

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Daytime

Some will recall the brown leather Beagle sat amidst two beautifully crocheted blankets with paw print designs incorporated. It was part of the display at the recent MU gathering in Morpeth reflecting 'Footsteps in Faith'.



The dog became a symbol of how, despite good intentions, things can go wrong!

An unfortunate decision was made to include the dog in the raffle – which incidentally raised quite a bit of money for MU funds. The lady who won was delighted with her prize. Her sister fell in love with it, gave it a name and took it home.



A few days later the member who brought the dog and the blankets to the chaplain for the display asked if she could have her dog returned. He had been a gift from her sons and was much loved – apparently the dog was simply 'on loan' to sit on the blankets which had been donated for MU.

A 'horror' moment! 'What have I done' came to mind. The word 'sorry' sounded limp and pointless. How easy it is to think you've triumphed only to discover that you've messed up! How easy it is to misunderstand someone and to cause hurt and embarrassment. How difficult it can be to 'put things right'. Redemption is more than receiving forgiveness – it is also about resetting the balance – finding a way to compensate for what is lost.

Jesus did that on the cross – the greatest compensation act of all time – restoring our worth, despite our errors, in the power of God's love.

Our Beagle story has a happy ending – the prize winner was located and fully understood the dilemma. She returned the dog to its rightful owner. (The dog was happy too!) Meanwhile, another dog was bought and gifted to the prize-winner's sister. Redemption was possible. God bless MU members for their understanding and kindness – what a great organisation!