

Days	Venue	Contact No.'s
Monday Group	Old Barn 7:30/Dave	02476. 346757
Thursday Group	Old Barn 7:15/John	02476. 394802

ST. WILFRID'S & ST. MICHAEL'S

Meeting Needs, Bringing Hope, Sharing Love

Services during September 2019

Date	St. Wilfrid's	St. Michael's
Date	Service	Info
01.09.19	Family Service 9.00am and Christening of Reggie	Holy Communion 10.30a *
05.09.19	Eve Healing Service 7.15pm	-----
08.09.19	Holy Communion 9.00am	Family Service 10.30am *
15.09.19	Family Service 9.00am Children's Club. Old Barn 9am	Communion by Ext: 10.30am *
22.09.19	Holy Communion 9.00am	Family Service 10.30am *
29.09.19	Family Service 9.00am	

Testimonies, stories Or memories from years ago – we would love to hear from you. Please contact Maureen or John on 02476.394802 or send us an e-mail on strowgerhouse@btinternet.com Many thanks.

NB. www.arleycofechurches.org.uk/



ALL IS SAFELY GATHERED IN

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2019

Rev. John Langlands		07588 664962
Churchwarden	John Cox	02476 394802
Deputy Warden	Vic Murray:	

Rev. John's Jottings

'One season following another, laden with happiness and tears'

Living in Arley at harvest time is something quite special. Also, just down the road at St Laurence in Ansley, has been the 55th year of their spectacular flower festival which never fails to delight all who attend. A huge amount of effort has gone into ensuring another wonderful event, with flower displays contributed by many in and around the village. To see the harvest 'safely gathered in' is not only a welcome sight, but an opportunity to be thankful for all who farm and work the land to provide for our food. THANK YOU to all who have been working so hard on the land to bring in another harvest. In times past in most rural places, churches and chapels would be full of people celebrating the harvest and giving thanks to God for 'all good gifts around us'. Today, sadly, the picture is rather different. The busyness of life tends to put attending church low on the list of priorities and corporate worship seems less important than it once was. Those who used to come to Sunday school often lose connection with church and the spiritual dimension of life linked to church seems to be regarded as irrelevant. However, church is different today and more relevant than ever. The theme at the flower festival this year was 'rest'. Each flower display depicted an aspect of rest mentioned from a variety of Bible passages. Amongst them includes the invitation, 'Come to me all you who are heavy laden and I will give you rest' - a very relevant word for today. Also, giving thanks for the

APPEAL:

An urgent appeal went out for volunteers to help with the for want of a better expression "The Taming of an overgrown Churchyard" I, along with others were amazed and delighted by the response and the wonderful job that was completed. Over the last couple of years it has been a constant concern that the churchyard was not up to the standard we would have liked, but thanks to the community spirit shown by all those who helped, it was a place befitting the resting place of past generations of Arley residents.

We know have the task of maintaining the standard that has been set, if you feel that you may be able to assist in this work in whatever way, we would be grateful for your help. There are contact numbers on front the newsletter if you are able to help.

It is surprising how news gets around and as a result of our appeal for help, we have received a donation towards the repairs needed for the interiors of our churches. The people who gave the donation no longer live in the village but have happy memories of the time they lived in the village, and were married at St. Wilfrid's, they have special memories of the church.

We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.!

Thank You all so much.

A GARDENING WEEK IN SEPTEMBER:

Biennials are plants which don't flower in their first year. They are planted one year to flower the next. As such, they are often planted around this time of year when the soil is still warm but the garden is being used less often. A spectacular example is the foxglove. I just love these flowers. Foxglove is a derivation of 'folk's glove,' a reference to fairy folk. They are a woodland plant and as such prefer a little shade and can also thrive if offered a little leaf mould to replicate their natural growing conditions. They are native to the British Isles. A lot of Christian work is described as setting out seed, but I often wonder if a biennial is a more apt metaphor. Although they don't flower in the first year, they do continue to flower year on year after that. Much Christian ministry can seem slow to start, you may have to wait years for any tangible results that you can point to as successes. Sowing seeds of any kind is an act of faith. It takes faith to believe that the seed will produce a harvest. Once the biennials have grown, your faith is rewarded and God multiplies your offering.

