

## Focus July 2021



**Northall Baptist Church – 200 years and still going.**

**A little Church with a wide reach.**

### **The Repair Shop**

Don't we all just love the Repair Shop programme on TV? After several years of our throw-a-way society, it's refreshing to know that there are people out there who value things, for sentimental reasons, over many years despite them not being usable. Things that seem way beyond repair become as new!

What is your favourite repair? What is so interesting are the stories that go with each article brought in? Things that are so dilapidated, they should have been thrown away years ago but have been treasured because of those stories. The people who had owned them were very special and the tales are sometimes distressing, very moving. The final results never fail to astound those who brought them in.

My favourite one was the 2 storey toadstool night light – Bunnies Cottage. It was broken into hundreds of little pieces and when it was repaired it was amazing. The lady told the story that her Father bought it for her when she was born and as a child she was afraid of the dark but it was always already lit when she went up to bed. It formed the basis of nightly bedtime stories about the bunnies that her Mother made up and which she can still remember and values.

The presenter, Jay Blades tells in his autobiography that he was broken and the program helped to repair him. He said that 'the biggest repair job done in the Repair Shop is me' following his mental health problems. He went on to say that 'it's wonderful to know that nothing's so broken it can't be mended'. That's so true. But how are things mended? Who repairs broken souls?

The bible is full of stories about folk that were broken and were mended. Mended by what or who? Jesus healed the blind, the lame, those with leprosy and those with mental health problems. Psalm 147 tells us the 'He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.' Who is the 'He' – it is the Lord God. The well-known Psalm 23 tells us that the Lord is my shepherd ..... leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.' The miracles of Jesus tell of many who were healed of various afflictions both physical and mental. Jesus made them new. Made them usable, useful!

The Repair Shop for broken items could be regarded as symbolic of Jesus love for broken souls. He can mend both our physical and mental problems if he is asked.

We are hoping to continue our Sunday services on Zoom at 11 am until 18<sup>th</sup> July when if the Government's guidelines allow we hope to be back in the Northall Baptist Church building for live services at 11 am. If you would like to join in the worship, music and song, you'll get a very warm welcome. Please ring the number below or contact us via our website.

For those interested in the history of Northall Baptist Church, a free copy of the booklet, Rebels in Green Pastures can be supplied or downloaded from our website: <http://northallbaptistchurch.org/>



**Bunnies Cottage**