

St Thomas Home Group Study

Growing Younger Together

4. Renewal



During morning jogs and strolls through Lymington Yacht Haven, I followed for the progress of a tired looking motor cruiser that was having its hull stripped and repainted. Progress seemed quite slow and painstaking, which captured my imagination. It certainly looked worse before it looked better and then one day it was gone - presumably making its way through the sea once more, giving the owner great pleasure.

Q. Upcycling is having something of a moment, with TV shows such as BBC's 'Money for Nothing' showcasing the creative potential of renewal. Can you think of something around your home that has been renewed, repaired, repurposed or restored?

Read Isa 43:16-21 from your own preferred bible translation.

The passage is laden with dramatic imagery from the crossing of the Red Sea and the journey through the wilderness.

For Israel, these events were formative in both their relationship with God and their understanding of who they were as a people.

But God is continually calling them on, making a way for them.

Discussion Questions:

Q1. What might be the reasoning behind the injunction of verse 18 to '*remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old?*'

Q2. Wisdom and scripture, lessons from the past help shape our laws and our thinking. Can you think of examples in which we are not bound by them?

Q3. What might be the reasoning behind the imperative of verse 19 to "Behold!"

Q4. Where do you perceive God "doing a new thing" across the church, either locally, nationally or globally?

Q5. If the agency, the "doing", the "giving", the "forming" is God's; what is the role of God's chosen people?

Q6. Where do you hope to see renewal in the life of our worship?

**Lord, who created man in wealth and store,
Though foolishly he lost the same,
Decaying more and more,
Till he became
Most poore:
With thee
O let me rise
As larks, harmoniously,
And sing this day thy victories:
Then shall the fall further the flight in me.**

"Easter Wings" by George Herbert is a visual shape poem – its verses forming the wings of a butterfly to symbolise rebirth and renewal. Here is the first verse, now see if you can find the other!

Blessings,

Lee