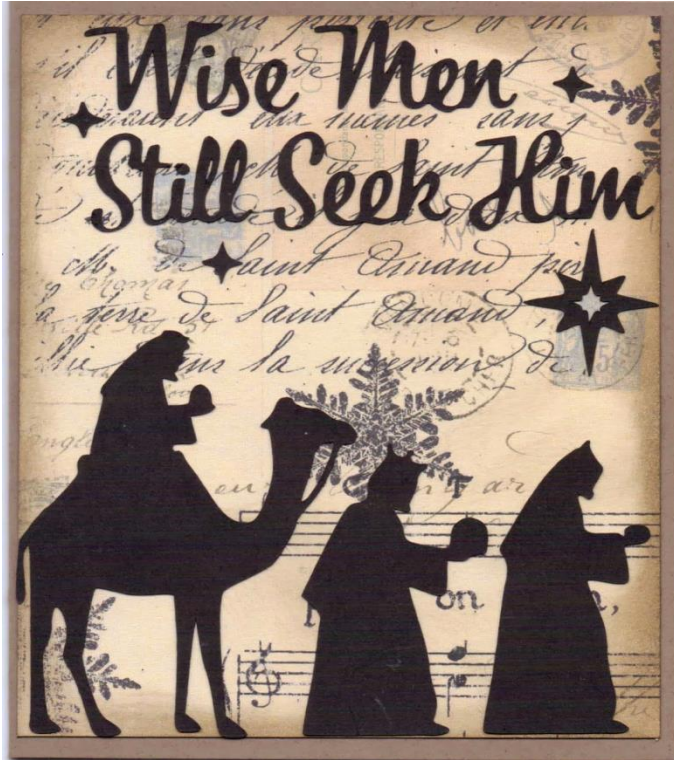


ST. MICHAEL'S AND ST. WILFRID'S

ARLEY

Meeting Needs, Bringing Hope,
Sharing Love



January 2021 Newsletter

Rev. John Langlands 07588 664962

Churchwarden John Cox 02476 394802

Deputy Warden Vic Murray

Can anyone restore the lost year of 2020? That is a question you might be asking. There are many who think that it is within our human power to restore everything, especially with the past year. However, God can restore much more than we can imagine. Take for example the following, using each letter from the word 'RESTORE: Reason – There are those who have been and may still be 'at their wit's end'. This expression actually originates in the Bible from Psalm 107 verse 27. However, in the context of storm-tossed people, God is able to bring them to a 'haven' of peace and tranquillity. Energy – There are those whose energy may feel completely 'sapped'. Again, this is described in the Bible in Psalm 32 verse 4. However, God can restore our strength so that 'they who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength'. Soul – What do all these things mean when we are faced with external forces beyond our control? It is that great Psalm 23 where we are reminded that The Lord is our Shepherd and He is able to 'restore our souls', our inner being. Time – There are those who find losing time a major issue. However, it was the troubled man Job in the Bible whose crops were destroyed by a plague of locusts after all the time and effort he had put in to grow his business; but when he called upon God, he discovered that 'God was able to restore the years the locusts had eaten' Opportunities – For young people at school and colleges they must wonder about how their futures have been affected by events. It was the writer of the book of Ecclesiastes, which means 'teacher' in the Bible who said, 'Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the times of trouble come'. God is a solid foundation for life. Relationships – Being unable to speak face to face and hug others outside a bubble has been very painful for most of us. Maintaining and sustaining relationships at a time of lockdown, with those in the UK and abroad has been hard. One thing we can be sure of is that God's love has always been there, if we would but reach out to Him. During this past season we have been reminded that 'God is love and in Him there is no darkness' Equilibrium – having a perspective and a balanced view of life may have been lost during this year of pandemic. However, God can bring a focus into our lives which creates stability, hope and faith. What will 2021 bring? Thankfully whatever happens, our times are in God's hands – and that's the best place to put them! Wishing you a time of restoration and peace.

