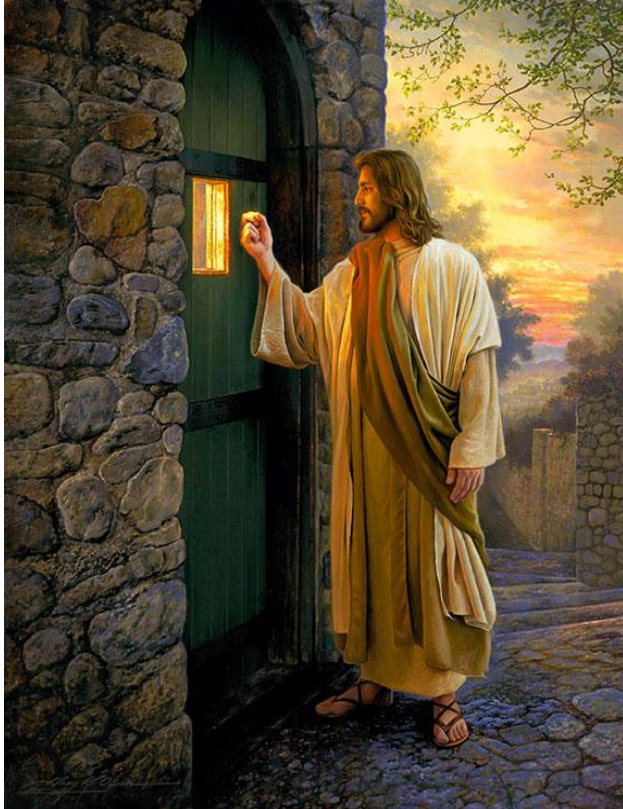


ST. MICHAEL'S AND ST. WILFRID'S ARLEY

Meeting Needs, Bringing Hope, Sharing Love



THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

July 2020 Newsletter

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Rev John's Jottings for July

If you are sometimes asked, 'How has the lockdown been affecting you?' I imagine most of your answers have been around health, food supplies, maybe feeling lonely, being stuck indoors and missing family and friends. As the lockdown begins to ease, as it has been, we are told that things will never get back to what they were and we will have to consider doing things a different way. So, what will we have learned from it? Will people just pick up from where they left off and carry on with life, eventually to have a memory of 2020 as being the year of covid19? Or will it be a wakeup call to consider more pressing questions about life and death, meaning and purpose, chance or providence?

It was Winston Churchill who once said:

'Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing happened'

Prior to the Lockdown, our churches were open and there was a place to come and hear about eternal things, life after death, living a fulfilling life with God, finding peace and contentment and much more. Now they are closed – will they open again? What if they did not – would you care? I am pleased to say they will, but not yet. Who will come back? Who will start to come since a long absence because what has been happening has been speaking to them? At the moment there are many unknown answers. But though our church buildings are closed, the real church, which is people, is actually alive and well! Every week services and mid-week updates are sent out via emails and printed copies are being sent through the post from time to time. Over 70 people across Ansley and Arley are being kept in touch and upheld in prayer along with each villager.

It has been so easy to take so much for granted before the lockdown. However, now is the time to take stock, consider the things in life that really matter and do something about them – and that could even mean church!

Do take care, keep safe, be alert and may God richly bless you.

Rev. John

God in the Garden July week 1 - Watering:

It's usually around about now when we get hit with a hosepipe ban. Just when our garden needs most water we are not allowed to use a hosepipe on it. To prepare for this, and also to be good stewards generally, many people install a water butt. If you have not already done this I would recommend it. Once installed you'll have fresh rainwater for your garden. Another advantage of rain water it's actually better for the garden, containing a lot more healthy nutrients than tap water. To fit a water butt, start by choosing a suitable drainpipe and clear the area underneath. Put the stand of the water butt in place and put the butt onto the stand. Mark the downpipe where the water butt reaches to, move the butt aside as you cut the drainpipe and fit it. I find watering very satisfying, particularly when pottering around with a watering can. I find that the slow pace of watering with a can makes me more observant about spotting new weeds, pests or other small tasks that I can keep on top of. It is better to water in the mornings or evenings. In the summer it's the first job I do when I come from work. It gets me straight out in the garden and I can almost imagine the plants gasping in relief as I wonder around giving them precious life giving water

