

ST. WILFRID'S & ST. MICHAEL'S ARLEY

UNITED IN WORSHIP

**Meeting Needs, Bringing Hope, Sharing
Love**



MARCH NEWSLETTER 2021

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Rev John's Jottings – What do hymns mean to you, especially as Easter approaches? For many people the music and songs they know will not include even a hymn. One thing about great hymns is that they never disappear and they are very good at awakening our consciences. Take for example the hymn, 'When I survey the wondrous cross' written by a man called Isaac Watts. Isaac Watts is frequently referred to as the father of English hymnody. He died in 1748 at the age of 75 and on his monument appears this line, which is a tribute to his greatness. "Ages unborn will make his songs the joy and labour of their tongues." Sadly today, many will never have heard of this great hymn, or its writer. However, this hymn has been regarded as one of the greatest if not the greatest hymn since the early 18th century. It is a masterpiece that has influenced millions of people throughout the ages. Watts was a self-taught man and learned Latin at the age of five, Greek at nine, French at eleven, and Hebrew at thirteen. He began to write verses of good quality when he was very young. His lifelong ambition, according to his own words, was to be a servant to churches and a helper of Christians. Watts held the hearts of a large share of the English-speaking world over a long period of years. Despite the fact that as a child he was never strong and for the last thirty years of his life being more or less an invalid, he devoted himself to writing as many as 600 hymns, including 'When I survey the wondrous Cross' and also 'O God our help in ages past'. His age was an age of great hymn writers, being a contemporary of Doddridge, the Wesleys, Newton and Cowper. Their great hymns have lasted the test of time. "When I Survey" is a hymn like a statement of faith that crosses denominational lines and generations. "Survey" is defined as "to examine with reference to value; to view with a scrutinizing eye; inspect." The majority of people never survey the cross. It holds no value to them and hence, it is not the "wondrous cross"! It is important to see, understand and appreciate its value to our life. Without the cross there would be no reconciliation and no resurrection. Perhaps during this lead up to Easter, known traditionally as Lent, it is the opportunity to read, reflect and respond to a type of music that gets so easily forgotten and yet has some life-changing challenges presented to us. As the hymn states: "When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride." Wishing you times of space and reflection as Easter approaches. Rev. John



Easter is on its way, along with all the spring decorations of flowers. This leads on to Holy Week — seven days of religious significance in the Christian faith, and the final countdown to Easter. This year, Holy Week takes place from Sunday, March 28, 2021, to Saturday April 3, 2021. The first day of Holy Week is Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday is the first day of Holy Week, a seven-day span that culminates the day before Easter Sunday. The feast commemorates Jesus' triumphant arrival in the city of Jerusalem for Passover, where he was greeted by a crowd of people laying palm branches at his feet. According to his welcomers they hoped that Jesus would overthrow the Roman government in Jerusalem. They shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David," "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord," "Blessed is the king of Israel," and other words of praise. Nowadays, there are still palms involved in the Palm Sunday services. Each year, palms are blessed and distributed, and many believers tie them into the shape of a cross. the palms are blessed, they may not be discarded as trash. Instead, they are appropriately gathered at the church and incinerated to create the ashes that will be used in the follow year's Ash Wednesday observance."

Holy week as follows: Palm Sunday: March 28. Maundy Thursday: April 1st. Good Friday: April 2nd. Holy Saturday: April 3. Easter Sunday April 4th. Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper; Good Friday commemorates Jesus' crucifixion; Holy Saturday commemorates the vigil that Jesus' followers held outside of his tomb; and Easter Sunday celebrates the day Christ rose from the dead. Hallelujah!

When I survey the wondrous Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all. by Isaac Watts,

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Watt's lifelong ambition, according to his own words, was to be a servant to churches and a helper of Christians. Dr. Watts won and held the hearts of a large share of the English speaking world over a long period of years, despite the fact that as a child he was never strong, and despite the fact also that he was forced to resign a pastorate because of poor health. For the latter thirty years of his life, he was more or less an invalid, but devoted himself in comfortable and happy surroundings to the writing of many of the beautiful hymns, still popular today.

“What is Love?”

When a young group of children were asked, ‘What is love?’ they gave some thoughtful and hilarious answers: ‘Love means everybody has a family’, said 4yr old Adam. Six year old Jasmin said, ‘Love is when you tell a boy you like his shirt, and he starts to wear it almost every day.’

