**Thursday 30th July**

Jude 1: 24, 25

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and for evermore! Amen.

I have to admit, one of the things that I have enjoyed about this season, is having more free evenings! And Christopher and I have discovered a TV programme called ‘The Repair Shop’. It involves a group of skilled craftspeople working on broken and not functioning items brought in by the public. Many of the items are of great sentimental value or family importance. Sometimes a person arrives with just a pile of pieces, or a musical instrument that no longer plays, or a clock that has long since stopped. It is quite wonderful to see the skill and care that the craftsperson shows in restoring the pieces. Often, the owner is quite overwhelmed when they come back to collect their item, now working and beautiful again, doing what it was designed to do.

What a beautiful picture of what the Lord does with our lives! If we bring to Him all our broken pieces, all the areas where we have shut down, the things that have caused damage to our capacity to function, he will restore us. He gently removes the grime with His blood. All the bits that have been bent out of shape by mis-use or bitterness, he straightens out. Countless millions of Christians can testify to the Lord’s unrivalled ability to restore, redeem and rebuild! But we must submit ourselves to His workmanship. There is no master craftsman as skilled as He is – well He is the maker after all! And then one day, when we see Him face to face, and he will present us back to our loving Owner with exceeding joy.

*Lord Jesus, thank you that you are the Master Restorer. Thank you that there is nothing that you cannot repair in us. Today we offer you ourselves – all the bits that we are ashamed of, all the places that are damaged, all the areas where we have allowed dirt to build up. We ask that you would continue your restoration work in us, forming us into the people your created us to be. And worship you that you are able to keep us from stumbling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy! Yours is the glory! Amen.*