The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun scorched land and will strengthen you. You will be like a well- watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. (Isaiah 58;11) I often think about these inspiring words when I water my garden. It's quite a short and memorable verse with beautiful words which I can meditate on. The words speak of abundance and flourishing, they speak of someone needing God like plants need water. It is hard to read these verses and picture an oasis, An oasis must just about be the most welcome sight imaginable, if you are travelling along a sun scorched land. It is this picture of desperate need for God,. The reality of my life is that I rarely do find this kind of longing towards God but as I meditate on these words I know there is something to aspire to. And as my need for God grows, these words suggest that he will satisfy these needs.as you water your garden today try to memorise the beautiful words of this Bible verse *Lord God, you are more precious than gold. You are even more precious than life giving water when we were dying of thirst. I'm sorry that in my day to day life you get pushed tp the sidelines. Lord you are the central focus of my life. I need you as plants need water, you refresh me and sustain me. Help me keep my focus on you. Amen.*

Possible tasks this week include tidying up your hanging baskets – dead head, cut back old growth and feed well. 2) Tying in and training new growth on climbing plants.3) Prune Wisteria by removing wispy side shoots.4) Peg down strawberry runners.

"I AM" THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD



Discover the hidden words.



Word Bank

SIN

FEAST

SATAN

FOLLOWS

SNAKE

LIGHT

JESUS

DARKNESS

EVE

ADAM

GOD





My Everything:

Christ for sickness, Christ for health,
Christ for poverty, Christ for wealth,
Christ for joy, Christ for sorrow,
Christ today and Christ tomorrow;
Christ my Life, and Christ my Light
Christ for morning, noon and night,
Christ when all around gives way,
Christ my everlasting Stay;
Christ my Rest, and Christ my Food
Christ above my highest good,
Christ my Well – beloved Friend
Christ my pleasure without end;
Christ my Saviour, Christ my Lord,
Christ my portion, Christ my God,
Christ my Shepherd, I His sheep
Christ Himself my soul to keep;
Christ my Leader, Christ my Peace
Christ hath wrought my soul's release,
Christ my Righteousness divine
Christ for me, for He is mine;
Christ my Wisdom, Christ my Meat,
Christ restores my wandering feet,
Christ my Advocate and Priest
Christ who ne'er forgets the least;
Christ my Teacher, Christ my Guide,
Christ my Rock, in Christ I hide,
Christ the Ever-living Bread
Christ His Precious Blood hath shed;
Christ has bought be nigh to God,
Christ the everlasting Word
Christ my Master ,Christ my Head,
Christ who for my sins hath bled;
Christ my Glory, Christ my Crown,
Christ the Plant of great renown,
Christ my Comforter on high,
Christ my Hope draws ever nigh.

Light in the Dark:

A severe thunderstorm passed through our new town, leaving high humidity and dark skies in its wake. I took our dog, Callie, for an evening stroll. The mounting challenges of my families cross country move grew heavier on my mind. Frustrated by the countless ways things had strayed so far from our high hopes and expectations. I slowed to let Callie sniff the grass. I listened to the creek that runs beside our house. Tiny lights flashed on and off while hovering over the patches of wildflowers climbing up the creeks bank. Fireflies.

