Happy Anniversary

to Jesmond United Reformed Church

Five years ago on Sunday 29th March a service of celebration marked

the completion of the redevelopment of this church.

'But can God indeed dwell on earth? Heaven itself, the highest heaven,

cannot contain you, how much less this house that I have built?'

(1 Kings 8: 27, Solomon's prayer for the Temple in Jerusalem)

Like Solomon, we know that our buildings are not the only places we can find God, but they are nevertheless significant. The building whose redevelopment we celebrated five years ago has stood as a sign of the eternal presence of God through good times and through hard, and of his love shown to us in Jesus. Sign too, that meeting there are followers of Jesus, who try to live the life of peace and justice to which he calls us. This matters when people are distressed, as today.

Presently scattered among many homes, we continue to pray in thanksgiving for past, present and future blessings for the world, knowing that God indeed is not restricted to one place, but that his Spirit is with us, a constant guide and comfort.

Pause for a moment and reflect on the hard times you've lived through and the good around us now: the blessings of today.

Loving, living God, we bring to you the past,

with its joys and sorrows, its ease and hardships.

We bring to you the present - our confused moments and our future hopes . . .

and pray healing of body and mind . . . and may your Spirit continue to guide us

into understanding and truth. May those who, at this troubled time

seek release from anxiety, find true peace of mind and joy.

We ask it in Jesus' name.   Amen

It is intended to offer a thought and prayer for each week while Sunday services are suspended. What you will receive is an expanded version of a thought and prayer which will be posted on the noticeboard so that passers-by can have food for thought and also – importantly! – know that the church is still functioning, praying for them and celebrating God's love.

God bless,   Ruth Crofton