**Progress what progress?**

Following the recent series of classics on BBC – in particular ‘An Inspector Calls’ – I started reminiscing with friends about classic black and white films. Now I need to state here that apart from a distant rugby international (trying to work out who was who on a tiny black and white set at my friends house, they supported Wales and I England, and I’m still not sure whether it was actually snowing or not) most of my television memories are in colour. But there have been some cracking films over time and some of the best are black and white and still stand the test of time.

That means that with all the CGI, 3D, billion dollar sets and plastic surgery in the world a good story line well-acted wins the day. Am I right or am I just sounding like my dad?

And today I read that no matter how much access to technology a youngster has in school it doesn’t impact learning – in fact it may even get in the way. It all boils down to good, inspirational and engaging teaching.

What about football? There’s a lot of technology, science, research, programmes and gadgetry going round but does it make any difference? And is Rooney a better footballer than Charlton? This is a conversation for a pub after the game perhaps, and I don’t feel qualified to comment.

As a minister I have instant access to the biggest library in the world and information about just about anything is at my fingertips, along with an image for the powerpoint should I feel so inclined. But as with many walks of life the things that are meant to help us can actually work against you if you don’t use them sparingly and effectively. My job is about communicating, leading, supporting and encouraging. It is all highly relational. If technology can help that then great, but often we lose the human touch when we put too much time and effort into the clever stuff.

Jesus focussed on the ones and the twos, and even his miracles were played down when they became a distraction to what really counted – the hearts of the individuals turning towards God and finding peace. Whether it’s black and white or colour; digital or paper; goal line technology or two woolly jumpers; the essentials of life remain the same. And at the heart of everything? How about this: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind, and love your neighbour as yourself’.