

June 2020

Dear friends

The United Kingdom went into lockdown on 23rd March to help limit the spread of the coronavirus. Initially, the restrictions were for three weeks, but this was extended. The past weeks and months have been challenging and difficult, and extremely so, for some of us. We've missed many things, even small things such as, a handshake, a hug or even meeting for a coffee. We continue to pray that you will know God's love and care, His grace and mercy, His comfort and consolation, His guidance and goodness, His healing and help, His restoration and renewal.

At the beginning of lockdown, I sensed the Lord telling me to walk and pray for our local community. Since then, every morning (Monday – Friday), I have been 'prayer walking' the streets and developments in Banbridge and Seapatrick and have completed my third lap.



**1,200
miles**

Joan has been 'prayer walking' along the country roads, and we normally 'prayer walk' together on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. We estimate that since the start of lockdown we have 'prayer walked' more than 1,200 miles. We've prayed for frontline workers, for those who are ill, for those who have been bereaved, for all involved in providing essential services and supplies, for people living through the challenges of these times. We've prayed for health and well-being, for a developing and deepening of relationships with God, for repentance, restoration, and renewal, and so much more. Everyone on our database has been prayed for individually, and we continue to pray God's blessing on you and those you love.

Although church buildings have been closed during lockdown, Joan and I celebrated Holy Communion each Sunday in Holy Trinity at 9.00am, and I said Morning Prayer in St Patrick's and Evening Prayer in Holy Trinity. The past weeks and months have been challenging, and the coming weeks and months may well be difficult as restrictions continue to be eased.

The hymn 'One more step along the world I go' which portrays life as a journey, has the repeated refrain 'Keep me traveling along with you'.



One more step along the world I go;
From the old things to the new
Keep me traveling along with you
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me traveling along with you.
As I travel through the bad and good,
Keep me traveling the way I should ...

Where I see no way to go
You'll be telling me the way, I know
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me traveling along with you.
Give me courage when the world is rough,
Keep me loving though the world is tough ...
Keep me traveling along with you.

These words are a prayer in which we ask God to guide us on our journey through life. However, there is a big difference between asking God to guide us and us being willing to follow the guidance He gives. As we move forward let's ask God to keep us travelling along with Him. Let's choose, and consistently choose, to follow Christ, and keep in step with the Holy Spirit in every part of our lives. (Galatians 5:24-25)

As we move forward, we pray for a deeper awareness and appreciation of God's love for us, for a renewed desire to get to know God better, to know more of God and, as we follow Christ, a renewed willingness to live for Him and fulfil His will in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Yours for the sake of Christ

Roderic