26th June 2020

Viral St James Photo competition - No 8 'Hands'

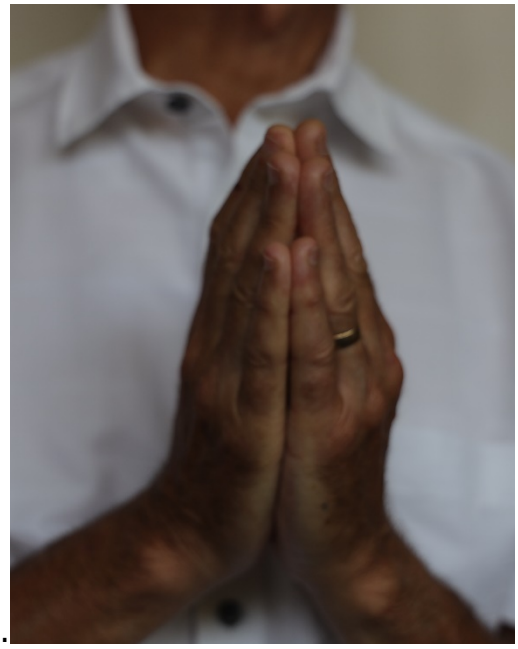
We are looking for expression rather than technical merit this week, although, unlike my effort below, the picture had best be in focus….

Here is what happens when I tried to take a photo myself with a heavy camera – it focused on the stone not the hand.

Hands can be innocent…

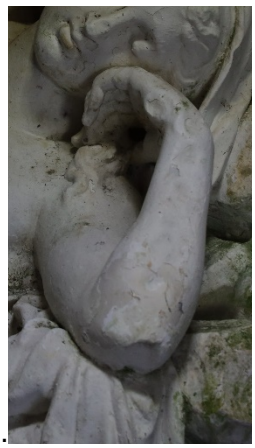
Or playful….

Or supportive….

Or prayerful…. 

Or even rude (or victorious, depending on your point of view)

A hand need not even be flesh and blood…



We've already said that focus is important – particularly if you are taking a picture of your own hand(s). You might use a feature of most cameras and phones that we have not discussed or used yet – delay, where you can set a time delay on the photo being taken, usually 2 or 10 seconds, but you'll have to carefully set up the shot, as focus usually takes place when you press the shutter, and if your hand isn't in the right place after the delay…. It is also important to have the camera properly and firmly supported and fixed – a tripod is ideal, but it's amazing what you can improvise.

Think also about background – does it help tell the story or detract from it…

Lighting is also going to be important – I haven't any 'clever' set-up lighting situations to show or suggest, so use your imagination – its not as if you need to go far to find your subject, so try a number of shots with different lighting and backgrounds – I've heard that the very worthy winner of 'Water' took over 200 shots before he achieved the one that he entered!

I'm really looking forward to seeing the results of this competition, try to surprise me!