

# *...learn from Me the unforced rhythms of grace...*

## **LIVING** *I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)*

By committing to shaping our life on a pattern of consistence, stability and rhythm we learn to live life more fully.

**Creating** - How will I make the most of my God-given creativity, animated by the artistry and playfulness of God's Holy Spirit?

## **Talk/Video**

These wonderful old testament passages we've just read from Exodus go on to describe all the many and varied pieces of craftsmanship that the ordinary people like you or I contributed to the first Temple. There were carpenters and jewellers, embroiderers and seamstresses, silversmiths and weavers. The equivalent of our plumbers, sparkies and general builders were also needed to set the Temple on its huge pillars and to create the huge fireplaces that would receive the animal sacrifices.

It is so inspiring to read that when the call went out people were so willing to contribute that a second announcement had to go out asking them to stop bringing resources for they had more than they knew what to do with. Between them, when everyone offered their particular skill, creativity abounded and each gift became a part of something quite extraordinarily beautiful.

The temple we are building these days is not a physical one but it is in no less need of our skills, gifts and resourcefulness. We are thinking beyond our buildings as Church is transformed through the changes that COVID has forced upon us. People are being creative in all sorts of ways, technologically, in their use of church buildings for community food sharing, and in the way that people are producing a wide range of activities or offerings to help create both online and offline worship, training and discipleship resources.

Yet we can sometimes be tempted to stunt our creativity in two ways; first in seeing it as fanciful or immoderate – surely there are more important or worthy things to be doing? Second, in believing ourselves too busy to participate in singing, baking, painting, clay-modelling, gardening, film-making, playing our instruments, practising the perfect serve or creating that perfect fly. Yet our creativity is in part a celebration itself – a celebration of our Creator God who has called us to co-create through the Holy Spirit; a celebration of our skills and gifts as well as those God-given talents that seem to come from nowhere; a celebration of all craftspeople, artisans, athletes and tradespersons who are so often overlooked in our post-Enlightenment society. It's also a pure celebration of life, which is (pro)creativity itself. Whether you are creating a child, a church or a cake; writing a song, a poem or a weighty academic tome; building a house, greening a garden or simply making a room look clean and tidy, your creativity is important to God, and an intrinsic part of celebrating your own good self, made in God's image: Creator of all.