



Guiseley Methodist Church

19th March 2021

Dear friends

Have a good look at this picture – made with sandpaper by Beryl Weatherley. It's a creative response to our Lent journey following Jesus on the way to the Cross. The footsteps are not all going in the same direction! Where are you going?

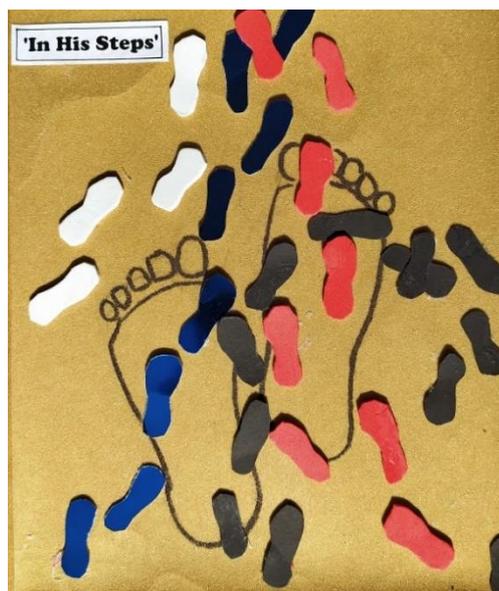
I've linked this picture with a prayer by Thomas Merton (printed below) which has been used in Bramhope's Friday morning prayers. Thomas Merton was one of the great Christian spiritual voices of the 20th century. As a Trappist monk, his home was Gethsemani Abbey, Kentucky USA from 1941 until his death in 1968.

At first reading the prayer might seem rather bleak - 'I have no idea where I am going' – but maybe the Covid pandemic has brought home to all of us that our future is uncertain. The government has set out its roadmap and we're making great progress with vaccinations but a lot of things are still uncertain.

As a church we are making tentative steps out of lockdown. From now until the end of May, services will alternate between online and in church. It will be lovely to meet in person once more but numbers are limited, we all have to wear face coverings and socially distance, we can't sing together and not everyone will be ready to return. On the other hand, not everyone can do Zoom but those who do (or watch the recordings) have enjoyed the variety of speakers, music, prayer and input from our young people.

A mixed pattern seems right for now, we can't know what we'll do in the future, we must keep on journeying in faith. I hope Thomas Merton's prayer can encourage us along the way: 'I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you ... if I do this you will lead me by the right road'.

Roger.



My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end,
nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.

And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore will I trust you always though
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Thomas Merton from 'Thoughts in Solitude' (1956)

This Sunday's service will be led by Neil Moffoot and will focus on the work of Leprosy Mission. You can join the Zoom service online or by phone from 10.15am. For those with online access, click on this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6567301807> or join by phone (landline or mobile) by dialling 0131 460 1196 and entering the meeting ID 656 730 1807 followed by # twice. *N.B. This link is different from previous weeks.*

If you know any children and parents who might like to try our **junior church activities** on Zoom Sundays at 10am please encourage them to contact Sam Price at activitiesgmc@gmail.com for the separate Zoom link.

A **recording** of last week's Mothering Sunday service with preacher Michael Noble plus 3 inspiring stories of caring during the pandemic is available here: <https://youtu.be/0BdT20jQwmk>

Lent group on Thursday 10-11am – final week looking at Mark ch.15 (plus 16:1-8) using Zoom link <https://zoom.us/j/98639722958> Join the meeting or read the chapter on your own, make and share your creative response.

Services in church resume on Palm Sunday and you can book your place with Roger for the following services:

28th March, 10.30am (Palm Sunday) led by Viv Pitts

4th April, 9am (Easter communion) led by Rev Roger Smith

11th April, 10.30am (Local Preachers Sunday) led by Neil Moffoot

Requirements of social distancing, face covering and no singing apply as before.

Zoom services continue on Maundy Thursday at 7pm, Easter Day at 10.30am and Sunday 18th April at 10.30am.

The **Circuit website** has lots of interesting material including [Tim Perkin's pastoral letter](#) with links to things happening in the wider church.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The **Friends of Springfield and Guiseley Wells** wish to thank all those who responded to their 'Take a Seat' research. Their analysis – which includes a photo of the flowers placed on our railings last Easter – is available (ask the person who has supplied this newsletter).

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