The Lord wrapped me in peace as I watched the blinking lights cutting through the darkness. I thought of the psalmist David singing, 'You Lord keep my lamp burning'(Psalm 18 v 28) Proclaiming that God turns His darkness into light. David demonstrated confident faith in the Lord's provision and protection (v29/30) With God's strength he could handle anything that came his way.(v32 – 35) Trusting the Living Lord to be with him through all circumstances, David promised to praise Him among the nations and sing the praises of His name.(v36 – 49)

Whether we are enduring the unpredictable storms in life or enjoying the stillness after the rains have passed, the peace of God's constant presence lights our way through the darkness. Our living God will always be our strength , our refuge, our sustainer and our deliverer.

What verses help you trust God's constant presence?

How can relying on God's sovereign goodness help us walk through storms with confident faith?

Father, please help me trust Your goodness and love even when I sometimes can't see You in the dark circumstances in life.

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A minister wished to meet after the service with a couple he was going to marry. unfortunately, he couldn't remember their names, so he announced from the pulpit; 'Will those wishing to be united in holy matrimony please come forward after the service' following the service, thirteen old spinsters came to the front.!

A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY:

Consequently you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household. (Ephesians: 2:19)

Isn't it wonderful to be a member of a family? People in families have a sense of belonging. They know there's someone out there who has their back. That's just how it is in God's family. when we link arms with other believers, when we stand together, we're part of something larger than ourselves. We aren't strangers, aliens. We are fellow citizens , members of the same household. Isn't it wonderful to be included, to have like minded people gathered around us, no matter what we are going through? Families are a part of the Lord's glorious plan for our lives, and we're grateful for them.

Father, You are indeed our Father,. We are Your children, part of Your royal family. To be a member of that family is such an honour, Lord. Thank You for surrounding us with people who truly care about us. We love You, Father. Amen.

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A twelve year old boy named David had been born without and immune system. He underwent a bone marrow transplant in order to correct the deficiency. Up to that point he had spent his entire life in a plastic bubble in order to prevent exposure to common germs, bacteria and viruses that could kill him, he lived without ever knowing human contact. When asked what he would like to do if and when released from his protective bubble, he replied, 'I want to walk barefoot on the grass, and touch my mother's hand.'

Inside St. Wilfrid's



What a joy to see inside our beautiful church again. We miss seeing all of our Church family and those who may walk through our doors to come and join us - we look forward to those days ahead. I know this Covid 19 virus has caused many problems and it has been a real struggle for most, especially those with small children, and all those who haven't been able to see their families for months. The church is indeed the people, and throughout this time there has been much prayer and phone contact with many. However, nothing lasts forever, and so we hope we will all be back with renewed strength and enjoy being able to worship once more together.
Maureen x

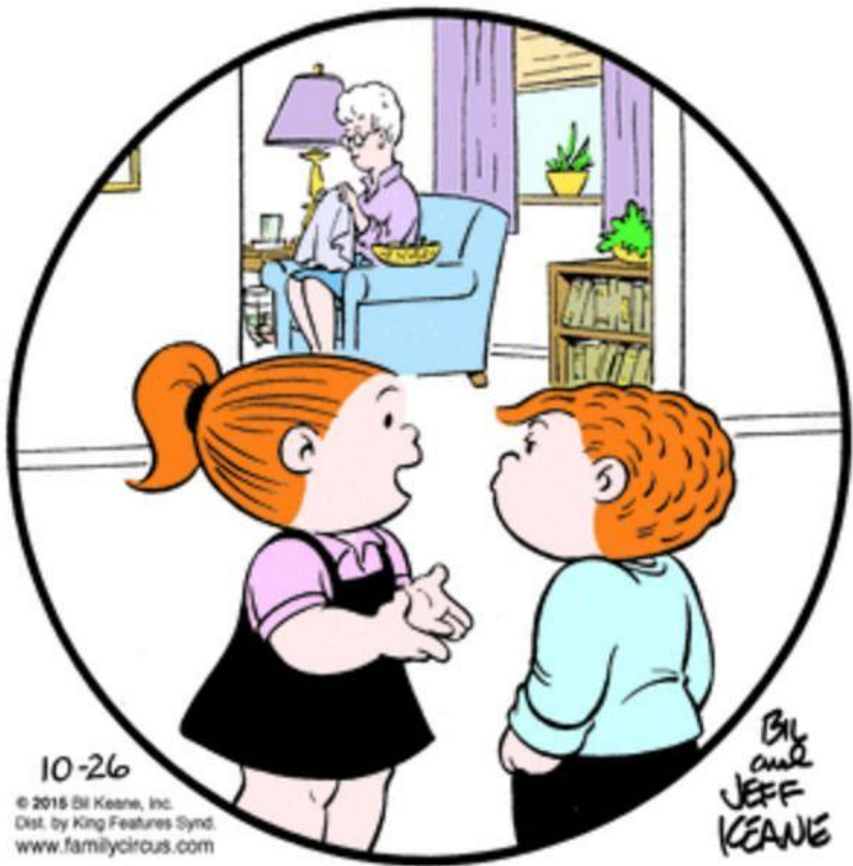
When Aunt Anna came to stay:

George was overjoyed when he was told that Aunt Anna, always a welcome visitor, had this time made up her mind to remain at 'The Yellow Stag' as a member of the family. Aunt Anna *understood*. She had always encouraged her little nephew in all the things he cared for, especially his passion for music. So perhaps those wonderful dreams of a glorious future weren't so impossible after all. George had always been a lonely lad, His father, a famous surgeon, was far too busy with his own affairs to spare much time for his sons problems. The boys mother, too, showed very little interest in George's future; she was always too busily engaged in household matters.

The boy had no brothers in his age group and he did not easlily mix with others. There were sisters, true, but in his eyes they were little more than babies. What could they know of those inner stirrings, that urge to express himself in magical sound. A lover of music herself, Aunt Anne was now more than ever determined to give her nephew every chance to develop the talent that was clearly his. At that time the home instrument was the clavichord. This was much smaller and softer in tone than the piano, which was to prove so popular in later years. Aunt Anna lost no time in having a clavichord installed in the loft of 'The Yellow Stag, as a complete surprise to young George. Night after night George hurried upstairs to his beloved instrument. Eventually he taught himself to play – and to play very well indeed. But, this was only part of Aunt Anna's plan. It was essential for her nephew to *hear* good music as well.

She thought of the church in the square, not far from the 'Yellow Stag'. Soon Anna and young George were almost daily visitors. Thrilling to the deep,sonorous tones of the organ. One day Aunt Anna arranged a meeting between George and the organist. The organist was quick to recognize talent coupled with enthusiasm, urged the boy begin a course of instruction without delay. He would be proud to foster such a gift. Time passed, one day shyly produced a manuscript for his tutors opinion. The organist tried it, it was lovely. He lived to see a rare thing called genius, in one so young. He asked what do your initials stand for? 'George Frederick Handel, sir' he replied.

His aptitude for music was fostered by a sympathetic aunt



**“The two places we know we’re
always welcome are church
and Grandma’s house.”**

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*If you wish to contribute to our newsletter with your own 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 at

strowgerhouse@btinternet.com. Many thanks.

For newsletter and other matters concerning our church please try

www.arleycofechurches.org.uk/

Another true story from our friend Anne.

