

I have been very busy these past few weeks revamping my little garden so it is inevitable that these Doodles reflect some of my thoughts as I have messed around with planters, pots, trellis, plants and slate bits. Progress is sometimes a bit heavy going but the end product will be one of the most beautiful gardens in Silverdale. (I hope!)



I suppose the main thought that I have had is that we are like plants in God's garden. Sometimes I have moved a pot to a different spot and then not been happy with the move and found a new home for it. God seems to be fairly good at revamping and changing us around – not always as we would like, I may add. There are times when we move house or, in both secular and church work, we change jobs. On the whole we may be happy with those changes because they were of our own choice, but occasionally we come to the conclusion that we made the wrong choice and are not always able to reverse a decision as easily as moving a pot from one part of the garden to another.



My old wooden planters with trellis have all gone rotten so I have purchased some new plastic ones that will not go rotten – **neither will they need painting!** I see this as an improvement as to how the garden will look. I expect that all of us are continually looking to improve our homes and our situations. In the same way I suppose that God is also looking to enhance our spiritual lives. He does not want us to stand still and never move forward closer to Himself. His desire is that the 'plants' in His garden will themselves have the desire for a closer relationship with Him.

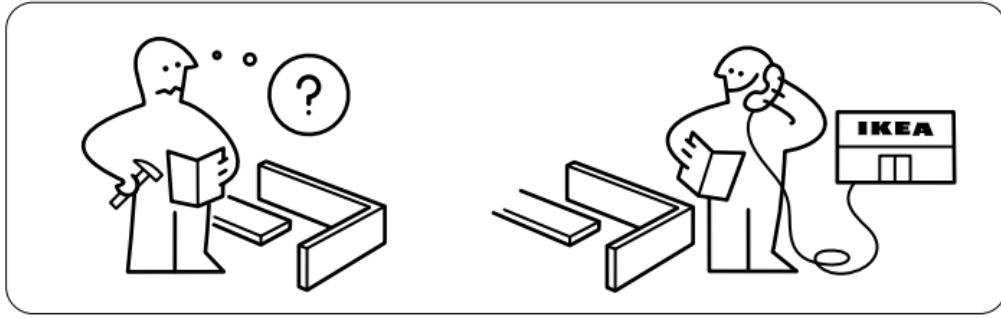
Some plants I have had for a number of years, look very old and scraggy and are no longer producing nice flowers, so I am afraid they are heading for the bin and are being replaced. One very good thing about God is that He does not relegate us to the bin. Even those of us who may no longer be so physically active are still very much used by God, although maybe in not so energetic ways. I myself am getting rather wrinkly and immobile so God has done a revamp and now you have the **DOODLES!**



I love to see variegated ivy in my garden, but, as many of you already know, it is lovely to look at but is pretty lethal underneath. I keep it nicely trimmed so that it does not take over the garden but in one place a root had gone through one of the holes in the bottom of the pot and into the crack between two concrete slabs, growing a large thick root that I think may take quite a while to remove and prevent growing again. Although I was faced with the problem of this thick root of ivy, I could not help but be reminded that God wants us to be rooted in Him. If we read our Bibles and pray regularly then we have a solid root to our spiritual lives and will more easily cope with whatever occurs in our lives, our firm roots being difficult to move in times of crisis.



Garden revamps are hard work. I drag a big pot along a few inches at a time and then have to come into the house and sit down for half an hour before going out and making a bit more progress. Not everything God asks us to do is easy. One thing that I have most certainly found out about God is that He does not leave us comfortable and unchanging. If we are open to what He is trying to say to us, then there are times when we may not want to comply with His wishes; however, He is God and He is in charge of His garden and sees the whole picture of our lives and how they fit in with the lives of others.

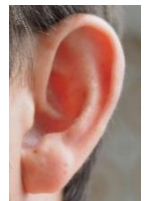


There are some jobs, even in my little garden in the back yard, that I have found very difficult to do myself and for which I have had to obtain help – despite being very independent. The new plastic planters arrived complete with DIY instructions. Whilst I was able to make out how the various bits fit together, I was unable to physically assemble them and had to get a neighbour to help. I also had a couple of awkward parts that a visitor managed to force correctly into place. The bags of compost are waiting (Hopefully!) for a strong son to arrive and tip out the contents.

None of us are created to be completely independent of other people. Almost every avenue of our lives relies to a certain extent on the work of others. It would be a funny world if we all had to grow every bit of our food, pick it, pack it and tin/freeze it. Could we all sew our own clothes, make our own cars, build our houses, teach our children or invent the next up-to-date mobile 'phone?



I am reminded of that passage in the Bible that speaks of us as being parts of the body where it asks how it would be if our whole body was an eye or an ear. It is interesting that it also says that every little part is just as important in making up the whole body. None of us are unimportant to God and we each have that little spot to which He has assigned us.



(1 Corinthians 12: 12 – 26)



One thing that has really amazed me is that one of the little planters has completely vanished. The wire frame and the polythene lining is all that is left. I do not know what it was made of but it was obviously something that snails, slugs, worms or wood lice found very appetizing. What I am wondering is that if I run out of money to buy food, how tasty will I find my new plastic planters??????

