Hello, I'm Marjorie."

He said. "I'm.....I'm here to be mended."  
As are we all—'here to be mended'.

Broken china, torn cloth, unworkable machines,  
All need to be mended.

Images of brokenness, sadness, anger.

"What is the phrase?" "No longer fit for purpose."

Images of what was, what is and hard to bear.

The china pieces brought back together;  
The torn cloth repaired;  
The machines functioning once more—and yet...  
Yet each shows marks of mending.  
Restored, useful again, but the marks are there.

Another context—a world in need of mending;  
A dimension of universal love, eternal purpose  
And the marks remain  
A second transfiguration.  
Risen...Ascended...— and the marks remain.

*(from the Holy Rood poetry book )*

*Holy Rood House is in Thirsk, and has been a centre offering welcome, space, healing, beauty, care and love.*



## Peter and putting fragments together

Can we see fragments being re-assembled in stories from the Bible?

You may want to find a Bible and read the story of Peter in Acts 10 and 11, when he meets Cornelius; and then consider what fragments and experiences in his life might lead to his baptism of the Gentile, Cornelius and his household:

- A fisherman, who might remember more than one occasion when Jesus told him to lower his net and make a great catch. Would everything he caught have been clean to eat? Did he learn to trust Jesus?
- A man who had followed Jesus and shared meals with people marginalised from society.
- A man who had denied Jesus, but been given another chance, and still been trusted by Jesus.
- A man staying in an unfamiliar place, by the sea which stretched beyond what the eye can see, and without visible boundaries and barriers.
- A man who had just woken from a strange dream....
- A man who had experienced the coming of the Holy Spirit on him and his friends

How many of these fragments of his life might have been part of his willingness to baptise Cornelius and his household?

## Gather the fragments

Mosaics are made with fragments of glass and coloured stone.

This mosaic is in Galilee:



It is in the chapel which remembers this story:

Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.

*John 6. 11-13*

Have you ever wondered what was done with the fragments filling the twelve baskets?

Did anyone eat it?

Was it shared among others?

Was it like manna that did not last beyond the day it was gathered?

As the grain once scattered in the fields  
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside  
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,  
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together  
from the corners of the earth  
into your kingdom.

**Amen.**