Another child replied, ‘When my grandma got arthritis, she couldn’t bend over and polish her toenails anymore. So my grandpa does it for her all the time now, even when his hands got arthritis too.’

Grandpa’s sweet example of sacrifice brings to minds an amazing story in the Bible. Jesus, knowing he wouldn’t be with His disciples for much longer because of His imminent arrest and crucifixion, took a towel and wrapped it round his waist. (John 13) He poured water into a bowl and began to wash his disciples’ feet. Peter recoiled at the thought because it didn’t seem right: *The Master and Lord bending low and touching my dirty feet?* Yet in order to teach them what it meant to serve others, Jesus said, ‘Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet,

You also should wash one another’s feet’ After teaching His followers for three years, Jesus gave his life for our sins. Humility and sacrifice – the true nature of love. So how do we learn to give sacrificial love? Start by asking God for His direction. He’s created you and has given you gifts to use in serving others.

- . Keep your eyes and hearts open to those around you
- . Help someone with a project or need.
- . Serve your own family.
- . Provide a meal for strangers or a neighbour.
- . Pray for someone you find difficult.

How will you wash someone’s feet today?

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. (Ephesians 4:2)

March Recipe: Caraway Sunday Seed Cake.

Ingredients:

170g [golden caster sugar](#)

170g [butter](#) , softened

3 [large eggs](#)

½ tsp [vanilla extract](#)

170g [self-raising flour](#)

45g [ground almonds](#)

4 tbsp [milk](#)

4 tsp caraway seeds 1 tbsp [demerara sugar](#)

1 tbsp [flaked almonds](#)

Method

STEP 1

Heat oven to 190C/170C fan/gas 5. Line a 2lb/900g loaf tin with baking parchment.

STEP 2

Beat the caster sugar and butter using an electric [whisk](#) or wooden spoon. Whisk in the eggs and vanilla, then gently stir in the flour, ground almonds, milk and caraway seeds.

STEP 3

Pour the mixture into the tin. Sprinkle over the demerara sugar and flaked almonds, then bake for 1 hr or until a skewer poked into the cake comes out clean.

Remove from the tin and leave to cool on a [wire rack](#).

MARCH Ist: St David was born in the year 500, the grandson of Ceredig ap Cunedda, King of Ceredigion. According to legend, his mother **St Non** gave birth to him on a Pembrokeshire clifftop during a fierce storm. The spot is marked by the ruins of Non's Chapel, and a nearby holy well is said to have healing powers.



Palm Sunday:

God in the Garden – March. Re-Firming:

If trees and shrubs have been loosened by the frost they may have to be re-firmed. Simply put, this involves treading the soil around their base so that it becomes firm again and offers the plant sufficient support. As you walk around your garden looking out for plants which need gentle re-firming, consider areas of your life which may need re-firming. With plants it is usually the difficulties of winter, as frost cracks the soil, which loosen the roots. Have the difficulties of life loosened your roots. Are there area of your discipleship which have become loose? Sometimes we need to look honestly at ourselves and do a self-check to see if we're growing with God. Are there any areas of discipleship that have become loose, perhaps through hardship or suffering? In Psalm 139, David exclaims how God searches him and knows his very thoughts.

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise, you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely. You hear me and you lay your hands upon me.

Invite God to search you in these ways before gently re-firming any areas of your life. Eg: worship/prayer/Bible reading/loving God/church life/telling others about God/serving others/using your gifts.

Possible tasks in the garden this week include: cleaning hard areas, paving, patio, paths. Trimming winter flowering heathers. Be vigilant hunting down slugs & snails who feed on young plants. Divide snowdrops.

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If all flowers wanted to be roses, nature would lose her springtime beauty, and fields would no longer be decked out with little wildflowers.

A Tree to Heal:

For just over £200,000, you can buy a new McLaren 720S sports car. The vehicle comes with a V8 engine pumping 710 horsepower – considerably more than you'll need for your morning commute.