WORD SEARCH

The Three Wise Men Follow the Star

N	N	H	D	R	O	N	I	G	H	T	L	M	S
K	L	E	F	H	H	P	E	S	O	J	K	U	D
N	G	M	L	M	A	N	G	E	R	D	S	J	L
E	B	T	R	A	V	E	L	E	D	O	Y	J	O
E	W	O	R	S	H	I	P	D	J	F	P	Y	G
L	L	E	G	N	A	P	G	L	E	M	A	C	G
F	O	L	L	O	W	H	O	I	S	U	I	N	O
P	E	O	P	L	E	S	D	E	U	T	I	N	Y
B	A	B	Y	E	N	T	B	P	S	P	S	W	O
S	S	K	Y	E	G	A	E	H	E	Y	O	P	R
I	K	C	I	R	T	R	M	E	R	R	I	A	B
L	K	G	T	H	Y	E	L	K	M	A	E	O	A
G	I	F	T	T	O	S	O	I	O	M	R	I	R
A	F	R	A	N	K	I	N	C	E	N	S	E	N

ANGEL
TRICK
MANGER
GIFT
FRANKINCENSE
MARY
CAMEL
TRAVELED
GOD
STAR
KNEEL
GOLD
TINY
NIGHT
BABY
THREE
PEOPLE
SKY
JESUS
JOSEPH
FOLLOW
SLEEPING
BORN
WORSHIP



Once upon a time, a father began to tell bedtime stories to his son. The stories were about the little boy's adventures in a friendly wood and his companions in these stories were all his favourite toys - a donkey, a piglet, a tiger and a kangaroo. His favourite toy, however, was a stuffed bear that he had named Winnie-the-Pooh, after a bear that he had seen in London Zoo.

It is true to say that Pooh Bear - as he became known - was not the cleverest bear in the world, but he was loyal and kind and always ready to help his friends.

The father, A. A. Milne, began to write down the stories and poems that he wrote for his son Christopher Robin and eventually they were published. The first collection of stories was simply called Winnie-the-Pooh (1926), and this was followed by *The House at Pooh Corner* (1928). Milne also included a poem about Winnie-the-Pooh in his book of children's verse *When We Were Very Young* (1924) and several poems about Winnie the Pooh and his friends appeared in *Now We Are Six* (1927). All of these books were illustrated by E. H. Shepard

The books were extraordinarily successful and have been turned into stage plays, radio shows TV series and of course the hugely popular Disney animations that brought Winnie the Pooh (it was Disney who removed the hyphens from his name) to a whole new generation of children.

Although he did not realise it, being a Bear of Little Brain, Pooh Bear was a true philosopher. In honour of Winnie the Pooh Day, which is celebrated on 18th January each year - A. A. Milne's Birthday –

A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL – FROM YOUR CHURCH FAMILY WITH LOVE... MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES XXX

God in the Garden: January:

It is sometimes hard to face the garden in this coldest of cold times. Most things lie dormant and urge us to rest. It is the pattern he himself demonstrated in Genesis. We live in a world of busyness, where people seem to be rushing from one thing to another. And yet the Bible is packed with verses about patience. Psalm 37:7. Ecclesiastes 7:8/9. Lamentations 3:26. Romans 5:4. 1 Corinthians 13:4. Such patience is at odds with the spirit of the age. We can access all the information known to humanity in the press of a button anytime day or night, but watch out if your computer slows down a little. We are conditioned to be impatient. We are like children. Everything is so instant that people can't bear waiting; everything has to be now, now, now. God just doesn't recommend patience he commands it, because He wants what's best for us. A garden needs to rest for it to produce good fruit, and so too do we.

See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. (James 5:7)

Dear God, thank you for the seasons. Thank you for the seasons of growth and seasons of rest. Thank you that you know what's best for me. Help me to grow patience as I trust in you. Amen.