When I was young we didn't have shops that opened from 'eight till late', as some do today, but if we ran out of anything or we had unexpected visitors (we were never prepared for such an eventuality) one of us would be sent to the back door for a tin of spam and a swiss roll for tea. Looking back I smile at some of the things my mother used to do – we usually had Brook Bond tea and this had a penny stamp at the end of the packet, these were stuck on a card and when the card was full, 10 shillings could be redeemed from the shop. This must have been after rationing because she would send for about 10 packets of tea (back of the book), stick the stamps on to fill the card and then claim her 10 shillings for the next day. There was another grocery shop in the village kept by a family called Collins, but my mother did not shop with them, she said they were incomers and did not understand country people, she had forgotten that she was an incomer herself! The butchers shop was kept by Mr. Grove and this was where we were rationed for our meat. Mr. Groves two sons were in the war and killed in action. On the day after he heard about his second sons death a notice appeared in his shop window which read, 'Badly bent, but not broken'. People were so brave then. If we needed anything more then we could go to Coleshill. This was a picturesque little town in those days, but is very built up and spoiled now. It was very historic, I think it was mentioned in the Domesday Book and had many buildings of historical significance. 'The Swan' had been a coaching Inn and the stocks were originally outside it but they had been moved to Church Hill and as far as I know they are here to this day. There was a sadlers at the bottom end of town which traded for some years after the war. Opposite the sadlers was Miss. Hammonds dress shop. Mum used some of Dads gratuity to buy herself a striped costume and a hat

with two points at the front, and very nice she looked too. The shop was very genteel as were the two maiden ladies who kept it. While mum tried on her clothes they sat me on a stool and fed me biscuits. I liked the Co-op because of the way they put the money in a little box and then 'pinged' it across to the cashiers desk who would put in the correct change and 'ping' it back. On bust days all you could hear was the ping ping as the little boxes sped across the wires. While we were in Coleshill we always went to Child's Fish shop. They served big cones of chips and bits for 3p and you could sit in their back kitchen and have a plate of chips, 2 slices of bread and butter and a cup of tea all for 4p, all served by their helper a tall chap who was out on licence from the local mental hospital. In that area mental patients were allowed to work in the community. Most of the dustbin men except the driver were patients at Coleshill Hall and the Childs man helped them for years. When Janet went to senior school she sat by Edith Childs, the daughter of the business and said she always smelt of chip fat. For a time Auntie Jean was a cook at Coleshill hall and I was mortified when walking through town a shrill voice call 'Cooeee'. It was a woman of about 50, a mental patient who thought she was Shirley Temple, wearing a short spotted frock with a big bow tied in the grey corkscrew curls. Considering the area we lived there was Coleshill Hall, a young offenders school and an Approved school as it was called then at Shawbury not far away. I never heard of anyone being frightened or hurt by any of them. Nowadays I live in fear of anything happening to my little grandchildren, it seems such a shame that children can no longer be granted the freedom my generation enjoyed. I didn't go shopping in Coleshill very often, because I was at school. I lost only one day in the entire time I was at school. *Thankyou Anne - for more lovely memories.xx*

Gorgeous Green.



One of the joys of summer is the explosion of green everywhere, even in cities. Dark green pine trees, soft green grass for picnics, tender green leaves that get darker through the summer.

Next time you're out and about as a family, see how many different green things you can count, and maybe even collect a few things to take home and press inside a heavy book. Pressed leaves and flowers can make beautiful pictures. You can even use them to create home-made cards for birthdays and other celebrations.

Summer is a wonderful time for planting too. Try planting seeds or bulbs with your child to see how they can grow when they're fed and watered. Amaryllis bulbs grow fast and have beautiful big flowers, which children will love. If you want to grow something to eat, why not try rocket, which can be harvested as soon as four weeks after planting?

During this time, Christians just get on with growing in our life with God, like the plants are doing. And like the plants, to grow, we need feeding spiritually. Praying is a great way to feed our growing faith.

Long summer days and nights can be a good time for prayers. Start with something as simple as saying thank you to God for something you're really grateful for, or asking for God's peace at bedtime each night.

These are three examples of simple prayers you could try: Saying Thank You: God the Father, who made us, we thank you. God the Son, who saved us, we thank you. God the Spirit, who holds us in love, we thank you. God, who is everywhere, thank you for being you. Bedtime: God, who is like a mother hen watching over her chicks, Keep me under your warm wings as I sleep. Send me good dreams. And help me wake up ready for another day. Prayer for God's help: Father God, sometimes I am scared. Sometimes I am worried. Sometimes I need help. Sometimes people I love have problems.

