

A message from the Dean of Winchester

Tuesday 12 January 2021

Dear brothers and sisters

As we continue to celebrate the season of Epiphany, the nativity scene on the dais now includes the figures of the three Wise Men. These three men, wise and wealthy, represent the riches of humanity, and the whole world come to find the Christ-child. The thing that I really love about these particular wise men figures is that, as they kneel, the artist has shown the soles of their bare and upturned feet gilded with pure gold. The sight of these gold feet really moves me and speaks of the glory they have found through their willingness to be humble.

The cathedral is currently open each day for prayer and reflection. We are here for you. If you live locally and come into the cathedral, do look at the nativity scene and the men kneeling before the Christ child. After their long journey they have found what they were searching for.

Each one of us is on a journey through life and right now, the terrain is tough and the times are hard. Many of us are weary. Ever since the news of the death of Gerry Marsden, of Gerry and the Pacemakers, was announced last week, his best-known hit has been ringing in my ears. Coincidentally, Canon Roly read the entire words towards the end of his Sunday sermon. Here are just a few lines:

*When you walk through a storm
Hold your head up high
And don't be afraid of the dark...*

The words are poignant and powerful because they are honest. Life can be tough and sometimes it takes courage just to keep going. But then the song resonates with the Christian faith that we are never alone on the journey. God is our beginning and our end and we journey with Christ, who is our light and hope.

*...Walk on, walk on
With hope in your heart
And you'll never walk alone
You'll never walk alone*

As we adjust to living in lockdown again, the message that the Cathedral longs to share with you is 'you are not alone'. The Cathedral is here, alive and active and praying for you. You are precious to God and Christ walks with you.

Everyone is welcome to join in cathedral activities and worship online, as detailed on the website. Please share your prayer requests with pray@winchester-cathedral.org.uk - this service is available to everyone so please let your family and friends know too.

Currently there are two weekly opportunities to share the Eucharist in person, at mid-day on Wednesday and at 10.00am on Sunday. Small congregations are safest so you

are asked to use careful judgment in whether or not to attend in person. These services are both available on the live-stream as well.

I'll close with a prayer for faith for the journey from Eric Milner White and G W Briggs:

O Lord God
who called your servants
to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,
by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown:
give us faith to go out with a good courage,
not knowing where we are going,
but only that your hand is leading us,
and your love supporting us,
to the glory of your name.
Amen

With blessings and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathemé Gile". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the typed text of the letter.