Other possible gardening tasks for this week include:

- 1) Clearing borders and raking up leaves.
- 2) Topping up bird baths.
- 3) Pruning redcurrant bushes, cutting back side shoots to a single bud
- 4) Taking chrysanthemum cuttings

More memories from Owen about our village of Arley:

In the old village there was the main Church – St. Wilfrid's and two schools – the Church School which was opposite to the Church(now a private house) and Herbert Fowler School – the church school catered for children from 5years to 11 year olds. All the 11 year olds went to Herbert Fowler. At the little schools as it was known, the new intake at 5 years old had to go to bed for one period in the afternoon. I can't say with certainty when this was discontinued, but it was a fact when I first started school. Being a Church school all pupils had to go to church every Wednesday morning during Lent. There was no electric organ in those days so one of the older boys was selected to do the pumping for Mrs. Hands to play and often the selected boy got tired and would get a 'Come on' sign from her to keep the pressure up. I think they used to pray to have Hymns of only 2 verses – well I did when it was my turn to pump! At the age of 11 we graduated to Herbert Fowler. This was a big move because we were joined by children from the New Village so there was a lot of new faces. But, thinking back we soon got used to it. For myself I never hated school but I can honestly say I never loved it. The age to leave then was 14 for those in my age group. It was the beginning of the Second World War, so for a lot of us it meant 2 or 3 years working then joining the Forces. The new village also had a Church – St. Michael's – this being built I think in 1927. Most of the services here were carried out by a Church Army Captain. I suppose looking back again the Rector was very lucky to have the help of 2 Church Army Captains. Today of course the Rector has to look after several Parishes. The Captain of the New Village looked after activities at the Church and organised various functions at Hill Top Mission, while the Old Village Captain looked after the Social Centre in Station Road, this being of a tin construction along with several dwelling houses. These houses were originally built for the Sinkers of the Pit. The social centre was a hive of activity in our younger days, open most nights of the week for Billiards, Snooker(there were 2 full sized tables) various meetings, Whist Drives and, on most Saturday nights, Dances. These buildings have long since gone and been replaced by more modern bungalows and houses. Many

residents of the village now of course didn't know they existed. Whist Drives were a very popular form of entertainment in these days, held at the Welfare Hall in the New Village and at times in the Vicarage. I can well remember winning a prize at one of these before I left school which I still have. Beside the mentioned activities there was a Football Team in the village which was very popular. There were some very good players too – Sid Whiston, Bill Parkes, Micky Roberts and Dick Mason just to mention a few, and remember most of these played after coming straight out of the pit – I wonder what they would think of today's game and the money paid. The matches were played at various venues, Hill Top, opposite Rectory cottages and on the field by the Wagon Load of Lime. When I left school the war had started and our lives in the village was in for a big change.(TO BE CONTINUED)

The Mousetrap:

A mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife open a package. 'What food might this contain?', the mouse wondered. He was devastated to discover it was a mousetrap. Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning: 'There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!'. The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said 'Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me, I cannot be bothered by it'. The mouse turned to the pig and told him, 'There is a mousetrap in the house, there is a mousetrap in the house!'. The pig sympathised, but said, 'I am very sorry but there is nothing I can do about it but pray. Be assured you are in my prayers. The mouse turned to the cow and said, 'There is a mouse trap in the house, there is a mousetrap in the house!' The cow said, 'Wow, Mr Mouse, I'm sorry for you, but it's no skin off my nose'. So the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer's mousetrap alone. That very night a sound was heard throughout the house – like the sound of a mousetrap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught in the darkness; she did not see it was a venomous snake who tail had got caught. The snake bit the farmer's wife. The farmer rushed her to hospital and she returned home with a fever. Everyone knows you treat a fever with chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soup's main ingredient. His wife's sickness continued so friends and neighbours sat with her around the clock. To feed them the farmer butchered the pig. The farmer's wife did not get well, she died. So many people came for her funeral, the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough

meat for all of them. The mouse looked upon it all from the crack in the wall with great sadness. So, next time you hear someone is facing a problem and think it doesn't concern you, remember, when one of us is threatened we are all at risk. We are all involved in a journey called life. We must keep an eye out for one another and make an extra effort to encourage one another. Each of us is a vital thread in another person's tapestry. (Thank you Kay for your contribution)

