

Craft through Worship — St James's Church, Baildon

Boundaries!

The problem: We know that all is not well on planet earth, for stewardship is in our DNA. But how did it go wrong? The Bible tells that First-Man and Mother-of-All were deceived, broke the boundary set by God, and thus came to know evil as well as good - as do we, to this day, when we break God's boundaries!

The consequences: God spelled them out:
•discord and death; •pain in childbearing and work; •marriage relations distorted; •creation dislocated; •work toilsome; •God distanced;
•and man as his image distorted (Gen 3).

The cure: •Animals sacrificed for clothing;
•expulsion from Eden, and return guarded.

When evil spread worldwide and society was wrecked, God sent a flood for a fresh start (animals now fear man, and are food) (Gn 4-11).

Then God's rescue based on **faith** began with Abraham (Gen 12) and led to Jesus.

Jesus died to gain for us re-entry to the garden and God's presence, helped by the flame of the Holy Spirit, who guides us on the way.

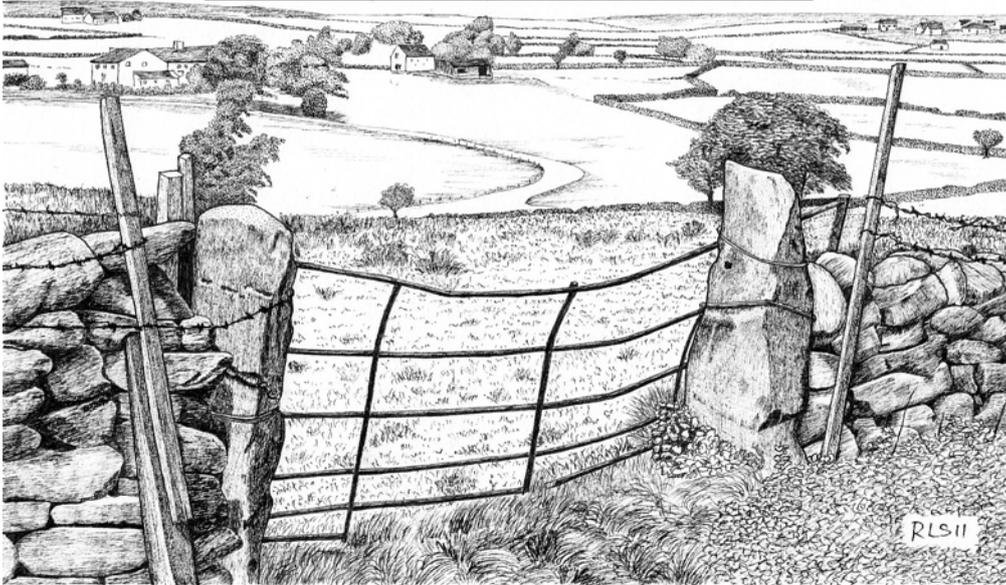
For the completion of this repair to human stewardship, all creation awaits with eager longing - when it will be freed from its bondage to decay and futility (Rom 8:19-21).

Boundaries!

The questions:

- ✦ What part does God want us now to play, using our gifts and talents (including creativity and crafting)?
- ✦ What boundaries has he set for us?

The grass isn't greener beyond God's boundary!



Jesus faced these questions in the desert. Like Adam and Eve he was tempted by the devil to misuse his powers, but unlike them he resisted and broke no boundaries. From then on he went about doing good, destroying the works of the devil and liberating those under his power (Acts 10:38; Heb 2:14; 1 Jn 3:8) .

Can we in our crafting represent, eg:

- ✦ Stewardship and boundaries?
- ✦ Eden and the desert?
- ✦ Creation's bondage and liberation?
- ✦ The Spirit's flaming help and guidance?
- ✦ Perfected repair of us and all creation?