Of course, you might be tempted to use all that power. One driver learned his McLaren was so 'fast' it could go from an upscale showroom to the scrap heap in just 24 hours! One day after buying the car, he slammed it into a tree. (Thankfully he survived)

Just 3 chapters into the story of the Bible, we learn how a different bad choice and a tree marred God's good creation. Adam and Eve ate from the one tree they were to leave alone (Genesis 3:11) The story had barely begun, and paradise was cursed (v14-19)

Another tree would play a role in undoing this curse – the cross Jesus endured on our behalf. His death purchased our future with Him (Deuteronomy 21:23, Galatians 3:13)

The story comes full circle in the Bible's last chapter. There we read of 'The tree of Life' growing beside the 'river of the water of life.' (Revelation 22:1-2) As John describes it, this tree will be 'for the healing of the nations' (v2) And he assures us, 'No longer will there be any curse'. (v3) God's story comes with the happily ever after we all long for.

Father, don't let me forget the price it cost your Son to undo the curse we set in motion way back in the garden of Eden. All I can say is Thank You. All I can give You is my life.

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Father, we are glad that you offer times to stop and think. As Lent returns we pause in our journey, and thank you; for your costly commitment to us in Jesus Christ, for your gospel stories that declare your love; for opportunities for talking together about our faith and for times of personal prayer and reflection. Amen

Mums? When the Good Lord was creating mothers, He was into his sixth day of “overtime” when an angel appeared and said, “You’re doing a lot of fiddling around on this one.”

And the Lord said, “Have you read the specs on this order?

She has to be completely washable, but not plastic; Have 180 movable parts... all replaceable; Run on black coffee and leftovers;

Have a lap that disappears when she stands up;

A kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair; And six pairs of hands.” The angel shook her head slowly and

said, “Six pairs of hands... no way. “It’s not the hands that are causing me problems,” said the Lord. “It’s the three pairs of eyes that mothers

have to have.” “That’s on the standard model?” asked the angel .The Lord nodded. “One pair that sees through closed doors when she asks,

‘What are you kids doing in there?’ when she already knows. Another here in the back of her head that sees what she shouldn’t but what she

has to know, and of course the ones here in front that can look at a child when he/she makes a mistake, and say, ‘I understand and I love you’ without so much as uttering a word.”

“Lord,” said the angel, touching His sleeve gently, “Go to bed. Tomorrow...” “I can’t,” said the Lord, “I’m so close to creating something so close to myself.

Already I have one who heals herself when she is sick... can feed a family of six on one pound of hamburger... and can get a nine-year-old

to stand under a shower ”The angel circled the model of a mother very slowly. “It’s too soft,” she sighed.

“But she’s tough!” said the Lord excitedly. “You cannot imagine what this mother can do or endure.” “Can it think?” “Not only can it think,

but it can reason and compromise,” said the Creator.

Finally, the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek. “There’s a leak,” she pronounced. “I told You -You were trying to push too much into this model.” “It’s not a leak,” said the Lord. “It’s a tear.”

“What’s it for?” “It’s for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness, and pride.”

“You are a genius,” said the angel. The Lord looked sombre. “I didn’t put it there,” He said.

Memories of Arley Villages by Owen Stain

The Post Office I mentioned was situated just outside St. Wilfrid's Church.

The Wagon Load of Lime, the pub. This was a must as it allowed the miners to put back something into their bodies after losing so much sweat in their working day. The New Village also had a reasonable amount of facilities. Mr. Wileman's – a General Store, also Hudson's in Charles Street, and Plant's in George Street. The Post Office and the Hairdressers was a little road just off George St. There was Kiddles, a shop that sold a few clothes, wool and cottons etc. There was a Picture House and two Police Houses in Fir Tree Lane. Alongside was Suttons shop which mainly sold sweets, and had snap boxes hanging from the ceiling. The Fir Tree Inn was on the roundabout which was mainly used by the New Village people. The Newsagents was a Mr. & Mrs. Woodward who run their shop from their house in Gun Hill and served both villages. One can well remember Mrs. Woodward's shout when it was pay day 'Paper Lady'. You can see from my list of businesses that the village was well served. I have forgotten to mention the 'Boot and Shoe' repairer in George St run by the same people who ran the Post Office. At a later date one of their sons George, opened a business in the Old Village in Rectory Cottages - New Shoes and Boot and Shoe repairs. I almost forgot to mention New Cycles and repairs run by Mr. Illey in Charles St and the Fish and Chip shop was run by the Hartlands family in George St.

