

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

## Proposals

***“Nam homo proponit, sed Deus disponit.”***

***“For man proposes, but God disposes.”***

*Thomas à Kempis, De Imitatione Christi*

Along the wall of Port Seton’s esplanade there’s been a strange development. From nowhere, a row of painted stones has appeared, a few at the start, then more and more each day, so that a coloured ribbon of stones now stretches a very long way. Rumour has it there’s an attempt to have them reach the next village along the coast. The ever-expanding line of stones is lovely. There are big ones and little ones; some by children and others by skilled artists; insects and flowers; birds and animals; quotations and rainbows – and “Support the NHS” too.

Following the myriad of brightly coloured stones, past one displaying a beautiful sunset, then a lovely purple-and-pink bee, the next one caught my eye ... a big stone with a rainbow and the words “Will You Marry Me?” I was full of questions. Is *this* a way to make a proposal? What kind of person put it there? Who is it directed to? Will they know it’s for them? Might the proposal be accepted? Will they live happily ever after? I’ll never know – unless a stone appears in the future with “Just Married” printed in big letters, or an invitation to a post-lockdown party! But even then, would this be the result of the original proposal – or not?

Like me, you’ll have made proposals over the years, and accepted some too: a marriage proposal; a friendship proposal; a meeting proposal; a development proposal; a contentious proposal – offered forcefully and with purpose, or simply and quietly, but made in sincerity and with integrity. So let’s keep on making good proposals. Now, more than ever, we need people who think deeply, reflect with awareness and propose good things – even colourfully and boldly like a stone on our esplanade that says, “Will You Marry Me?” And, you never know, maybe there’s someone who can take you up on your offer, and say “Yes I will!”

### **A Prayer for today**

*Colourful God, you say to us, “I propose to love you today.”*

*And today I’m inclined to say ... “I accept!”*

*An original reflection by © Tom Gordon*

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