



20 June 2020



Dear friends

I am back after a few days of holiday. It was a different kind of holiday but nonetheless great to catch up with family and friends. We drove to Southport and spent a lovely 90 minutes in a park there with our daughter and grandchildren. This was the first time we had been with them for three months!

Simple things have become all the more precious in this time of the lockdown. I am sure that we are all looking forward to activities we took for granted in the past becoming possible once again. One of those activities might be joining with friends in a church building! On that, the advice from the Yorkshire synod of the URC is as follows: "our advice is still the same as before; that we do not open our premises for services, events and bookings until such a time as it is deemed safe to do so". So at Christchurch (where the building is owned by the URC) we are waiting for instructions both from the government and from our parent bodies and looking forward to a time when we will be able to meet together again safely. In the meantime rest assured we are monitoring all the information as it becomes available.

Our physically distanced worship continues with the attached worship sheets in two styles and formatted differently for different kinds of screens. I have prepared the worship for this week, drawing on conversations shared with Michael Noble and David Goulesbrough in our "Word Content" meetings.

We will be holding a Zoom service at 10:00am this coming Sunday 21st June via Zoom. You can join the service from 9:40am onwards. I am grateful to David Goulesbrough for sharing in delivering this service, and to Tony Pitcairn for playing for us and John Sayers who is providing the slides and taking part in the service. Join Worship Service Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85783433724?pwd=c2plWVpWNFZKelNyeC9obUxvUjh5UT09>

Meeting ID: 857 8343 3724

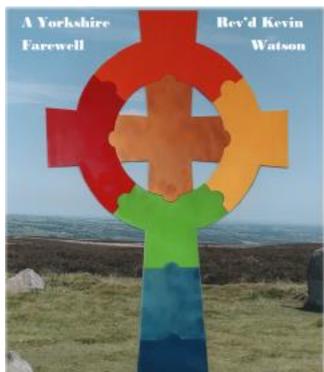
Password: 063547

Also, I have prepared a short talk (7 minutes) with a new reflection on the passage which you can find at our Christchurch YouTube channel here: <https://youtu.be/ysOVWGsYSeo>

The Methodist Conference meets this coming week by electronic means from Thursday 25 June until Wednesday 01 July. I am a District representative to this and so will be joining in by Zoom. Further "notices" are included below.

Wishing you every blessing

Roberta



Rev'd Kevin Watson's retirement. On 30 June Kevin steps down after twelve years of service to the Yorkshire Synod, which also included a time as General Assembly Moderator as well. To mark the time Kevin spent in Yorkshire Synod there will be a short service on the afternoon of Tuesday 30 June at 2:00pm led by Rev'd Jason McCullagh. It will be held live on Zoom and is open to all who want to witness this moment of transition. So to join the Zoom service here are the links for both video and telephone:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86888223107> Meeting ID: 868 8822 3107

The annexation of the Jordan valley: At the URC's Mission Committee meeting on 04 June, a resolution was passed asking local churches and individuals to consider writing to their MP about the proposed annexation of large parts of the West Bank by the Israeli Government. The Mission Committee would be very grateful if we could highlight this work, particularly as the annexation could happen as early as next month. The story is posted on the URC website:

<https://urc.org.uk/latest-news/3489-urc-urges-christians-to-oppose-west-bank-annexation.html> and there will be a piece in *Reform*

magazine.