

Thought for the day – Monday 26th April 2021

By Revd John Marshall

Pottery and Clay

One day in Morning Prayer, I got excited when Marion read the story of Jeremiah's visit to the potter. It reminded me of my time working for the Cowley Recreational Institute – I had an office over a pottery and a woodwork room, in Radborne Road – and so I worked with a lot of potters. Maggie was a great help and her little car carried tons of clay to the pottery. I was impressed by the work of the potters (most of whom worked at North Street Potters, Clapham) and their encouragement to children and young people to be creative was wonderful.

Later while at Shelley/Michael Tippett we did pottery among other crafts at Lambeth College – and I discovered the joy and incompetence of working with clay, meanwhile the students were producing beautiful pieces. I never came to terms with the wheel.

Pottery was described as the oldest craft.

Jeremiah was taught “Arise and go down to the potter's house and there I will let you hear my words.” So I went down to the potter's house and there he was working at his wheel. And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do.

“Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.”
Jeremiah 18 1 ->

Isaiah says “Yet, O Lord, thou art our Father, we are the clay, and thou art our potter; we are all the work of your hand.”

Isaiah 64.8

Paul joins in and writes in Romans 9.20 “But who are you a man to answer back to God? Will what is moulded say to its moulder ‘Why have you made me thus.’”

It is good to be aware of God's creative nature. And it is good to know that when we are creative we are learning something of the nature of God.

What creative things have you been doing?