



From the Minister

Many of you will know that I have a love of Lego. Some of you will even have seen some of my collection or know about my special Lego Room! But do you know the history of Lego itself?

The story starts with a Danish carpenter called Ole Kirk Kristiansen, he was quite successful and had a workshop in Billund, where he manufactured doors, windows, kitchen cabinets, cupboards, coffins, chests of drawers, tools for digging peat, and bodywork for carts. All of first-class quality craftsmanship – which is important to Ole Kirk. However following first a fire in the workshop and then a stock market crash which almost took him to financial ruin, he branches out to make readily marketable products, such as stepladders, ironing boards and other utility items, and something that will radically change his future – toys.

Plagued with problems, tough times, and misfortune, Ole Kirk Kristiansen manages to retain his positive approach to life. In the face of adversity and obstacle, Ole Kirk Kristiansen generates enthusiasm over new possibilities.

In his memoirs Ole Kirk Kristiansen writes of the year 1932:

*“... I looked to the future with hope. But within two months my world was tumbling. There was a crisis in farming but as we owed our living to the smallholders and farmers, we were also affected. We were in a difficult time – but it was as well that we could not see what lay ahead. During the summer we were asked to make toys for Jens W. Olesen, Fredericia, and as we had no other work, we looked on it as a gift from God.”*

Finally, in the late 1940s, he landed on the idea for self-locking plastic bricks. By the time Ole Kirk died in 1958, Lego (which is an abbreviation of the two Danish words “leg godt”, meaning “play well”), was on the verge of becoming a house-hold word.

He could have given up, he could have allowed the problems and disasters to overcome him, yet instead he saw opportunities and God’s presence. Persevering in the challenges we face in life can be difficult and that’s also true in our spiritual life as we strive to grow to be more like Jesus. In the letter of James we find the encouragement: ‘*Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial*’. (James 1:12) A reminder that God is with us in our struggles too. But, as we have seen in our services recently, James reminds us that God gives us the wisdom to persevere, providing us with his spirit, to see us through. So take some time out with God, meditate on the word, and be strengthened to persevere.

Rev Rick