One of the landmarks in the Village was the Colliery Clod Tip. This was a huge heap of clod and waste extracted from workings in the pit, such as headings and rips etc. A certain amount of coal and timber would be amongst the rubbish and as you can imagine it would be constantly on fire and sometimes bellowing out smoke. This didn't please the ladies of the villages when the wind was in certain directions, especially when it was Wash Day. This produced very good shale after the years of burning and

when the pit closed I believe most of the shale was sold for hardcore. During the war the tip was a very good vantage point and a man was posted every night at the top ready to report any information such as where the bombs had been dropped or fires started from incendiary bombs during Air Raids. Mr. Raybold was the watchman. As the tip got bigger so the base spread farther and the footpath, which was mainly used by the New Village children going to Herbert Fowler School, became a danger.

So, this is how Burma Road, as it is known, came to be constructed. This in turn became the route for the children to go to school – remember no school runs by Mums in those days or very very few. The old route was over a footbridge over the main railway line to Birmingham, and came out opposite the last block of houses in Church Cottages just below now back entrance to the School. Remember there were no school dinners in those days, so most of the children took sandwiches. In the surface area of the pit yard there were two large chimney stacks emitting smoke from the boilers which produced the steam to drive the turbines which in turn produced the Electricity for the pit. This was another hazard for the ladies on Wash day; which way was the wind blowing and was it safe to hang out the washing? Besides the landmarks going, so have the 'characters' of the Villages, never to be replaced I guess by the likes of George Hazel – kind George as he was known. Mrs. Hazel – there weren't many committees she wasn't on – School Governors, W.I. and most of the Church activities. Chippy Hudsonwell, known in his earlier days as the Pit Ostler, but better known in my day as a reputable darts player, specially when playing neighbours on the back yard. It was said he leaned so far forward when throwing that he nearly caught his hand on the board! Mr. Douglas was known as the 'poor mans solicitor'. Nearly everyone who had a problem consulted him. He was a well known Councillor who did so much good work for the Village.

TO BE CONTINUED IN NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER.

More true stories about Whitacre from our friend Anne.

Wherever we travelled with Mum and Dad we loved the stops because unlike our normal visits to the 'Gate' when we only got one bottle of pop; because we were on holiday we had a bottle each plus crisps and nuts, what a treat! The length of time we stayed at each pub depended on who my parents met there. When we finally arrived at our Grandparents home they would both be in a holiday mood and distinctly merry. How we got there safely I can't imagine, more by good luck than good management I would say. Once we lost the way and mother said, 'This is the wrong way, Ivan we're on the road to Matlock'. Dad replied, 'that's alright I've never been to Matlock'. Dad was always so easy going and 'laid back' and even more so with a drink inside him. On arrival we were greeted with hugs and kisses and, 'haven't they grown etc'. we always had the same meal when we got there. There was a fish and chip shop at the end of Old Mill lane, and they fried the nicest chips I ever tasted, so we had Wilkinson's chips with bread and butter and some of Grandad's beetroot from his allotment. Later on Mum and Dad would take Grandad down to the 'Prince' for a drink and Grandma would look after us. I was always so tired after our journey. I would practically fall off the little wooden bench I sat on waiting for my parents to come home. I don't know how we slept, there were only two bedrooms and Grandad wouldn't give up his bed, so I supposed Dad shared with him, while Grandma and our mother slept in the big feather bed with the brass bedstead in the front bedroom. In this bedroom had slept Grandma's entire family when they were young, six survived, three boys and three girls, and according to my mother they slept three boys in one bed, and three girls in the other with a curtain hung between them for decency's sake. I never could sleep on the first night of the holiday, it was a combination of excitement and discomfort, as we children were sleeping top to tail, and could hear the unusual sounds of a town street. At home the night was black as velvet and here an eerie light infiltrated the bedroom from the street lamp outside the window and created shadows which