Holy God, show me if there are any ways that I can do simple acts of kindness today as an act of worship to you. Amen.

Other possible gardening tasks for this week include: -

Ripening onions

Continuing to pick apples

Training climbing roses

Planting garlic cloves outside.



Harvest is a good time to take stock and remember not to take our provisions for granted. As someone has said, 'If God did not exist, there would be no-one to thank'. Not only can a community come together and enjoy singing the familiar harvest hymns, but also consider the fundamentals of life. As one of the challenging passages in the Bible says, 'What does it profit a person if he gains the whole world, but loses his soul' and, 'Man cannot live by bread alone, but every word that comes from the mouth of God'.

May this month be a time when you can 'rest and be thankful'!

Rev John.

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God of harvest,

A version of Psalm 65

God, you deserve our praise, because you answer our prayers you forgive us when we do wrong you bless us with your goodness You give hope to people everywhere on earth, Because you are strong, your mighty power put the mountains in place. You can silence the roaring waves People near and far celebrate and sing because of your love. You take care of the earth and send rain to help the soil grow all kinds of crops. Your rivers never run dry, and you prepare the earth to produce much grain. You water all of its fields and level the lumpy ground. You send showers of rain to soften the soil and help the plants sprout. Wherever your footsteps touch the earth a rich harvest is gathered. Desert pastures blossom, and mountains celebrate. Meadows are filled with sheep and goats; valleys overflow with grain and echo with joyful songs.pl

HARVEST TIME:

Harvest festival was special when all was safely gathered in and our tributes of polished apples and scrubbed potatoes contrasting with bronze onions and orange carrots were presented and arranged round the church. Not for us the tinned goods and tea bags which my grandchildren are asked A to contribute. A row of tins although much more practical doesn't have quite the same appeal as a mound of rosy apples.

Of course there was none of the more exotic fruits, we only had oranges at Christmas and I don't think I tasted a banana till after the war was over and I was disappointed, I thought it would be juicy. Probably a lot of the produce given to the needy would never be used as even the tiniest cottage had a vegetable patch and I suspect many a marrow ended up on the compost heap. However, we sang, 'We plough the fields and scatter as we looked round with pride and our efforts in Church was declared ever so pretty.!

How blessed we were to be brought up in Whitacre. Times were hard but people helped each other and shared what we had. One

Christmas during the war my mum only had a rabbit for our Christmas dinner, but on returning from a trip to the village she found a dressed fowl on the doorstep. she never found out where it came from. Our family lived in very primitive conditions. Even for that time. no running water electricity or sanitation and little money but it was such a happy home we never felt deprived. we were free as birds to play in the fields and were so content with little things. We gathered wild flower in the spring and summer and went nutting round the forty acres field in the Autumn. In

those days the scented violets still grew in the hedgerow if you



HERE IN CHURCH AT HARVESTIME, A SEA OF HEADS, SOWN IN A LINE.
I WONDER WHAT THESE HEADS WILL BARE,
WHEN THEIR, HARVEST TIME DRAWS NEAR

POTATOES WITH EYES! CORN WITH EARS!
BANANAS BY THE HAND?
BUNCHES OF GRAPES – HUNG ON A VINE
WAITING FOR THE SUMMER TO SHINE.

PLANTS CAN'T SEE, OR HEAR, OR CARRY
T'WOULD BE SURPRISING IF THEY COULD
BUT, WE CAN SEE, HEAR, AND AT TIMES TARRY
TO THANK GOD BECAUSE WE KNOW WE SHOULD.

IN POEMS AND RHYMES, SONGS SUNG LINE BY LINE
SAUSAGES SIZZLING IN THE PAN
KIDS EXPRESSING THAT FOOD'S A BLESSING
OH THE COLOURS OF AUTUMN, RED, ORANGE AND TAN.

