

Pastoral letter 27th January

Dear friends,

After making snow angels and a family of snow people on the back garden at the Rectory in the snow over last weekend, I couldn't resist walking across the beautiful untouched blanket of snow on my driveway. I left behind me one distinct line of footprints. Once I'd finished and looked back, a very well-known poem came into my mind, even though it refers to sand, its' meaning still resonated with me;

One night I was dreaming I was walking
Along the beach with the Lord.
Many scenes from my life flashed
across the sky. In each scene I
noticed footprints in the sand.
Sometimes there were two sets of
footprints, other times there was one
only. This bothered me because I
noticed that during the low periods of my
life, when I was suffering from
anguish, sorrow or defeat,
I could only see one set of footprints,
so I said to the Lord,
“You promised me Lord,
that if I followed you, you would walk
with me always. But I have noticed
that during the most trying periods of
my life there has only been one set of
footprints in the sand.
Why, when I needed you most, have
you not been there for me?”
The Lord replied,
“The years when you have seen
only one set of footprints,
my child, is when I carried you.”

To know that God is with us and holds us, even in the most difficult or in the darkest of moments in our lives, individually and together as a church family, as well as the times we share as a community and as brothers and sisters across the World, can bring to us, a sense of comfort, support and peace.

After my time in the snow I went back inside the Rectory and said evening prayer in my study and held every one of you in my prayers, praying for each one of us to know that in these uncertain times that we are all living through, we are held and cherished by God, even maybe when we don't always realise at the time that we are.

Love & prayers
Revd Neil