unnerved me.. In those days some miners still used a 'knocker up' at about 5am. I could hear the tip tap of the stick on the windows up and down the street. Shortly after that came the click click of the colliers clogs on the cobbles and the greeting of the men to each other, 'A thee awreet Judd?' 'Aye champion Owd lad champion'. Soon it would be time to get up, washed and dressed, we would wait for ten o'clock. Opposite Grandma's house was a ginnel and in this ginnel was a small ice cream factory which opened its doors at 10am. As soon as the back gate opened we were off clutching our 3d bits for an ice cream. It was served out of a big metal tub and the ice cream was not really very good, but we didn't know that then. It was very white with slivers of ice in it and not like the creamy confection we enjoy today. David and Janet always had cones but I liked a wafer, until in the end I had a soggy mess but I enjoyed it. Grandma usually took me to the shop to buy Yorkshire Teacakes, they were only ordinary bread cakes but to me they were special because they were 'Yorkshire'. During our stay Grandma would sometimes bake bread, leaving the dough to rise besides the black grate. She only baked bread for us, I suppose it wasn't worth it for just the two of them, but mum had fond memories of the days when her mother would bake a stone of flour into bread. The last little bit of dough with a few currants pressed into it would be placed in the bottom of the oven - oven bottom cake - and eaten hot with butter. Scrumptious! How skilled the women of that generation were - there were no temperature gauges on the oven but Grandma would know, just by putting her hand inside the oven, if it was warm enough for baking and just where to put the various goodies she was cooking. Soon after we arrived we would go the rounds of the neighbours, 'Whose bairn is this then Mrs. McNair? Asked Mrs. Graham a neighbour who always stood looking over the wall of the terraced street which overlooked Old Mill Lane, is she your Netty's? I was put out. I didn't want anyone to think I was one of Aunt Netty's large brood. 'Och no its our Meg's little lass.'

'Bonny little bairn, isn't she' commented Mrs. Graham. I was offended - at home 'bonny' meant fat, but I was appeased when my mother explained 'bonny' in Yorkshire dialect meant pretty. THANK YOU ANNE FOR YOUR MEMORIES. XX.....

"Fasting" doesn't mean eating fast food!



Children's Corner: Puffin and the Lions:

"Come on, Bumble" said Puffin the Vicarage cat, to Bumble the Peke. 'There's a travelling circus in town and I would like to go and look at it'.

'All right', said Bumble, 'I've never seen a circus, but I'll come with you and find out what it's all about. 'It's clowns and animals', explained Puffin. 'And it's the animals I'm interested in – especially the lions! They're sort of relations of mine. Members of the cat family you see'

Bumble didn't really see, and in fact he was rather afraid of the lions when he saw them. When one of them let out a roar, he was terrified and turned and scampered for home. 'Don't be silly', said Puffin as he caught him up. 'They can't hurt you they're caged!

'Well I wasn't waiting to find out whether they were or not', replied Bumble, his ears still trembling.

'I suggest you come with me to the church tomorrow', said Puffin. 'I heard Master say he was going to talk to the children about lions. If it's a fine day, the door will be open, and we can sit in the porch and listen'. Bumble yapped his agreement. Sure enough when they arrived in the porch next day, the Vicar was in the middle of his talk to the children.

He was saying, 'If any of you ever read *Pilgrim's Progress*, you'll remember that Christian was once terrified when he saw lions in his path. But, his friend Watchful told him to go on, for the lions were chained and could not hurt him.' 'I told you so', whispered Puffin to Bumble.

The Vicar continued, 'In St. Peter's Epistle in the Bible we are warned to be ware of the Devil who walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Here the lion means all the temptations and troubles which we may meet in life.

'But if we have faith in God and trust him completely, then it is as though the 'lions' were chained or caged: they won't be able to hurt us – and the troubles won't get us down'.

Puffin looked sideways at Bumble, 'You see' he said, 'you should have believed me yesterday when I said caged lions wouldn't hurt you'!

Praying each day during March.

