



Over the years I must have knit up hundreds of miles of wool of all thicknesses and colours. I have knit for my husband, children, a shop, craft group and taken orders. One thing that I have always wanted is a lovely cardigan or jumper for myself in an Aran pattern with fancy cables, but, it is something that I have just not got around to knitting.

At last, about four years ago, the above situation changed. I bought some wool in my favourite olive green colour, made up a pattern of cables and bobbles and had my lovely 'dream cardigan.' I am afraid though that there is a sad ending to this accomplishment. I wore it twice to go to church – wearing a matching bobbly tam of course! – but, since I no longer go out it is not being worn. (Ah!)



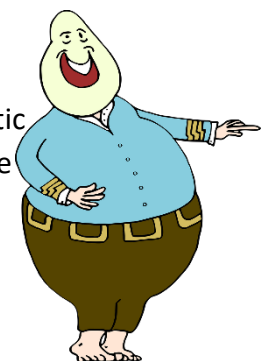
What do I do with my lovely dream cardigan? It would be too hot to wear in the house since my sons say that it is like an oven! Do I leave it nicely folded in the wardrobe where it is at present or do I unrove it and use the wool to knit something else? The wool itself has no say in the matter. It is entirely up to me which pattern and knitting needles I use. It can make no comment at all as I twist and wrap it around the needles in order to make it into my chosen design or shape.



As I think about the wool, I am reminded of the occasion when God told Jeremiah to go down to the potter's house. (**Jeremiah 18: 3 – 6**) *'I went down to the potter's house and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making was spoiled in the potter's hands and he re-worked it into another vessel, as it seemed good for him to do. Then the word of the Lord came to me: O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? Like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand.'* The clay had no choice as to which shape or vessel it was to be made. The potter was free to mould and re-mould it to whatever shape he desired. The clay was completely under the will of the potter.

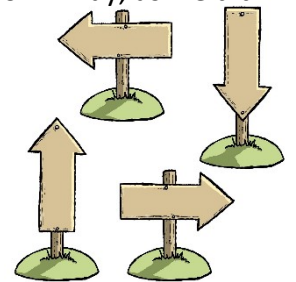
Even before we were created God knew what design He had for each of our lives. He knew exactly what shape he had in mind for each one of us. David writes in **Psalms 139: 16** *Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In Your book were written every one of the days that were formed for me, when as yet there were none of them.'*

Can I ask a question? What shape are you? Maybe you look at certain parts of your anatomy and think, 'Well....'. Of course, I am not talking about your wonderful athletic figure, but about the general shape of your life. Do you think that you are in the place that God wants you to be in and doing what it is that he has planned for your life?



There are times when the plan that **WE** have for our lives does not tally with the plan that **GOD** has for us. It is important that we follow God's plan rather than our own.

Sometimes we may not like the plan that He has for us and would prefer to go our own way, as we did before we became a Christian. Becoming a Christian means that we not only try to follow Christ, but also, attempt to become the right shape, the intended design, a 'God-moulded' person instead of an 'I-moulded' person.



Fitting into God's design does not always make sense to us, but, God never makes mistakes. The particular design that He has in mind for us fits in with the overall plan that He has for other members of our family, workmates and other people with whom we come into regular contact. It may not be the path that we would have chosen, but then, we only see our little bit of the picture.



One of the modern songs we sing talks about our being moulded by the Potter's hand; the master potter of course, being God Himself. We would prefer to remain in our comfort zones taking the path that best suits us. This may seem to us to be an easier path, but, following God's path gives a far greater satisfaction.

We do not always see where God's shape for our lives is going to take us. It can be down an unexpected route or one where we ask over and over again, "Why God?" It might be years later that we discover God's purpose for our lives and we are able to say, "Yes, that is why God led me that way. Yes, that was God's design for me."

Being the right shape relies on our being open to God to do what He wants to do. The closer our relationship with Him, the easier it is to be guided along the right path. When our lives are in **THE** potter's hand, they are safe, not necessarily comfortable or as we had envisaged, but safe. We know that He can be trusted. We know that He has our best interests at heart. We know that He did not make a mistake when we had to switch to a different route or alter our expectations.

Are you able to say, "Take me Lord and mould me"? Are you willing to be moulded into whatever shape God wishes? Will you allow Him to keep you on His potter's wheel and form you into a vessel that he is able to use for His perfect plan?