

**Sunday 25 October  
2020**

**Today's Reading 1 Peter 2:1-10** page 3

### **What is a corner stone?**

It is the rock upon which the weight of the entire structure rests. It is usually the first rock that is laid and all other rocks are laid in relation to this stone.

### **Stones embody stories.**

If only the stones of a church could talk! Sometimes people talk about being able to sense the history of a place. What makes a place seem 'hallowed'? Can the stones really absorb a sense of prayer or a momentous event?



### **Look at our church building.**

What do you think it says about us?

Is it open and valuable to the local community?

Is it accessible to people of all abilities?

Does it reflect a living community, or just a glorious past?

Does it speak of a present purpose and a future hope?

Is it filled with things that are redundant or things that will help people to move forward?

Does the building reflect a spiritual house that is in order?

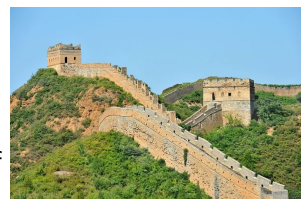


### **The church is made up of living stones - us!**

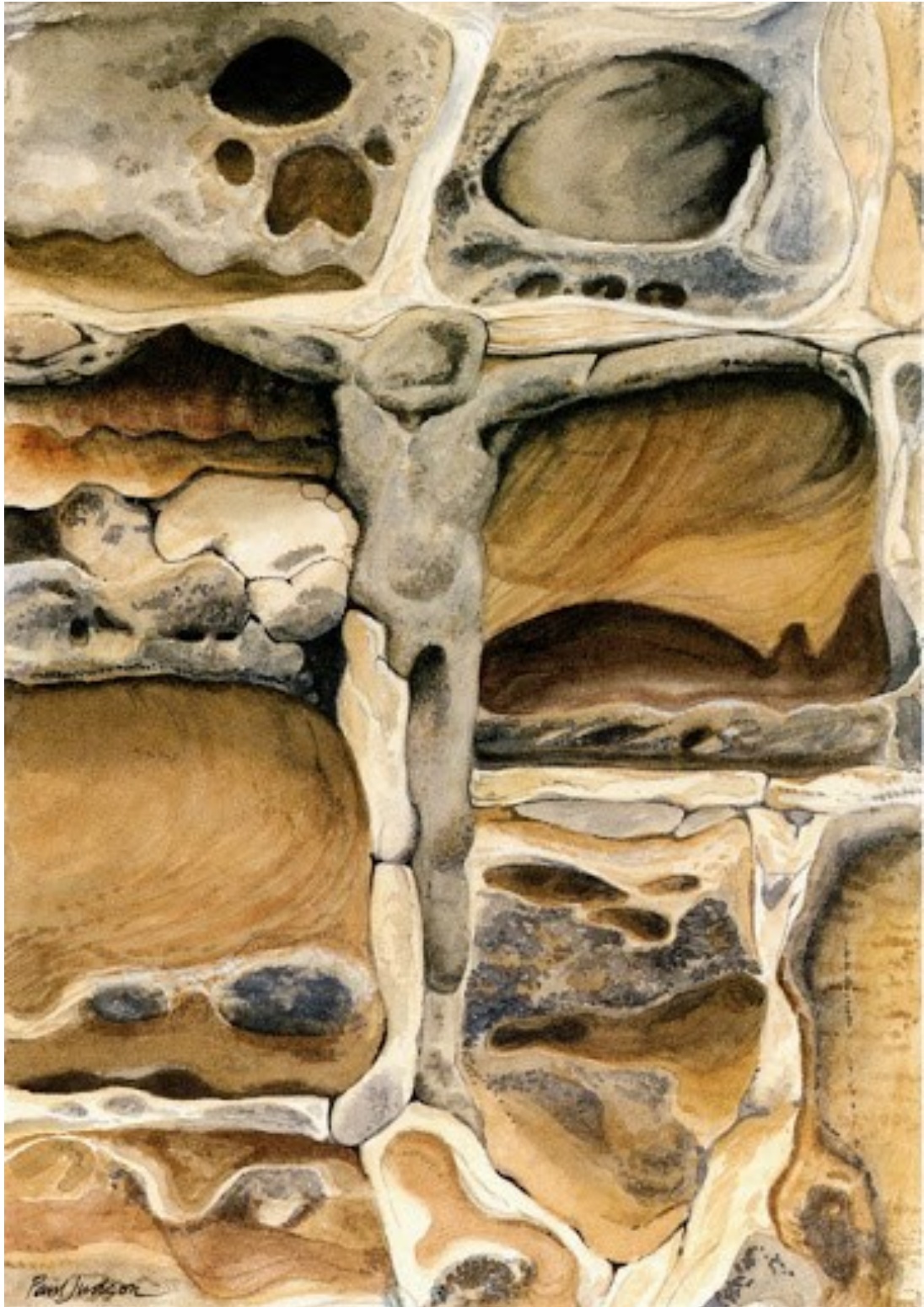
There are lots of different types of walls - brick and mortar, dry stone walls. Some building styles need uniform bricks, but drystone wall builders use just what they can find. The stones can be varying shapes and sizes. The stones fit together to build a stable structure without slipping and without any mortar. Skill is required in selecting the stones and in fitting them together.



Some walls have been there for thousands of years - Great Wall of China, Wailing Wall in Jerusalem. Romans were such good builders that they built things without mortar. The Roman aqueduct at Segovia in Spain is a good example of this (left).



This is a good image for building a church: we don't get to pick and choose what living stones we have to build our 'spiritual house' - we have to use what is there! The letter we are studying has the name of the disciple Peter on it - his name means rock - which reminds us of what he founded. But we also need to remember that he was 'rocky' - not always very reliable. Nevertheless, Jesus called him and God used him for great things.



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This artwork is called Living Stones

What do you see when you look at this artwork?  
What may have inspired the artist to draw it that way?  
How does it relate to the Scripture we have been looking at today?  
How does it relate to your life?

**Prayer:**

Jesus,  
you are the living stone.  
Build us into a spiritual house to honour you.  
**Amen.**

## 1 Peter 2:1-10

### Jesus Is the Living Stone

**2** So then, get rid of all evil and all lying. Do not be a hypocrite. Do not be jealous or speak evil of others. Put all these things out of your life. <sup>2</sup> As newborn babies want milk, you should want the pure and simple teaching. By it you can mature in your salvation. <sup>3</sup> For you have already examined and seen how good the Lord is.

<sup>4</sup> The Lord Jesus is the "stone" that lives. The people of the world did not want this stone. But he was the stone God chose. To God he was worth much. So come to him. <sup>5</sup> You also are like living stones. Let yourselves be used to build a spiritual temple—to be holy priests who offer spiritual sacrifices to God. He will accept those sacrifices through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> The Scripture says:

"I will put a stone in the ground in Jerusalem.  
Everything will be built on this important and precious rock.  
Anyone who trusts in him  
will never be disappointed." [\*Isaiah 28:16\*](#)

<sup>7</sup> This stone is worth much to you who believe. But to the people who do not believe, he is

"the stone that the builders did not want.  
It has become the cornerstone." [\*Psalms 118:22\*](#)

<sup>8</sup> To people who do not believe, he is

"a stone that causes people to stumble.  
It is a rock that makes them fall." [\*Isaiah 8:14\*](#)

They stumble because they do not obey what God says. This is what God planned to happen to them.

<sup>9</sup> But you are chosen people. You are the King's priests. You are a holy nation. You are a nation that belongs to God alone. God chose you to tell about the wonderful things he has done. He called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> At one time you were not God's people. But now you are his people. In the past you had never received mercy. But now you have received God's mercy.