**HOLY HABITS: WORSHIP - WEEK 10**

Hello everyone,

         On our walks around the area in these last few weeks, I’ve come across various things that have prompted me in my thoughts about worship, about faith and about the church.

          On one occasion, near Forge Dam, there were two men digging out a ditch which had become blocked and which was producing stagnant pools of dirty water. The result of their efforts was to remove the blockage and allow fresh water to run freely. I was reminded of Jesus talking to the woman at the well ( John 4) and describing his offer of living water that through him will spring up to eternal life.

            May our worship never become stagnant, but always be living, active, refreshing and constantly guided by the Holy Spirit, and supporting a living faith in each of us.

             On another occasion, in the Mayfield Valley, we came across a man re-building a dry stone wall that he said a cyclist had caused to collapse. He was doing a good job, with each stone supporting the others and a new strength being created. I was reminded of the description of the church as living stones in 1 Peter 2. We are the church, we are the living stones, and although we’re dispersed at present, we are together in Christ and built around him whether we worship with printed materials, on-line or with radio or television. The church hasn’t collapsed, but is being renewed through the Holy Spirit, and our worship will always be at the heart of who we are as God’s living stones.

               It’s been quite hot on a lot of our walks, but invariably there’s been a refreshing, cooling breeze. Then on some occasions, like today, it’s been quite windy, with leaves, branches and grasses being disturbed. I’m reminded of the refreshing breath of the Holy Spirit reviving us when life gets hot. And of the rushing wind of the Spirit disturbing us and challenging us about who we are as church and what we’re doing in our worship.

                Whatever it looks like when we return to worship together, whenever that may be, we can be sure that God’s Spirit has been at work. We will be entering a new era, in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, the same God. May we trust God as he leads us forward, providing us with Living Water, the foundation to be Living Stones and all in the power of the Living Spirit.

                God bless,

                      Graham

*Produced by Graham Wassell on behalf of the Bents Green Holy Habits Planning Group (Debs Barnett, Glenn Evans, Martyn Read, Graham Wassell, Daphne and John Wilkins).  You can find more information on the Circuit Holy Habits Programme on the Sheffield Methodist Circuit website and also the Sheffield Methodist Circuit Facebook page.*