

Knitting in Lockdown



I am not sure whether this is about God but it expresses something of how things have been going in the past few weeks.

So when it looked like we were going to be confined to our homes for a while I thought ok this is the time when I tackle learning to knit socks. I have knitted a pair of socks before – about three years ago and so I thought this will be fine I know what I am doing, I'll have plenty of time – it will just be fine tuning.

So I start to choose a pattern and immediately make it hard for myself because the pattern is designed to be knitted on 3 double pointed needles and I want to knit on circular needles – it's bit complicated.



But I get started and I am soon on the easy stages of the cuff and the leg – round and round I go – this is easy but then I realise I am about to reach the difficult part of the whole process known as turning the heel. I've done it before – surely I can do it again?

I read the pattern – but can't seem to make it match my knitting. I've done this before I must be able to do it again. I watch the Knitwitch on YouTube – I try and follow along – try once, twice, three times – and finally I am there – I've shaped the heel picked up the stitches and it looks like I might have a sock .



Now I am on another easy bit – round and round the foot – then decreasing for the toes. But then I realise that the toes have to be finished at the end – and that means grafting two sets of stitches together. I know I have done this before – I know it is called kitchener stitch – but I can't remember quite how it works.

The pattern simply says graft the two sets of toes together – so that is no help. It was back to the YouTube videos and trying to work out what to do. And it was sewing which I hate -it seemed to involve chanting a mantra to make sure that you did your casting off in the right order – Knit Off, Purl on, Purl Off, Knit On – you mutter to yourself – it feels like trusting in some kind of magic.

I certainly don't quite understand how it works but 16 stitches later I have a completed sock.



And I begin again with the second sock because there is supposed to be a way of knitting two socks but I can't get my head around that. And I know I will be back at the YouTube videos to do the heel and it may well feel like I have never done any of this before. But I will have two socks in a couple of weeks.