

Faith Comment published in the Petersfield Post

22 November 2017: Rev'd Stephen Wright, Petersfield Methodist Church

Brokenness

With the colder days approaching, I decided I needed a small heater to warm my study. It would save heating the whole house, when there was only a solitary occupant. As it turned out, I had to return to the store three days running, as the first two malfunctioned - within minutes. It was not a great advert for quality control!

It also reminded me of a Bob Dylan lyric:

*Broken bottles broken plates
Broken switches broken gates
Broken dishes broken parts
Streets are filled with broken hearts
Broken words never meant to be spoken
Everything is broken**

From the ordinary and every day, Dylan moves things along to offer a profound comment on our modern life; 'Everything is broken'. It's not entirely true of course, life can be simply glorious, but the brokenness of our life is never far away. Christian theologians have been saying as much for years.

Not, that there is a magic solution to it, (if only). But with Christmas, not too far away, those same theologians might just point to the one whose birth we remember; who in personal terms at least, was pretty good at mending, making whole and putting back together again. Indeed, it is for this very reason, I suspect, that Christians still want to make some noise about Jesus Christ. For as the old hymn has it, he 'soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds' and 'makes the wounded spirit whole'

*Everything Is Broken lyrics © BOB DYLAN MUSIC OBO SPECIAL RIDER MUSIC

