

7<sup>th</sup> October 2025

## Building

**“Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live.”**

Marty Haugen, *Let us Build a House*

After writing about “houses” yesterday, I watched a recording of a TV programme where a house was centre stage. It was the first show in the return of the BBC series, *DIY SOS*, fronted by Nick Knowles. What happened in this programme changed the lives of schoolgirl, Isla Screaton Kilpatrick and her family. Isla, who turned eight while *DIY SOS* was filming, suffers from the rare genetic condition, *Mandibuloacral Dysplasia*, which affects bone growth and causes premature ageing of all the body’s major organs. Isla is the only person in the UK with unique gene mutation.

To make their house suitable for Isla and her family, a transformation took place. An extension was added – in a day! Storage space was increased. Rooms were changed around. New doors were created. A garden was given a make-over. Scores of tradespeople gave their time, skills and enthusiasm. Companies donated equipment. Stores gifted their products. And in the end, a remarkable new home was created. Isla, her mother, Stacey, and her big sister Paige couldn’t believe their eyes when they saw their new house for the first time. Tears were shed – by a family, as you might expect, but also by those who’d helped them so much.

And this viewer sobbed though most of the programme. It wasn’t just the physical side of the transformation that got to me. It was the love, awareness, commitment, goodness, self-giving, hope, positivity that was evident. All of this was as much part of the fabric of a transformed home as the banisters and cupboards, windows and steps, beds and sofas.

There was a scene at the start of the programme that will stay with me for a very long time. For what we saw was a veritable army of volunteers – most of them in hard-hats and high-viz vests – marching down the street to do their stuff at the start of the build. How refreshing to see a crowd of parading people ready to build and improve something, filled with love instead of hate, on a campaign to do good and not harm,

“Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live”.  
Let’s give thanks for caring people who have plenty of love to give.

### **A prayer for today**

*God of love, may love be built into the fabric of everything I do. Amen*