

Thought for the day, Monday 4th May
Prepared by Joan Gray

He's got the whole world in his hands. Singing the Faith 563
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDBJNQiugnM>

Mark 10 v 13-16 Jesus and the children.

Verse 16 reads. And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them and blessed them.

As I have been preparing this thought, the song running in my head has been. "Sweet Caroline" by Neil Diamond, which speaks quite a lot about hands. My hymn choice is at the end of the thought.

(Try this link – Andrew)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuUsRIT5Hxg>

Hands have been so much in the news and across the media during these weeks of lock-down that we are going through at the moment.

Most of the time I wonder do we take our hands for granted? Use them for all kinds of jobs without giving them a second thought. From first thing when we wake up to just before going to sleep our hands work for us. When I wake in the morning my hands stretch and then reach to pick up my spectacles. This is also their last job at night before I lay down to sleep, To remove my spectacles to a safe place ready for the next day.

Margaret centered her thoughts around the Dandelion with an image provided by Andrew. How many of us have ourselves as children or as adults shown a child how to blow on the clock of the Dandelion as we held it gently in our hand.

Many thousand pairs of hands have been and continue to work in so many different ways at the moment to make life just a little easier for other people. You I imagine have been hearing and seeing stories of so many ways in which ordinary people, as that is usually how they describe themselves. are going the extra mile at this time. They include everything from offering a very welcome cuppa for staff having a short break away from the ward in hospitals, to people cooking food or delivering food parcels and prescriptions to those who are shielding at home. People in industry changing the equipment they have to produce something useful to help at this time along with many people using their skills with what they have at home to produce scrubs or face masks for example.

Each week all volunteers at Kettering hospital have received an email with updates on the incredible amount of different jobs volunteers are completing to help. It is both extremely heart warming and humbling to read. So many hands are producing so much good. discovering new skills they probably never thought they were capable of.

Is this not exactly what Jesus did?

Over the last few days some of the thoughts have centered around Jesus breaking bread and how he was recognized through his hands. The verse I have chosen tells of how Jesus used his hands to bless the children despite the disciples suggesting otherwise. We also know how Jesus used his hands in other ways to help people, Hands at the moment are also used to substitute for hands unable to be there, The greatest example of this at the moment could be where loved ones are unable to be there at the end of life and a nurse, doctor a carer is possibly using their hands to sit with and hold hands in there place,

There is a small bell in our house and engraved on the dome are praying hands. We use our hands in prayer, some like the depiction on the bell put their hands together while others prefer to spread them open. At one time we had a lady in our circuit who often encouraged us to look at and use our hands while praying for other people.

Be comfortable as I invite you to share a prayer with me.

Loving Jesus,

as we pause to think about our hands and remind ourselves of the many ways in which you used your hands during your ministry on earth.

We offer a prayer for the many people and the variety of ways in which they are using their hands in ministry at the present time.

Some of the number will know and acknowledge you as Lord and Saviour and will know they are supported in prayer.

Others Lord who do not follow your teaching and yet we know that they can also be prayed for.

May we as we pray for all the thousands of volunteers

not only in this country

but around the world

ask that you bless both them

and the work that they offer.

In your name Jesus we offer this prayer. Amen.

Lord we also give thanks for all the hands working and using their gifts and skills to bring virtual worship while we are unable to gather in our building. Amen.

Jesus' hands were kind hands.

This did not make it into Singing the Faith and is 393 in Hymns and Psalms.

(Try this link – Andrew. There is a long introduction but worth the wait).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jLkJGr4kJw>