'FRUIT AND VEG' - HARVEST THINGS
'WHAT'S THAT TO DO WITH ME?'
WELL GOD CAN HARVEST US AS LIVING VEG ET ABLES
FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE.

WITH A HELPING HAND, A SMILE OR A WORD.
OTHERS MAY GROW AND BLOOM AND KNOW
GOD'S GIFT TO YOU AND ME.

Author - unknown



Michaelmas Michaelmas, or the Feast of Michael and All Angels, is celebrated on the 29th of September every year. As it falls near the equinox, the day is associated with the beginning of autumn and the shortening of days; in England, it is one of the “quarter days”. There are traditionally four “quarter days” in a year (Lady Day (25th March), Midsummer (24th June), Michaelmas (29th September) and Christmas (25th December)). They are spaced three months apart, on religious festivals, usually close to the solstices or equinoxes. They were the four dates on which servants were hired, rents due or leases begun. It used to be said that harvest had to be completed by Michaelmas, almost like the marking of the end of the productive season and the beginning of the new cycle of farming. It was the time at which new servants were hired or land was exchanged and debts were paid. This is how it came to be for Michaelmas to be the time for electing magistrates and also the beginning of legal and university terms. St Michael is one of the principal angelic warriors, protector against the dark of the night and the Archangel who fought against Satan and his evil angels. As Michaelmas is the time that the darker nights and colder days begin – the edge into winter – the celebration of Michaelmas is associated with encouraging protection during these dark months. It was believed that negative forces were stronger in darkness and so families would require stronger defences during the later months of the year. Traditionally, in the British Isles, a well fattened goose, fed on the stubble from the fields after the harvest, is eaten to protect against financial need in the family for the next year. Sometimes the day was also known as “Goose Day” and goose fairs were held. Even now, the famous Nottingham Goose Fair is still held on or around the 3rd of October. Part of the reason goose is eaten is that it was said that when Queen Elizabeth I heard of the defeat of the Armada, she was dining on goose and resolved to eat it on Michaelmas Day. Others followed suit. It could also have developed through the role of Michaelmas Day as the debts were due; tenants requiring a delay in payment may have tried to persuade their landlords with gifts of geese! The custom of celebrating Michaelmas Day as the last day of harvest was broken when Henry VIII split from the Catholic Church; instead, it is Harvest Festival that is celebrated now.

knew where to look and David our Brother, picked and took them home to our Mother. We gathered arms full of bluebells which we knew would probably be dead the next day.

Although we moved to Furnace End in the 1950s our association with Nether Whitacre continued, My Sister and I walked across the churchyard in the moonlight clad in our white dresses and veils having been confirmed by the then Bishop of Lichfield. On a sunny July day Janet married her John at St Giles and my own first Son and two nephews were baptised there. Our dear mother was laid to rest there in 1973 and now her soul mate our father, has joined her.

After the get together which we shared with our family and friends at Drayton court where Dad had lived in his final years, my husband and I went to have a last look at the grave and I reflected how little had changed over the years. Just a few more graves and the school now a private dwelling. In my mind's eye the shade of the little girl that I once was skipped down the path from the war memorial three times round the round the big tree in case the gargoyles got me, and then down to join my friends in school. Happy Happy days!

As we walked back in the twilight toward the gates, the daffodils swayed gently in the breeze. The birds were singing their last song of the day and there was such an air of peace and tranquillity. I couldn't feel sad, I left my Parents together again at last surrounded by the graves of the people who had been there friends and neighbours in life to sleep there long sleep in the village they loved. There could be no more fitting resting place... Thanks' for Reading - Anne Morris.

Thank YOU Anne for allowing us to share your trip down memory Lane.

Collecting Blackberries:

For many children one of the ways they first connect with nature on a significant level is out blackberry picking. I loved doing this as a child, and I still do whenever I get chance. From late August through to September, and it still amazes me how many people I do see out blackberrying. Surely people love the taste of them, as I have also seen them sold in supermarkets, so I know they must. I love the anticipation of loading children up with various sizes of empty ice-cream tubs and containers. We set off to a predetermined spot, I love the slight challenge of it, negotiating annoying prickles and reaching up high to secure the best fruits, and leave the lower branches to the children. I even love the stained fingers and sticky chins which the children inevitably receive. Some prefer the musty flavour of the very ripe while others prefer the tart taste of the still slightly red ones. If ready to be picked should fall away easily from the bramble. Once collected, wash and divide up into some for the freezer, some to use now. This way, for no money and little effort you've got blackberries to eat for a month or so.

