

18th March 2023

Legacy

"I do not walk about the house thinking about my legacy. What a pompous way to live your life, walking around thinking, 'What will my legacy be?' Whatever. I'll be dead. I care about now. I care about the living."

J K Rowling, *The Witch Trials of J K Rowling*
(Podcast series with Megan Phelps-Roper, 2023)

I've had a cat named after me. Some of you know the story, but there will be many wondering "why?" and "what?" and "who?" Well, you can go on wondering, because the story is going to remain with me and the people who need to know. And while I cannot say with Virgil that I am "charmed with the foolish whistling of a name", even if it's mine, it warms my heart to know that there is a living being out there who's been named after me.

Today, March 18, is the third anniversary of my "Thought for the Day" pieces. On the day of the first Covid lockdown in Scotland in 2020, when the church doors were to be closed for an indefinite period, I set myself the task of offering nurture to folk who had no church to attend, and no on-line worship to join. Three years on, I'm still doing it! And from what I can gather, it still appears to be useful. That warms my heart too.

Will I have a legacy? Will some edifice carry my name? Will a "Tom Gordon Memorial Church" appear? Will a "Blue Plaque" adorn the wall of my study? Will a church gallery be named the "Thought for the Day" gallery, like "The Famous Five Stand" in the Hibernian FC stadium in Edinburgh, or Manchester United's "Sir Alex Ferguson Stand"? Will a stained-glass window appear "To the Glory of God and in memory of ..."? I think not and I hope not. For the *raison d'être* of these daily pieces is not, and will never be, to glean accolades, seek reward, or fix a particular time in the memory. I wish no legacy, save – with J K Rowling – to focus on the "now" in my care of the living, including every person who's reading this.

I "care about the living" too. So if, occasionally, something I write generates a thought, or creates a resonance, or offer reassurance as an aid to your day, that's legacy enough for me. If in the "now" of your living I've helped you a bit, so my heart is warmed some more, and that will grow if I know you can pass on what you've gained to those around you.

My name is Tom Gordon, and I'm named after a cat!

A prayer for today

Lord, in "the now", help me to care, and to let that care be enough – for now! Amen