

**Moravian Womens Association
Home & Overseas Paper - April 2021**

Spring cleaning!

What has the Bible got to say about spring cleaning?

Here are two well known verses:

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.” (Matthew 6:19)

‘Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean. Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.’ (Psalm 51:7)

Slightly less well known, but for anyone tempted to ignore spring cleaning:

"I went past the field of the sluggard, past the vineyard of the man who lacks judgment; thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, and the stone wall was in ruins. I applied my heart to what I observed and learned a lesson from what I saw: A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest – and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man." – Proverbs 24:30-34

So here we are in April again - spring is lovely, but does the bright sunshine and longer days show up our rain spattered windows, grubby net curtains, old spider webs, dead flies and wasps, grease, crumbs, fluff, and dust which has accumulated during the winter? Is that the origin of spring cleaning, simply that bright sunshine shows up what we have been able to ignore all winter, and warmer days and brisk drying winds allow us to open windows and doors, and wash and hang out curtains, cushion covers, and bedding?

Dorothy Wordsworth, housekeeping for her more famous brother the poet, simply whitewashed Dove Cottage rooms every year, to get rid of a winter's smoke and dirt. No agonising over paint shades or wallpaper colours for her!

What is your worst or most disliked spring cleaning job?

Have you any tips for the rest of us about a particular job, or for getting started?

Naomi Hancock - March 2021