	Pray for Rev. John and Frances for all their hard work throughout all our Parishes, and bless them Lord with your wonderful healing.
2	Pray for all our dear families and friends during this covid virus
3	Pray for all who mourn, may our Lord bless you and comfort you
4	Let us give thanks for all our grandchildren and the joy they bring
5	Trust in God for all the help and guidance you need
6	Praying for all sick in body, mind and spirit - bless them Lord
7	Jesus thank you for reaching me in ways I can understand
8	Lord forgive us - for all we think and do that saddens you
9	Praying for all those suffering with Corona Virus for their healing
10	Praying for all families during this very difficult time
11	Holy Spirit fill us with your love so we can reach out to others
12	Bless all Residents in care homes and their carers
13	Lord renew our strength and hope each new day to sustain us
14	Bless and show love to all Mums and Carers on this very special day
15	Thankyou God for the times I talk with You & feel your closeness
16	Praying for all our frontline workers and Emergency services
17	God's grace is immeasurable - his mercy inexhaustible
18	Do not fear troubles around us - the eye of our Lord is upon us
19	Lord Jesus forgive us our wrongdoings; lead us in Your ways
20	Through all these changing scenes of life, keep us focused Lord
21	Praying for those awaiting hospital appointments or results
22	Pray for residents in Meadow Croft .Rowland Crt. Stewart Court
23	Let us pray for all feeling depressed, uplift them merciful Lord
24	Pray for your pets who bring you much comfort and loyalty
25	Pray for those who live alone, & the lonely, be with them Lord
26	Lord as we approach Easter let us keep our focus on You
27	Holy Father we love You and we thank you for all your caring
28	Palm Sunday - our Lords journey - towards Calvary
29	God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son
30	Ask God to put gladness into your heart
31	Remembering all celebrating Birthdays or Anniversaries today

ARE YOU IN A STORM TODAY?

When 'Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side', did he know there was a storm brewing? Yes. So why did He send them into the middle of it? To learn, to grow and to stretch their faith.

The Bible tells us : 'Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw Him...they were terrified. 'It's a ghost', they said, but Jesus immediately said to them , "Take courage! It is I, don't be afraid!" There are three important lessons here, 1) Serving the Lord, doesn't exempt you from life's storms, but it protects you when you're in them. Jesus promised, 'In this world you will have trouble, but take heart!

I have overcome the world(John 16:33) (2) What you perceive as another problem heading your way, may be the Lord coming your way. The disciples thought Jesus was a ghost, when in reality He was their deliverer.(3) Jesus may not show up when you want Him to, but He will always show up on time. The disciples had been in the storm for hours before Jesus appeared. And when He appeared, He said, 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid. Notice that before Jesus dealt with what was troubling them on the outside, He calmed them down on the inside. That's how He works. First, He changes us - then He changes our circumstances. As a result, we grow in faith and end up better equipped to handle the next storm that blows into our lives.

Lord thank you that through this trial you are using our lives and circumstances to make a mark on this world. Draw us close to yourself. May many know of your Great Name. May they hear of your works and miracles of your faithfulness. We choose again today to fix our eyes, not on all the troubles that surround, but on you alone. Amen

SCAMS:

National insurance Number Scam. Several Warwickshire residents have reported receiving bogus phone calls relating to National Insurance Numbers. The calls range from being told their NI number has been compromised or being informed that it has been used in a suspicious way and must now be cancelled. Action Fraud has reported over 1000 calls, the scammers may be attempting to obtain personal and financial details. Always put your phone down.

Appliance Scam:- If you insure your household appliances annually against breakdown – beware – Fraudsters are cold calling residents claiming to be well known insurers and stating the appliance cover has lapsed and it would be cheaper to make a one off payment. Never buy goods or services from cold callers.

Bogus Investment Opportunities:- fraudsters are calling or e-mailing residents in Warwickshire claiming to be established investment companies. They offer you the opportunity to invest in a bond before disappearing with the money.

Local Council Repair Cold Calls: - Residents have reported receiving unexpected phone calls from individuals claiming to be from the local housing repairs department. These bogus callers want to arrange home repairs to council properties. These calls are not being made by genuine councils. Residents are urged to put phone down.

To contact Senior Trading Standards Officer, Simon Cripwell at Warwickshire County Council. Shire Hall (Post Room) Northgate St. Warwick.CV34 4RL. Ring 07771.975570 or 01926.738987

simoncripwell@warwickshire.gov.uk

Little Quips:

Being a Mother is learning about strengths you didn't know you had...and dealing with fears you didn't know existed.

A Mother holds her children's hands for a while; their hearts forever.

A Mothers letter .

