

The Story – The Barn 2017

A barn is a barn is a barn.

It has a floor and a frame holding up a roof. A wooden box.

Like a million barns across the world.

But this is Sheldon's barn, our barn, serving this place, serving God in this place.

We are the current stewards of this place.

Handed down to us by our forefathers and foremothers who tilled the land, husbanded the livestock, built a home and passed it on. In our turn we will pass it into the care of the next generation.

This place has been shaped and squeezed by the tectonic movements of the centuries. Crops grown and minerals mined. Our religious and civil wars. The technologies of steam and diesel. Economic booms and busts. Conflicts and alliances from the 100 years' war to Brexit. Religious passions and fashions from Leofric to Robert. The industrial revolution, the green revolution, the digital revolution.

Today we

- celebrate the history of Sheldon's land, plant and animal life
- pray for the people who husband them
- pray for the people whose lives are enriched by them

May we be faithful stewards of the tiny corner of God's creation entrusted to our care.

Stewards of this place to benefit those who stay here in joy and sadness, times of dis-integration and times of re-integration.

With love we offer the spaces to walk, spaces to wander and wonder, spaces to stand and stare.

Our sheep lend their ears and chew the cud over a thousand troubles.