<>< <><< <><<< <><<<< <><<<<< <><<<<<< <><<<<<<< <><<<<<<<< <><<<<<<<<<

(Dear Children, let us not love with words or speech, but with actions and in truth) (1 John 3:18)

Little Quips:

Pigs: Mr Smith decided to branch out into pig breeding and bought 20 pigs. To his dismay he discovered they were all sows, so he phoned his friend Mr Jones who had some prize boars, and arranged to bring his sows over to mate. How will I know if it has worked? 'Look out of your window tomorrow and if your pigs are grazing, Then you're in business. The next morning Mr. Smith looked out the window but his pigs were in the sty as usual, so he called Mr Jones again and asked if he could bring them round again. 'Certainly', replied Mr Jones. So Mr Smith loaded his lorry, and took them round to Mr Jones' and let them mingle with the boars as before. The next morning he could not face looking out of the window in case he was disappointed, so he asked his wife instead. 'Are the pigs grazing or still in their sty?' 'Neither, said his wife, 'Nineteen are in the back of your lorry, and the twentieth is in the front bleeping the horn.

1 Corinthians chapter 13 (the Christmas version)

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator. If I slave away in the kitchen baking dozens of Christmas delicacies, preparing gourmet meals, arranging a beautifully adorned table, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at a soup kitchen, sing carols in a nursing home, give to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing. If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crotched snowflakes, attend a myriad of parties, but not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse. Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love does not envy another's home that has co-ordinated Christmas china and table linens. Love does not yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way. Love does not only give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who cannot. Love bears all things, believes all things, and endures all things. Love never fails. Video games will break. Necklaces lost. Golf clubs rust. But giving the gift of love will endure.

UNPRECEDENTED TIMES:

One favourite story in God's word is the story of Esther. From her early days as an orphan who was uprooted from all she knew – her home-family and people – she would one day become a queen. But even as the wife of a king, she still faced trial after trial, even to the point of near destruction. If anyone would have felt isolated, it must have been her. However, right through Esther's life, we see God's marvellous way of 'turning the tables,'

reminding us today that nothing is impossible with God. God is always at work, and He always sees the end from the beginning, even in the most uncertain times. Throughout this year, the world has faced a global pandemic, and for many, that has come with hardship, loss, loneliness and disappointment. Some are even mourning or still recovering from their health issues. However, I believe the life of Esther gives us great hope – it shows us that wherever we are right now, we are uniquely positioned with a

great purpose. You are not where you are' by accident' but rather by divine 'Royal' appointment, so let's use the weapons of united, earnest prayer to help us see through the breakthrough! You may be struggling with anxious thoughts and you may feel that your future looks uncertain, but I believe that God has given us a great mission 'for such a time as this'.

<>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <><

This year you will face some mountains and go through some valleys. And you need both. The strength gained from climbing and conquering your last mountain is what will get you through your next valley. It's in the valley that the sweetest fruit grows. That's because it's watered by streams that flow from the mountains. Jesus said, 'By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, so you will be my disciples'.(John15:8)

This year Jesus wants you to be more fruitful in His service, and He tells you how: 'Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. What kind of fruit is God looking for in your life this year. Paul says, 'when we live God's way, he brings gifts into our lives. We develop a willingness to stick with things. This year when you face a mountain or valley, remember God is with you.

;

Praying during January 2021:

1	Lord God bless everyone this new year with good health & Happiness
2	Pray for Rev.John & Frances as they minister to so many throughout the parishes.Lord keep them safe and well
3	Pray and ask blessings for all who are sick in mind, body or spirit
4	Lord give us the courage to look forward with hope for the future
5	Lord teach us to focus on you throughout our lives
6	Praying for all students and children during these difficult times
7	Pray and bring comfort for those who mourn the loss of a loved one
8	Praying for all families as they enjoy their time together
9	Praying for all living in residential homes and their carers
10	Lord,We give thanks to our scientists for the arrival of new Corona jab
11	We give thanks for our dear friends and neighbours gracious Lord
12	Offer up all your anxieties to our Lord who will help you
13	May God fill you all with peace, joy and understanding
14	Ask God to help you stand firm on the promises of His Word
15	Trust in the Lord when facing any situation you are finding difficult.
16	Pray for those who have wandered from God's path
17	Ask God to open your eyes to the needs of those around you
18	Thank God He understands every emotion you experience
19	Praying for all Emergency service personnel who are constantly busy
20	Pray for all NHS staff in our hospitals and all the patients suffering
21	Let us give thanks to all carers who do home visits
22	Lord help us prioritise and protect time with our families
23	Thank you for our pets who are our constant companions Lord
24	Guide us heavenly Father in all our thoughts and actions
25	Praying for all residents in sheltered dwellings in our villages
26	Bring comfort and strength to the elderly especially during this winter
27	Praying for all feeling depressed or sad – uplift their spirits Lord
28	Forgive us Gracious Lord for all our wrong doings
29	Lets all look forward to this new year that is so full of promise
30	Thank you for all our Grand children and the joy they bring us
31	Jesus we are so happy to have you in our lives forever

Another true story from our friend Anne about Whitacre Village.

One of our regular dinners was Luncheon meat fried in batter.

When Uncle Neil came to visit us, when he injured his leg, Mum offered him the luncheon meat dinner, but declined saying he was fed up with the stuff, it being one of the main meals in the army too.

Offal was off ration, I believe and so Mum made sheep's head broth quite a lot. If the current problem with BSE is connected to scrapie in the brains of the sheep then I must be a prime candidate because I've eaten loads of sheep's brains. Also off ration was whale meat and a type of fish called snook but I don't think we ever tried them. We were all very sweet toothed so our sugar ration didn't go far. Mother was always swapping for margarine. I sucked my finger and was forever dipping my sucking finger in the sugar bowl. Revolting child! Once when Dad was on leave he was serving up the oatmeal porridge that my mother had left in the oven overnight. I quite liked having syrup on my porridge, I liked the golden swirls it made in the milk. However, I paid the price for my sweet tooth because I had to have teeth removed in my early twenties. The other two were luckier.

Mum wasn't a good manager to say the least. Her philosophy was 'feast today and famine tomorrow'. She went cheerfully off to fetch the ration on Tuesdays and for the next couple of days we lived off the fat of the land. We ate toast dripping with butter sweets and biscuits and anything else she had been able to afford. After that we were back to butter-less bread and jam and unsweetened tea. Now and then she would turn over a new leaf and be up bright and early and present us with a nicely cooked breakfast on a neatly laid table. At lunchtime she would rush down to school with a dainty lunch covered with a cloth. It didn't last long and soon we were back to throwing cornflakes down our throats at the last minute and running off to school with sandwiches wrapped in brown paper. Our dear feckless mother, long dead now, but mentioned always when we all meet and loved her to the end of her life and beyond by my father. If there is a life hereafter, and I hope there is he will be so pleased to be back with his 'Old Dutch'. My mother could have done with some lessons in housekeeping and she was not even a really good mother, my father meant more to her than anyone else.

When he was in the army she wrote him every day and he wrote daily also, one time she had not received a letter for twelve days and she stood by the black range and her tears splashed on the hob, she was truly in despair. At that point the postman knocked and handed her twelve letters, she was happy again. Certain tunes used to upset her – ‘The Bells of St. Mary’

Especially, because they had been married at St. Mary’s in Barnsley, and ‘I’ll walk beside you’, and she would sob if those tunes came on the wireless. When Mum lay dying, and my father said to Janet and me ‘I watched boys crying for their mothers in the war they were so afraid and men were dying round me but I came back and I have had thirty four years with your mother and I am grateful for that.’ As she lay dead in the living room where she had slept for some years we suggested to my father that we should have a double grave, his voice breaking he said, ‘When I have gone let the grass grow up above us as we shan’t mind’.