Lord God, Thank you for the small treats of life, like picking blackberries on a sunny day. Thank you that even the simple things like this can teach us about stewardship and responsibility. Thank you for all the wonders of nature which You alone have created that help to feed and nourish us Amen

Deeds from the heart beautifully impart the gifts that last forever



Come, you thankful people, come

Come, you thankful people, come, Raise the song of harvest home!
Fruit and crops are gathered in, safe before the storms begin.
God our maker will provide for our needs to be supplied:
Come, with all His people, come, raise the song of harvest home!

All the world is God's own field, Harvests for His praise to Yield;
Wheat and weeds together sown, here for joy or sorrow grown:
First the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear -
Lord of harvest, grant that we, wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come and shall bring His harvest home;

He himself on that great day, worthless things shall take away,
Give his angels charge at last in the fire the weeds to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store, in His care for ever more.

Even so, Lord, quickly come - bring Your final harvest home!
Gather all your people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
There together purified, ever thankful at Your side
Come, with all your angels, come, bring that glorious harvest home.!

The harvest of old age is the recollection and abundance of blessing previously secured.

Prayer for each day in September: We give thanks to Almighty God who has graciously given us the fruits of the earth in their season.

1	Thank You Lord for Rev. John & Frances for all their hard work and care throughout our villages
2	Thank You Lord for our farmers who work tirelessly
3	Thank You for this season of Harvest
4	Thank You Lord for our Families and Dear Friends
5	Thank You Lord for our neighbours and their friendship
6	Thank You for all our Dr's and nurses and all medical staff
7	Thank You for all care homes and care staff
8	Thank You Lord for all visiting carers in our Community
9	Thank You for our Church family and for their help and support
10	Thank You for all volunteers helping inside and outside our Church
11	Thank You for our armed servicemen & women serving abroad
12	Thank You Lord for all your wonderful blessings You bestow on us
13	Thank You Creator God for our surrounding beautiful countryside
14	Thank You for our Pets who are so faithful to us
15	Thank You Lord for our wonderful children & grandchildren
16	Thank You for the wonderful gift of music which brings much joy
17	Thank You Lord for always walking along side us each day
18	Thank You for listening Lord
19	Thank You for families sharing holidays at this time
20	Thank You for giving us strength and energy to face each day
21	Thank You for all our Emergency services
22	Thank You for our food and nourishment Lord
23	Thank You and we pray for all living in our sheltered dwellings
34	Thank You for our Churches where we can find peace & love
25	Thank You for our Lifeboat men and Life Guards on our beaches
26	Thank You Lord for your blessed healing amongst the sick
27	Thank You for keeping safe those travelling daily on our roads
28	Thank You for this beautiful weather we are enjoying
29	Thank You for St. Michael & All Angels Church
30	Thank You for all students and schoolchildren & teachers

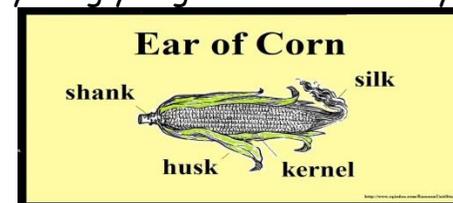
Harvest:

We praise you, O God, for the gifts of the harvest.
You are the creator of the world!
Everything we see causes us to praise you.

We praise you for our food:
The crunch of an apple and the juice of an orange;
The taste of meat and varieties of fish;
The sweetness of sugar and the sharpness of salt;
For milk and tea, and fresh water to quench our thirst.

We praise you for the harvest of industry:
The products of factory and mill,
For clothes and cars, for tables and televisions;
For iron and steel, plastic and petrol
And for the skill to fashion the materials you created on earth.

