

## Gilly's Quiet Garden

Inner strength  
for the outer journey

## Treasure in Jars of Clay

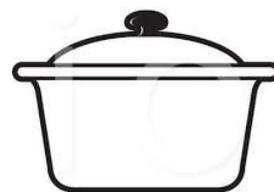
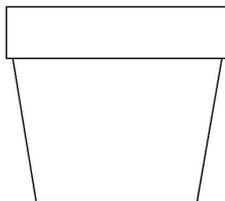
*This reflection is based around a  
prayer space I created in the  
chapel at Foxhill in 2019.*

**But we have this treasure in jars of  
clay to show that this all-surpassing  
power is from God and not from us.**

2 Cor 4:7



*How would I see myself if I were a 'jar of clay'?:  
decorative, plain,  
functional, tightly lidded!?*



You may like to draw an outline (or print one off from this document) that you feel represents yourself as a clay pot. Take some time—perhaps colour it in, or write words on it, as you think through these questions:

Does how I see my 'clay jar' affect how I think God can use  
the treasure within it?

Is God trying to say anything to me about this?

Am I allowing God enough space/time in my life for him to speak to me in this  
way?



How can I allow God time to speak to me in this way?

**Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.** Mark 6:31

Spend some time reading through the words below and ask God to speak to you as you read.

“To take time to be apart, which I consciously give to myself as something positive, creative, is not a luxury, it is essential.”

*Esther de Waal*

### Kneeling

Moments of great calm,  
Kneeling before an altar  
Of wood in a stone church  
In summer, waiting for the God  
To speak; the air a staircase  
For silence; the sun's light  
Ringing me, as though I acted  
A great role. And the audiences  
Still; all that close throned  
Of spirits waiting, as I,  
For the message.

Prompt me, God;  
But not yet. When I speak,  
Though it be you who speak  
Through me, something is lost.  
The meaning is in the waiting.

*R. S. Thomas*

Be Silent.  
Be still.  
Alone.  
Empty  
Before your God  
Say nothing.  
Ask nothing.  
Be silent.  
Be still.  
Let your God  
Look upon you.  
That is all.  
God knows.  
God understands.  
God loves you  
With an enormous love,  
And only wants  
To look upon you  
With that love.  
Quiet.  
Still.  
Be.  
Let your God  
Love you

*Edwina Gateley*

**I encourage you to treat these reflections prayerfully, taking time to consider the thoughts and questions within the context of your own life. If you are in the habit of keeping a journal do use that to help your responses.**





**But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.**

2 Cor 4:7

*Am I really God's treasure?*

*Do I know what the treasure is which is inside my jar of clay?*

*Is there any way I can find out more clearly what that treasure is?*

This is time apart,  
a time to be alone with myself and with God.  
I have given it to myself as a gift,  
but also as necessity,  
because I recognise that this is a priority  
in my life at the moment.  
I am coming apart  
in order that I may find again,  
and strengthen,  
that person who I most deeply and truly am before God.

*Esther de Waal*

*In his book, 'I shall not want—Spiritual Wisdom from the 23rd Psalm', Dave Tomlinson defines God's grace in these words, below. How do you feel as you read them?*

Here is your life.  
You might never have been,  
but you are  
because the party wouldn't have been complete  
without you.  
Here is the world.  
Beautiful and terrible things will happen.  
Don't be afraid. I am with you. Nothing can separate us.  
It's for you that I created the universe.  
I love you.



**But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood,  
a holy nation, God's special possession,  
that you may declare the praises of him who called  
you out of darkness into his wonderful light.**

1 Peter 2:9

*What have I discovered  
about myself, and the  
'treasure within'?*

*Have there been any  
surprises?*

*How can I pray  
to respond to all that I  
have read, and learnt  
about myself?*

Wild Spirit of the living God,  
breathe the breath of heaven's lion  
into this timid soul of mine.  
Shape me by the touch of the crucified lamb,  
so that I carry the cross  
with the dignity of a crown.  
Wrap my fears in the faith you have in me,  
and help me to lean into your blowing winds,  
stand in the gaps of your calling,  
fall under the weight of grace,  
speak mountains in your name,  
go quietly to the secret place of prayer,  
give away my gifts that others may grow  
and in steps hardly noticed,  
be changed forever into your likeness  
through Jesus Christ my Lord.

Amen

*Russ Parker*

Leaving what is past, we journey in your light.  
Seeking what is just, we journey in your truth.  
Forgiving those who harmed us, we journey in your love.  
The eternal Creator keep us,  
The beloved Companion beside us,  
The Spirit's smile upon us.

*Ray Simpson*

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