Despite mothers shortcomings the devotion she and my father shared created a very secure home for us and they did bring us up well. We were well spoken, well-mannered and behaved impeccably when we were taken out. One frown from across the room sufficed to quell us and we had great respect for her and in my case the back of her hand. She often smacked me because I was the eldest and she treated me like an adult, she expected me to behave like one, and when I didn’t come up to expectations she hit me, not brutally but enough to make me feel it. Afterwards she would feel remorse and cry. During her last years she would often talk about that time and tell me how much she regretted it. I bore her no ill will. I know she loved me dearly as she did us all. Up to a point I can identify with her behaviour because I repeated her mistakes with my own eldest son, I expected far too much of him when he was a little boy.

By and large those years passed happily enough. We were too young to know what the war was all about.

Apart from the shortages I suppose our childhood was idyllic, and as everyone was in the same boat we didn’t envy anyone.

Now it was June 1947 and the little girl that was me tumbled out of school singing 'we break up, we break down, we don't care if the school falls down'. Dad and all the other fathers that were coming home, were home, and we were going to Barnsley for our holidays. My cup of happiness was full.

Thank you Anne for our trip down memory lane. Maureen x.

<>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <><

Preoccupied: A young couple moved into a new neighbourhood. The next morning while they are eating breakfast, the young woman saw her neighbour hanging the washing out.

"That washing is not very clean," she said. "She doesn't know how to wash properly. Perhaps she needs a better washing powder."

Her husband looked on, but remained silent.

Every time her neighbour hung her washing out to dry, the young woman would make the same comments.

About a month later, the woman was surprised to see nice clean washing on the line and said to her husband, "Look, she has learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her?"

The husband said, "I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows.

And so it is with life. What we see when watching others depends on the purity of the window through which we look.

The lesson from the window story is obvious, before we judge others while looking out the window, let us look in a mirror first and clean our own windows.

Jesus taught about this in His Sermon on the Mount:

"Do not judge so that you will not be judged. 2 For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. 3 Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye." Matthew 7:1-5

It is easy to become so preoccupied with what others are doing that we lose sight of God's leadings in our own life.

"But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another." Galatians 6:4

Our perspective of others as well as the world varies according to how clean we keep our windows.

<>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <><

Tula

It is with great sadness that we mourn the loss of our dear friend Tula (Petula) whose unexpected passing was a shock to us all.

Tula had lived in the village of Old- Arley all her life, and was part of our Church Family and Healing Team at St. Wilfrid's, where she worshipped.

She will be remembered for her many acts of kindness and her willingness to listen. Tula was a quiet, reflective person who had a very strong faith, always a welcoming presence to anyone who attended a service, especially anyone new.

Tula delivered our newsletter to people around the village until she was taken ill. Many will remember Tula as part of the team in the 'Old Barn' providing a monthly hot meal at our Community Dining Club; always busying herself in the kitchen or setting the tables, waiting on, and taking meals out to those who were unable to attend.

Tula will be greatly missed and remembered with love.

All our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this very sad time.

You must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.

(1 Peter 3:15 -16)

The New Year can often bring a mixed bag of emotions and memories for many of us.

The events of 2020 including a pandemic, racial tensions, joblessness, and political battles created an unprecedented time of unrest and anxiety.

While some may have just experienced the best year ever and look forward to an even greater one looming ahead, others may have just trudged through one deep struggle after another.

The fresh calendar year brings desperate hope for things to be better, with an ache for the still-fresh wounds to slowly begin their process of healing.

Praying at the start of the New Year doesn't always bring immediate change at the stroke of midnight, but it begins the opening of our hearts to God's Words of hope and peace.

<>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <><

Christmas Tree Festival – St. Laurence Church. Ansley:

Christmas Tree Festival 2020 For this year, like so many things, our Christmas Tree Festival was very different. We went virtual using photographs of the previous 14 years. It started with a few photos of the setting up of the festivals then Incorporated 60 individual trees and scenes from around the church. Also included were plans for the 2021 festival and a Christmas Blessing. The festival went live on the 5th December via the church website www.ansleychurch.org and while the festival finished on the 20th the link can still be found on the site. There were over 260 hits on the site. Donations were received in various ways from cash on a plate in church cheques in the post and via the Give.net £494.12. There will be a donation sent to the Mary Ann Evans Hospice from these funds. Getting feedback was more difficult than usual but those people that have mentioned it have all been very appreciative and here are a few that came by email . “A quote in part of a circular email I hope you enjoy this as much as Ray and I have. (Lots of ideas for

decorating your own trees!)” “I watched the tree festival earlier ~ well done to those involved! I like the way the information pages are done - very clear and well-paced page changes.” “The Virtual Tree Festival is super, such a lot of work to put it together but it looks great and hopefully donations will be made.” This year the usual concert by Jess & Richard Arrowsmith with Jo Maher also went virtual via Zoom which they did from their kitchen in Sheffield. This was extremely successful with over 170 people linking in and a total of over £1300 being raised Jess Jo & Richard had said that they all the proceeds would be equally divided between Ansley church and a Food Bank in Sheffield Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported in this event we are very grateful. - Margaret Antill.

<>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <><

A couple going on holiday, standing in line waiting to check their bags at the airline counter. The husband said, ‘I wish we had bought the piano’. The wife asked, ‘Why? We have sixteen bags already!’ The husband said, ‘Yes I know – but the tickets are on the piano’.

<>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <><

PENNY PRAYER:

The penny is round - this helps us to remember to pray for the world and to give thanks to God for creation. It reminds us to be responsible for the earth.

The penny has the word ‘one’ written on it – this helps us to remember that God loves everyone; that people should endeavour to be united, at one with each other. We pray for peace.

The penny has the Queen on one side, we pray for all leaders of countries.

On the ‘tails’ side there is a portcullis – this reminds us to pray for those in prison and all the people trapped by fear, loneliness or illness. We ask God to keep us safe and protect us.

The penny is a very small amount of money. We remember to pray for those who are poor, who do not have enough food, and for the homeless.

The penny has a date on it. We remember to pray for today – for all that has happened and all that is going to happen. Amen.

<<< <<< <<< <<< <<< <<< <<< <<< <<< <<< <<< <<< <<< <<< <<< <<< <<< <<< <<<

Laughter – God’s Prescription for Stress!

An author once said, 'Laughter is like changing a baby’s nappy It doesn’t permanently solve the problem, but it makes things more acceptable for a while'. One day comedian David Brenner was signing books. A young man handed him a copy and said, 'I want to thank you for saving my life'.

Without giving it much thought, Brenner replied flippantly, 'That’s OK'. But the young man stood his ground and said, 'No, I really mean it!' Brenner stopped signing his books and looked at him. The young man continued; 'My Father died .He was my best friend. I loved him and couldn’t stop crying for weeks, so I decided to take my own life. The night I was going to do it, I happened to have the television on and you were hosting the 'Tonight' show I listened to the opening monologue and the next thing I knew I was laughing hysterically. I realised then if I was able to laugh, I was able to live. So, I want to thank you for saving my life'. Humbled and grateful, Brenner shook his hand and said, 'No, I thank you'.

The Bible says, 'a cheerful disposition is good for your health'. Experts confirm that laughter boosts your immune system, enhances your memory and learning abilities, relieves tension, releases endorphins that reduce pain. Furthermore, the effect lasts 8 – 12 hours. That’s why laughter is God’s prescription for stress!

January Recipe: SWALEDALE PIE: (Serves 4 – 6)

Ingredients:

110g (4oz) mushrooms – thinly sliced

3 – 4 spring onions, including the more tender green leaves, fairly thinly sliced.

Dot of Butter or drop of oil. 675gns (1.1/2lbs) floury potatoes, peeled boiled and mashed.

450 g (1lb) cooked turkey or chicken (or you could use beef or lamb) chopped.

Around 4 tablespoons leftover flavour some gravy or chicken stock.

A few left-over cooked carrots, if available. Black, white and cayenne pepper to taste.

A shake of Henderson's relish or Worcestershire sauce, (optional).

Method:

Preheat oven to 200°C/180 fan/Gas mark 6.

Greased, over-proof dish.