This harvest day,
Reminds us afresh that you love us and care for us,
Call us again to share your task of caring for this world.
Whisper anew that you created us in your image.
Then we will unite to praise you for the harvest,
To join you in partnership
And offer you these gifts as a thanksgiving
For everything you give us the whole year through.



What's on around in and around our villages?

Big Day Out

Old Arley Recreation Ground.CV7 8FL
Sunday 8th September 11.00am - 3.00pm

Music. Police. Assault Course. Fire Service. Food Court. Scouts.
Hand made Jewellery. Live Performance. Charity Stalls. Cakes.
Health checks. Scarecrow making. Neighbourhood watch.
Megaslide. Face Painting. Dog show. Ice Cream. Combat Demo.
This is a free event. Come along and enjoy a good family day out!

Astley Castle:Astley.

Open days - Free admission. Friday 6th September - Sunday
10.00am - 4.00pm. & Monday 9th 10.00am - 1.00pm.

Fillongley:

Live and Local Big Picture Show is on 11th October at Fillongley
Social Club. Doors open 7.00pm. All welcome to enjoy this
cinematic experience! Licenced bar serving hot and cold drinks
and homemade cakes available. Film is 'Fisherman's Friends' pay
on door £5 adult & £3.50 for children under 16. Film starts at
7.30pm. Next 'Big Picture' for diaries will be on 6th December.

Live and Local presents UPDOWNSIZING a solo drama comedy
at Fillongley Village Hall, extremely entertaining as Scott and I
have watched it. £10 ticket, light refreshments available and
great raffle prizes. Book to reserve tickets on 01676-542988
Cheers Lynne.

September brings with it great sadness as we remember 9/11

The God Of Love

As we think of the lives that are lost
Regarded as nothing at all,
The heartache and agony of those that are left,
The devastation of the fall
The children left without a Mum
To embrace them when they cry,
The many alone without a daddy
To tuck them in bed at night
The parents also left to grieve
For the children they have lost,
Husbands and wives also weep
Paying an unbelievable cost
There is hope, a glimpse of light
Amidst these darkened days,
Our Lord Jesus, who loves us so much
And hears when we kneel to pray
He can bring healing to the hurting heart
And comfort to those who weep
He is the strength that we can receive,
For His love is ever so deep
Still, we're left wondering how this happened
And why all this needless grief
So many questions remain unanswered,
We just need to have faith and believe
That our loving God is still in control,
Though the remnants of terror remain
The broken lives and shattered dreams;
The unspoken anguish and pain
He knows full well how we are feeling,
He identifies grief with us
We can be sure that He loves us so,
For He is a God of love.

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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS
WHO KINDLY CAME TO HELP TIDY UP
OUR CHURCHYARD AT ST. WILFRID'S OLD ARLEY.
MANY OF YOU CAME ARMED WITH MOWERS,
GARDEN SHEARS, STRIMMERS ETC.
EVERYONE WORKED SO HARD - WELL PAST
A COUPLE OF HOURS!
THE CHURCHYARD LOOKS LOVELY.
THE GRAVE STONES WERE TIDIED UP.
HAD LOTS OF POSITIVE COMMENTS FROM
MANY VISITORS WHO HAVE BEEN DELIGHTED
WITH ALL THE WORK DONE.
IT WAS A WONDERFUL SURPRISE TO SEE
SO MANY OF YOU.
MANY THANKS TO YOU ALL.
YOUR HARD WORK IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.
X

WE THANK YOU FOR
THE TIME YOU SPARED
AND THE HELPING HAND YOU GAVE
IT MEANT SO MUCH
AND WE THANK THE LORD
FOR THE EFFORT THAT YOU MADE.

In seed time learn, in harvest teach, in winter enjoy!

The Community Centre's trip to Blackpool evoked childhood memories of visits to this resort. One memory in particular was a visit to the Tower Circus to see Coco the clown.