Dear Son ,Just a few lines to let you know I'm still alive. I am writing this slowly because I know that you can't read fast. You won't know the house when you come home – we've moved. About your father – he has got a lovely new job. He has 500 men under him. He cuts the grass at the cemetery. Your sister Mary had a baby this morning, I haven't found out yet whether it is a boy or a girl, so I don't know if you are an Uncle or Aunt. I went to the Dr's on Thursday and your father came with me. The doctor put a tube in my mouth and told me not to talk for ten minutes. Your father offered to buy it from him.

Your Uncle Patrick drowned last week in a vat of Irish Whisky at the Dublin Brewery. Some of his workmates tried to save him but he fought them off bravely. They cremated him and it took three days to put the fire out. It only rained twice this week, first for three days then for four days.

Your Loving mother.

The quickest way for a parent to get a child's attention is to sit down and look comfortable.

Did you know- - The Australian coat of Arms depicts two creatures; the emu (a flightless bird) and the kangaroo. The animals were chosen because they share a characteristic that appealed to Australian citizens. Both the emu and kangaroo can only move forward, not back. The emu's three toed foot causes it to fall if it tries to go backwards, and the kangaroo is prevented from moving in reverse by its large tail.

If at first you don't succeed. Skydiving is not for you.

Quiet Corner:

Spring will come and bring joy and colour.

Birds will sing and nest, and daylight will lengthen.

Sunrise will come and sunsets will give a sense of wonder.

Covid cannot destroy those events.

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One of my favourite stories is about 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 throughout 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 of 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 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.

*God of compassion, be close to those who are ill,
afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen .*



In Praise of Mums

Throughout history poets and orators have been lavish in their praise of motherhood. George Washington said, 'My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am, I owe to my Mother, I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual, and physical education I received from her'. Abraham Lincoln wrote, 'My mothers prayers...have always followed me. They've clung to me all my life'. And Charles Haddon Spurgeon said, 'I cannot tell you how much I owe to the solemn word of my good mother'. Centuries ago, people worshipped at their local parish church, but on one Sunday during Lent, known as Refreshment Sunday, they were encouraged to visit their 'mother church' - the cathedral in their diocese or the church where they were baptised. Apprentices and those who were in service at large estates and houses would be allowed to take the day off to pay a visit to their mothers and families - 'going mothering'. Then in 1913, a lady called Constance Smith decided to revive 'Mothers Day'. Inspired by this, Constance decided to revive Mothering Sunday in the UK, promoting it as a celebration of mothers as well as the mother church. As a result Mothering Sunday is observed today across the British Isles and the Commonwealth! The Bible says, 'A good woman is ...worth far more than diamonds...She senses the worth of her work and is in no hurry to call it quits ...When she speaks she has something worthwhile to say, and, always says it kindly. Her children respect and bless her'. Could there be a more worthy tribute?

Thank you God, that you are tender as a mother, as well as strong as a father. You give us life, and care for us like a mother who will not forsake her children. We pray for our Mothers today, putting them into your hands for time and for eternity; and we ask your blessings on

all our relationships in the families of our homes, our churches, and our communities. Amen

Services for 1st quarter 2021

****(All subject to government guidelines: ****

March 7th Lent 3 St Wilfrid's

March 14th Mothering Sun - St. Laurence

March 21 Passion Sunday St. Wilfrid's- Caraway.

March 28th Palm Sunday St. John's.

Please be assured Hygiene is our priority.

Face masks and social distancing

Baptisms, weddings and funerals are strictly regulated.

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Keep Persevering:

Before you were born, God anticipated your arrival and had a specific plan for you. The plan involves dealing with problems and overcoming obstacles because that's how character is developed. The mark of a successful person is the ability to see problems as opportunities rather than obstacles. The most important lesson when you persevere during bad times. If you know about the birth of baby giraffes, you'll know the first part to emerge are its front hooves and head. Then the entire calf appears and usually tumbles 10 feet to the ground. Within seconds it rolls over and stands on its gangly legs. The mother giraffe positions herself over her new-born and kicks it until she stimulates it into action. She is preparing her child for survival. Unless that little calf learns to get up and move quickly and run with the herd when danger comes, it won't survive. So what's the lesson here? When life knocks you down - get back up-(See Proverbs 24:16) During difficult times you learn some of your greatest life lessons through sheer determination and perseverance.

The
Season
of
Lent



*If you wish to contribute to the 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 to strowgerhouse@btinternet.com Many thanks.

NB. www.arleycofechurches.org.uk/