Cook mushrooms gently & spring onions over (and carrots if using) including the juices.

Arrange the cooked meat over evenly and spoon over gravy or stock. Season to taste. Cover with mashed potato, marking lines with fork over the surface to encourage browning.

Bake in oven for 30mins or until golden on top and piping hot. Serve with peas or any green vegetable and crusty bread. Ummm - delicious

Enjoy!

(Christmas is weird. What other time of the year do you sit in front of a dead tree and eat sweets out of your socks?)

Children's Colouring Page



We three Kings of Orient bearing gifts we travel afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder
star.....

The New Year is upon us 2020 affected every one's life in one way or another, some tragically lost loved ones, others were struck with loneliness having to isolate. Now a vaccine is what we pin our hopes on but we must help each other the best we can, the following hymn perhaps shows us the way.....

When I needed a neighbour were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
Were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty, were you there, were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
Were you there

I was cold, I was naked, were you there, were you there?
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
Were you there

When I needed a shelter were you there, were you there?
When I needed a shelter were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
Were you there

When I needed a healer were you there, were you there?
When I needed a healer were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
Were you there

Wherever you travel I'll be there, I'll be there,
Wherever you travel I'll be there.
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,

ARE YOU THERE ?

Where did the wise men travel from?

They came “from the east,” which based on the nature of their gifts, and Old Testament prophecy, means they most likely came from the ancient Arabian kingdom of Sheba. Arabia was known for its vast wealth from gold mines of Africa, as well as the Boswellian and Commiphora trees — from which frankincense and myrrh are derived. Of course men from Persia could have brought these gifts, but they signify a giving of the best commodities from their own country to a neighbouring King.

What gifts did the magi give?

Gold, frankincense, and myrrh have their primary significance in their value; which establishes their suitability for a King. Matthew 2:11 tells us these gifts were great treasures, given as worship, but they may have even greater significance. Gold was indeed associated with royalty, but it may also foreshadow Jesus' purpose: in 1 Kings 6:20-22, the walls of the Most Holy Place and the altar are overlaid with gold. Frankincense was part of ceremonial worship of a deity. This gift underscores their belief that the new-born king carried a claim of deity. Myrrh was used as a perfume, anointing oil, medicinal tonic, and as a key ingredient in the mixture of spices used to prepare bodies for burial (John 19:39-40). Perhaps this gift indicated Jesus' humanity and the manner in which he would save his people—that he would die for them.

SERVICES FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2021!

ALL SERVICES 10.30am. Joint Benefice:

January 3rd Christmas 2 St Wilfrid's
January 10th Epiphany 1 St Laurence
January 17th Epiphany 2 St Wilfrid's
January 24th Epiphany 3 St Laurence
January 31st Candlemass St. John's
February 7th 2 before Lent St. Wilfrid's
February 14th 1 before Lent St. Laurence
February 17th Ash Wednesday St. Wilfrid's With Methodists
February 21st Lent 1 St. John's
February 28th Lent 2 St Laurence
March 7th Lent 3 St Wilfrid's
March 14th Mothering St. Laurence
March 21st Passion Sunday St. Wilfrid's
March 28th Palm Sunday St. John's
Please be assured Hygiene priority. Face masks and social distancing

<>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <><

2020 has been an unforgettable year, when our normal way of life stopped not for just a few days but for months. We have faced illness, loss, financial uncertainty and could only get together occasionally in Church buildings.

Our prayer is that God will use whatever we all have experienced this year for good. Let us all continue to pray each day to our Lord for our family, friends, neighbours and the world we live in.

Almighty and merciful Father, who show your love to all your creation.

We come before you asking for a quick control of the Coronavirus currently ravaging various parts of the world.

Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead and consolation to the bereaved families.

We pray that the effective medicine to combat the sickness be speedily given to help treat this disease. We pray for the relevant governments and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings.

Amen.



If you wish to contact us for any reason, or to offer a story or poem – please ring 02476.394802 for Maureen or John. Or e-mail us at: strowgerhouse@btinternet.com

NB. www.arleycofechurches.org.uk/