Delving into his past formed this article he was born into a poor family in Latvia in 1900 his actual name was Nicolai Polakovs. His career started at the age of 5 singing in cafes and bars to survive, then at the age of 7 he started training as a circus performer learning skills such as acrobatics, trapeze, horse riding and tumbling but he was drawn at this early age to clowning. It was at this time his mentor started calling him Kokishka the Russian for cat which was shortened to Koko then when he came to England he finally became Coco. His act was as a foolish clown and a foil for the more serious White clown. Frequently he would get the better of the white clown to the delight of the audience. Coco was recognised by his rather large red nose, his oversized suit, giant sized 58 shoes and red wig. He originally joined the famous Bertram Mills Circus in 1929. He continued performing in the UK for the next 37 years and was a star attraction. Nicolai devoted much of his spare time to educate on road safety he was awarded O.B.E in 1963. He and his family settled in a small village in Northamptonshire and became a naturalised British citizen. He passed away On the 25 September 1974 aged 74 he was described as an adopted hero in the area he had settled in as home.



Little Quips:

As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.(Genesis 8:22)

It is not always granted to the sower to live to see the harvest.
All work that is worth anything is done in faith.

"We were put on this magical planet, not to dominate and consume her, but to care for her and love her. To harrow gently. To harvest gratefully. To build reasonably."

"In life, we plant seeds everywhere we go.
Some fall on fertile ground needing very little to grow.
Some fall on rocky soil requiring a tad bit more loving care.
While others fall in seemingly barren land and no matter what you do; it appears the seed is dead.
Nevertheless, every seed planted will have a ripple effect.
You could see it in the present or a time not seen yet.
So be wise about where you plant your seeds.
Be very mindful of your actions & deeds.
Negativity grows just as fast if not faster than positivity.
Plant seeds of kindness, love and peace
And your harvest will be abundant living."

"Keep climbing; your fruits are on the top!"

Ministry vs Job?

Some people have a job in church. Others invite themselves into ministry. What's the difference you ask?

If you are doing it because no one else will, it's a job.
If you are doing it to serve the Lord, it's a ministry.

If you quit because someone criticised you, it's a job.
If you keep on serving, it's a ministry.

If you'll do it as long as it does not interfere with your other activities, it's a job.

If you are committed to staying even if it means letting go of other things, it's a ministry.

If you quit because no-one thanked you or praised you, it's a job.
If you stick with it even though no one recognised your efforts, it's a ministry.

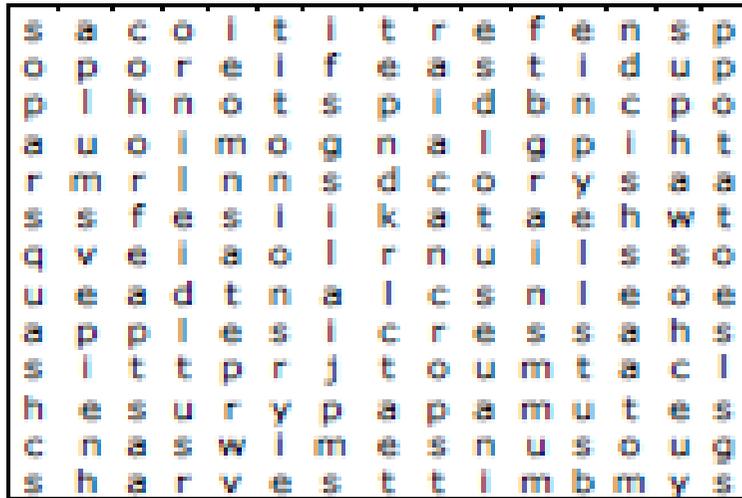
It's hard to get excited about a job. It's almost impossible not to get excited about a ministry.

If your concern is success, it's a job. If your concern is faithfulness and service, it's a ministry.

If God calls you to a ministry, don't treat it like a job!

Lord, strengthen your servants and move us to a true sense of ministry and service, through your grace and mercy. Amen.

Harvest Word Search



- harvest
- crops
- feast
- grains
- wheat
- apples
- plums
- potatoes
- onions
- squash

Children's Page:

