

Tuesday Reflection 03 November 2020

I am writing this surrounded by boxes and dismantled furniture as we prepare to leave the house which has been home to us for the last 12 years. But not just a home to us, but also a centre of prayer and spirituality in and for the Parish - as we hope that every home in the Parish is. For a number of years we hosted the Parish Gospel Share Group, which started in this house, and for the last number of years we have hosted the weekly meetings of the Malvern group of the World Community for Christian Meditation, and we would like to thank all those who have enriched the spirit of prayer in this building.

Now it is time to move on; we have outlived the house, and it is time to pass it on to a young family who will fill it with new life.

As I reflect on the move, I think of all the lessons it is teaching us. When I look at the amount of stuff we have accumulated and now have to move, I realise how our material possessions can be a burden. So much stuff that we have been carrying around with us and hardly/never used. Stuff that gets put in the loft - which can be a metaphor for all the issues in our lives which we have stashed away 'out of sight, out of mind' rather than confronting them and dealing with them. In one of the new properties we were looking at we were told it was not possible to store stuff in the loft space - on reflection, not necessarily a bad thing.

When I look at the amount of stuff we have accumulated, I am reminded of the story of the man who built bigger barns to house his wealth - for nothing. At least we are attempting to downsize - to the benefit of St Richards Hospice shop - but we still have two coats while there are so many with none.

The new property we hope to be moving into is not ready for us yet, and our solicitor was worried that we were making ourselves homeless; it caused me a certain amount of worry, but we are in the fortunate position of being able to afford temporary accommodation while there are so many homeless who do not have that luxury.

In some ways it is madness to be moving house against the backdrop of Covid 19, but on the other hand there is some virtue in following a chosen path no matter how unfavourable the circumstances, which could be an example for fortitude and determination in our faith life.

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