Please be with me and help me, Like shepherds caring for sheep.

Quiet Corner:

Merciful God, we pray for the many people who have contracted the coronavirus in other parts of the world as well as here in our country. Bring comfort to those grieving loved ones who have died and peace to those worried, fearful and uncertain as the virus spreads. We also pray for governments and authorities who are developing strategies to contain and deal with the virus and those in the health services who may be risking their own lives to care for sick patients. Here we especially pray for the Corona Virus situation and the procedures that have been put into force to try to halt its spread. Help us all to be responsible in the things that we do in our lives to prevent the spread of the virus by taking heed of the recommended precautions and avoiding situations which may make things worse.

Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care. Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbours from helping one another. Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace. Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace. Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth. Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Jesus Christ, heal us.

Young People's Corner:

Puffin & the Fete

It was the day of the Vicarage garden party, in aid of a hospital.

Puffin, the Vicarage cat, and Bumble the Peke watched the preparations. Bumble capered under the stalls, and generally got in everyone's way. Puffin strolled around in a more dignified way to see if everything was being done properly.

In a far corner of the garden, he noticed a stall put up entirely by the children.

They had been making and collection things for it for weeks, and Puffin decided he had better keep an eye on them.

When the garden party opened in the afternoon, he stationed himself by the children's stall. It was beautifully set out with new toys, and good old ones that had been mended and painted to look like new, and lots of books too.

But Puffin was disappointed that so few people seemed to be coming to it. Many people did not notice it was there. 'We must do something about this', he said to Bumble. The children have worked very hard getting their stall ready, and it would be terrible if they don't sell much.' 'I'm glad they want to help people who aren't so fortunate as they are.' said Bumble. 'Can't we help them?'

'That's very sensible of you', said Puffin. 'Supposing you sit here and bark, while I go to the other side of the stall and mew as loudly as I can? People will surely come then to see what all the noise is about!'

And this is exactly what happened. People came from all parts of the garden to see why puffin and Bumble were making such a fuss.

'Oh there's another stall here!' said some of them. 'we hadn't noticed it', said others.

'We had not time to get to this end of the garden'.

And many of them began buying books and toys.

At the end of the afternoon the children running the stall were delighted to find they had made £25.

A Call to perfect unity:

When the world thinks about the church, do they see us as a perfect example of unity in mind and thought? Sadly the headlines about the worldwide church often focus more on those issues that tear us apart than those that bring us together. Unity, however, is so attractive. Think about the couples you know who are perfectly united, or the families or the friendships. These are the relationships that people look up to, aspire to or want to be part of. And yet you simply have to go online, scroll through social media and look at the number of arguments that are taking place among believers – in full view of the watching world – to see that the church is not reflecting the perfect unity to which we have been called.

Paul having heard about the divisions that have been taking place in the church of Corinth, makes an appeal to them that they should agree with each other, that there should be no divisions among them and that they should be perfectly united. What a challenge!

What Paul is asking of them seems impossible. We are used to divisions. From experience, it seems that where two or three are gathered together there will always be a difference of opinion. But the church is not supposed to be like any other group or institution. From the seemingly impossible standards Jesus calls us to in the sermon on the mount, it is clear the church is intended to be radically different. But this is not something we are tasked to fulfil alone. The church could never be united, never be radically different, without the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray for the perfect unity that comes only from God to be made a reality, not because of us, but through him at work within us.

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there will be no divisions among you, but that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. (1 Corinthians 1:10 – 17)

Children's Corner - Talking Bananas

Never give up. Be the reason someone smiles. You're amazing. It isn't where you come from – its where you are going that counts.

Some school children found these messages and more written on bananas

In their lunchroom. Dinner lady Stacey Truman took the time to write the encouraging notes on the fruit, which the kids dubbed 'talking bananas'.

This caring outreach reminds me of Barnabas' heart for the 'spiritual youngsters' in the ancient city of Antioch (Acts 11:22 – 24). Barnabas was famous for his ability to inspire people. Known as a good man, full of faith and the Holy Spirit, he prompted the new believers to 'remain true to the Lord with all their hearts'(v23) I imagine he spent time with those he wanted to help, saying things like, '*Keep praying. Trust the Lord. Stay close to God when life is hard.*

New believers, like children, need loads of encouragement. They're full of potential. They're discovering what they are good at. They may not fully realise what God wants to do in and through them, and often the enemy works overtime to prevent their faith from flourishing.

Those of us who have walked with Jesus for a while understand how hard living for Jesus can be. May all of us be able to give and receive encouragement as God's Spirit guides us and reminds us of spiritual truth.

How has God encouraged you in the past? How might God want to work through you to inspire someone?

Heavenly Father, give me someone to encourage today. Show me what to say and how to meet this persons needs so that You will be glorified.

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IMPORTANT:

Although it may be possible to have limited opening of our churches in Arley from 4th of July, Rev John, the churchwardens and PCC have agreed to open church on Sunday 2nd of August - look out for further announcements!

Crunchy Fruit Crumble:

Ingredients:

3oz(90gms) Wholemeal Flour

3oz(90gms) Rolled oats.

3oz(30gms) Margarine or Butter

3oz(30gms) Demerara Sugar

1lb (500gms) Fresh fruit. For example apples, plums, rhubarb or gooseberries. Whatever you have available.

Rind of one orange

2 Tablespoons of water.

Method:

Rub margarine into the flour and stir in the sugar and oats.

Stew the fruit to soften it and stir in the orange rind.

Pile the fruit into an ovenproof dish and sprinkle the crumble lightly over the fruit.

Bake until golden brown, about 30 minutes in oven at 180 deg C.

350deg F or Gasmark 4.

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Speedy Banana Splits:

4 Bananas - split long ways. Top with 4 scoops of Vanilla Ice cream or your favourite icecream. 4 tablespoons of chocolate sauce drizzled over, and scatter with toasted Almonds or sprinkles.

Enjoy!

Little Quips:

KNOCK KNOCK

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

- MATTHEW 7:7 NIV

No-one knows how children will turn out; a great tree often springs from a tender plant.

Dear God, it is great the way you always get the stars in the right place. Why can't you do that with the moon? Kevin age 7

Dear God, Did you mean for Giraffes to look like that, or was it just an accident? Carol age 8.

Thank you God for the baby brother but what I asked for was a puppy.I never asked for anything before. You can look it up. Joyce age 7.

A Reflection for Fathers' Day

Fathers' Day can be a time of very mixed feelings, particularly when remembering a father who may no longer be with us, or has died. This will be my third Father's Day without my father, when he died aged 92. I still miss him a great deal. I was blessed with a very loving and caring father who wanted the best in life for me. In your experience as well as mine, you probably realize that a part of you also dies when a loved one's life comes to an end in this world. So, who do you turn to at such times? This is where Christian faith has a significant impact. I always wonder how people without any understanding about God manage through life. It was in those last years of my dad's life that the words of a hymn were upper most in my mind as I visited him, whilst dementia was taking its toll on his life. It was the lines from the Hymn, 'Praise my soul the King of Heaven' where the second verse says:

Praise Him for His grace and favour,

To our fathers in distress.

Praise Him still the same forever,

Slow to chide and quick to bless;

Praise Him, Praise Him! Praise Him, Praise Him!

Glorious in His faithfulness.

No matter what our earthly father is or was like, we can be sure that God, as our heavenly Father loves and watches over us with an everlasting love. It was Jesus who reminds us who God was to him when He taught what we know as The Lord's Prayer, which begins, 'Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name...'

I hope for those who no longer have their fathers with them will find the words of this prayer of great comfort and consolation. It has sustained millions of people from one generation to the next, no doubt including your father!

Rev John

Prayer for each day during July

1	Lord, Uplift Rev. John and Frances as they work tirelessly around our Parishes. We pray You will Keep them safe and well.
2	Lord help us to look forward with hope to what may lie ahead
3	Praying for all children as they prepare to go back to school
4	We continue to pray for those suffering from Cov19 virus and their families
5	Jesus is your most trusted friend – talk to him! He always listens
6	Do not fear the troubles around us as long as the eye of the Lord is on us
7	God’s grace is immeasurable - His mercy inexhaustible.
8	In prayer, God can still our hearts and quiet our minds, be at peace
9	Faith shines brightest in a childlike heart-Father give us the faith of a child
10	The love of God is revealed in His letter to us – the Bible
11	Keep in step with the Holy Spirit and he will watch over you
12	Thank you Lord for the days I talk to You and feel Your closeness
13	Think of someone going through a tough time, what can you do to uplift them and cheer them up .Perhaps drop them a note or a text or ring them
14	Dear Lord help us to see ourselves and others as You see us
15	Spend some time in Jesus’ presence now allowing him to speak over you
16	Take a moment to see how God is working in different areas of your life
17	Father, when we feel like retreating into our own ways make us open to learning more about you and focusing completely on You
18	Dear Lord Jesus please forgive us for our wrongdoings. Lead us in your ways
19	Lord, increase our love and faith especially in these difficult times
20	Remembering all residents living in sheltered accommodation in our villages
21	Let us pray for each other – for family, friends and our neighbours
22	Praying each day for the lonely and all those who live alone
23	We continue to pray for all suffering from diseases all over the world; for all the staff caring for them. Lord watch over them and bless them all.
24	Thank you Creator God for the beauty surrounding our countryside
25	Lord look after the vulnerable, protect them and keep them from harm
26	Praying for all our Emergency services and frontline key workers
27	Let us look forward Lord with hope as we take slow but sure steps to health
28	We continue to pray for those we love and have not seen for a long time
29	Let us give thanks for Elizabeth our Queen who is truly amazing
30	Praying for all awaiting hospital appointments and consultations
31	Keep positive and happy and love one another as our Lord loves You

The Light of the World:

In the mid 1800's three young artists banded together and founded the Pre Raphaelite Brotherhood. They were revolting against the then conventional and classical style of painting. They wanted to paint things as they were and not as they have always been. So in their religious paintings they depicted Christ in peasant clothing rather than in highly ornate garments. One of the three founders was Holman Hunt. He paid several visits to Palestine to study dress and fashions suitable for canvasses. 'The Light of the World' is perhaps the picture Holman Hunt is best known. He painted Christ in a royal robe, using his mothers best table cloth draped around his model. He designed his own brass lantern, with a special guard so that it could not be easily extinguished, for he painted at night by candlelight. While painting Hunt forsook his agnosticism. Hundreds of others have become believers since, through looking at, and marveling at, this superb picture. It is said to be the only English painting of which there are two originals. The first was purchased for four hundred guineas from the artist in 1853, by Thomas Coombe, printer to the University of Oxford, following Thomas Coombes death in 1872 the painting was offered to Keble College, Oxford, where it was first hung in the library in 1878. Later removed to the Side Chapel in 1892. It became damaged soon after it was hung and Hunt repaired it for free. Twenty five years later he began painting again. This time the canvas was four times bigger in area than the 1853 original, for Hunt was losing his eyesight. He had to have the help of a former pupil. It was sold on the understanding that the buyer would send it round the world to preach to the unconverted. Having taken three years to paint, it was also requested of the buyer that he had colour reproductions made that could be sold at a moderate price. These have been made and sold ever since. The large picture travelled thousands of miles. Finally it was hung in St.Paul's Cathedral, London in 1904. At the service that took place there, to mark the event, Hunt, now old and almost blind had to be led out of the cathedral weeping.

The picture is based on a verse from the New Testament, Revelations 3:20.

'Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.'

Receiving Christ the Saviour into their lives.