

7th March 2021 – Third Sunday in Lent

Repairs

**“No one would select the hurricane season
in which to begin repairing his house.”**

William Windham, Speech opposing Flood’s reform bill in 1790

Sitting above Port Seton harbour there are several neglected boats. While the harbour is bustling with fishing vessels large and small, coming and going in all weathers, these boats of varying sizes and types seem to have been abandoned. Perhaps they were hauled or lifted ashore for repairs, or refurbishment, or to wait for a new part. But they’ve been there for so long now, they’re just part of the scenery. Clearly, there’s never been a right time for these discarded vessels to be repaired.

William Windham was a Whig politician in late 18th century England. Noted for his oratory in the House of Commons, he was vocal in his support of the French Revolution and resigned from William Pitt’s government when King George III rejected catholic emancipation. In the 1790s, Europe was in turmoil, and when Henry Flood sought to bring a motion for parliamentary reform, Windham’s famous put down was that no one would turn their hand to repairing a house in the hurricane season. Well, we haven’t had hurricanes in East Lothian all the time I’ve lived here, so why isn’t anyone putting their hand to repairing these forlorn boats?

We can all make excuses for not getting on with necessary repairs. Even if we can’t use the hurricane season as a justification, we’ll find some other reason. But, if repairs aren’t undertaken, who knows how far gone a neglected boat might be as the ravages of time set in?

Lent is a time for reflecting on our life and faith. Perhaps, as we do so, we might come across something that needs fixing. Maybe a big thing, or a series of little things, or just one thing that needs tweaked. But whatever it is that needs repaired, it’s not a good idea to keep putting it off. After all, you wouldn’t like to become an old boat that’s lain unrepaired and uncared for over such a long time that it’s not worth the bother.

Set yourself to the repairs that are needed, so that, on the Easter tide, you might be ready to sail once more.

A prayer for today

“Mould me and make me, after thy will, while I am waiting, yielded and still.”

Adelaide A Pollard (1862-1934)

An original reflection by © Tom Gordon

Also available at <https://swallowsnestnet.wordpress.com>