

ST. WILFRID'S & ST. MICHAEL'S

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



February Newsletter 2022

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MARY:

The story of Mary anointing Jesus' feet is just one verse amidst over 30.000 in the Bible. But in this verse there is so much for us to learn and so much to be inspired by. Put simply, in this one verse Mary shows us how to live a generous life. In John's gospel, Mary is mentioned by name, it is a remarkable , generous and loving act, one that continues to inspire us today As Jesus says in Mark's gospel: ' Wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her'

Jesus has just raised Lazarus from the dead. Before he did so, Mary said to Jesus, 'Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died'. Her faith was absolute, she had complete confidence that Jesus had the ability to save someone from death. If her faith is remarkable, then so is her honesty. She must have felt devastated and incredulous that Jesus had chosen not to visit Lazarus when he was ill. She manages both to love Jesus completely and say how bewildered and upset she is by what he has done – a balancing act that Christians throughout the ages have found immensely difficult. She expresses her love for him, and also the pain he has caused – not by his actions, but by his absence. Why did he not intervene when he could? How many times have we felt the same?

Mary then witnessed Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, and so she must have been experiencing tumultuous emotions. She had gone from being broken hearted at the death of her brother, and Jesus' refusal to come earlier and heal him, to indescribable, overwhelming joy at Lazarus being brought back from the dead.

She intuitively realized, more clearly than anyone else, that giving Lazarus his life back would lead to Jesus' own death. The civic and religious rulers would simply not accept such a threat to their authority. Lazarus had been taken from her , and Jesus had brought him back. Soon Jesus would be taken from her. It was in the midst of this maelstrom of emotions that she chose to anoint Jesus' feet. These reflections look at different ways in which Mary is generous and how, by following her example , we can grow more in out generosity. But the starting point for understanding her generosity is her relationship with Jesus. The more we discover God's love for us, the more we love in return. Our lives have been transformed by the love that first loved us. Life is a constant struggle, edging forwards hopefully but often tripping up along the way.

Memories of a London lad (By Vic Murray)

I had a wonderful time in the cubs, scouts and as an assistant leader. I joined at the age of 8 years and left at the age of 22. Here are just two of my many memories. The core element in both is the English weather. A Summer memory The first example took place when I was fourteen years old. It was a 10 day summer camp with a difference. When we got up the first morning it was raining and it continued to do so right through to our departure nine days later. We were prepared for the odd shower but not for nine days of heavy rain. When you are in camp everything takes place in the open air. Cooking is done on a wood fire. Meals are eaten sitting on the grass. You wash in a bowl on the ground. Even the toilets are open to the sky. We enjoyed the camp but the weather did cause us a few problems. The biggest affected the five tents in which the scouts slept. Each of which was home to five boys. Within a tent each boy had his own personal space defined by his groundsheet. On which he kept his sleeping bag and other personal items. As the ground became more and more saturated the rainwater seeped up between the groundsheets. There was a very high risk of the bedding getting soaked. The second biggest problem involved the cooking of the meals. The first issue was lighting a fire with damp wood. The second was keeping the food dry during the process. Even scouts do not want to eat their meals floating in rainwater. The camp would have been a total disaster if it were not for the ingenuity of the scout leader.

A Winter memory The second example was 4 years later when I was aged 18. This one took place on the weekend that lies between Christmas and New Year. Some friends from another scout group had invited us to join them on their annual Christmas break. This took place at a scout camp site about 30 miles from where we lived. Although I have camped in January, on this occasion it was in a corrugated metal hut. The accommodation was very basic to say the least. Apart from the wood burning stove the hut was completely empty. Everything had to be taken with you. Such as paraffin lamps for lighting and primus stoves for cooking. Water had to be collected from an outside tap. The nearest toilets were 15 minutes' walk away. They resembled changing cubicles at an outside swimming pool. Knees downwards and shoulders upwards were clearly visible to anyone walking past. As for cooking, eating and sleeping that had to be done on the concrete floor. We arrived at the camp site late on the Friday evening. Saturday.

morning we woke up to a layer of snow. It was late Sunday morning before it finally stopped. This was when the fun began, because we all had to get back for work on the Monday. There was no way that we could get the cars out, as the lane to the campsite contained a long steep hill. The only solution available to us was to walk to the nearest bus station six miles away. Then from there make our way home on whatever buses were running. It was then that one bright person said that if we are going to walk then we should wear our uniforms. More agreed than disagreed so that is what we did. Waist upwards was alright, for although we were wearing short sleeve shirts we did have a jumper and outdoor jacket on top. It was not so clever waist down as we only wearing shorts and long socks. The six mile walk was all along country lanes where the snow had built up to waist height. By the time we had reached the bus station our legs were the colour of beetroots. The following November I was asked if I wanted to go again. I replied that I would love to go, but unfortunately I was already doing something that weekend

Vic the Quip!...

When a marathon runner had ill fitting shoes, he suffers the agony of defeat.

Your debt will stay with you if you can't budge it.

She had a boyfriend with a wooden leg, but broke it off.

Calendar days are numbered.

What do you call a train loaded with toffee? A chew chew train.

How do chickens dance? Chick to chick.

What kind of tree do fingers grow on? A palm tree.

What did the Mexican fireman name his twin sons? Hose A & Hose B.

Found in a Parish newsletter

"WHEN IT COMES TO GIVING SOME PEOPLE STOP AT NOTHING

English leader of the Methodist movement Charles Wesley wrote the hymn 'Lord divine, all loves excelling' in 1747. It would prove to be one of his most popular hymns.

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast.
Let us all in thee inherit,
let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver,
let us all thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never,
nevermore they temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
true and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

Hiring the Old Barn



The Old Barn is a traditional building, refurbished to a high standard and is available to hire at competitive rates.

It is ideal for Corporate events including conferences, meetings and team-building days or as a party venue for up to 40 guests.

FACILITIES

Parking area, Fully-fitted Kitchen, Lounge with tables and seating for 40, Toilet with baby changing.

There are 5 steps to the lounge and kitchen.

We are always happy to arrange visits to the Barn to view the facilities and to discuss your requirements.

Praying each day during February:

1	Remember God is the one who began this good work in you
2	Praying for all our clergy wherever they are, God will keep them safe
3	During this cold spell look out for our neighbours , help if you can
4	Dear Lord, bless all our families, children and grandchildren
5	Praying for all who are sick in body, mind or spirit, for healing Lord
6	You are a wonderful, gracious Lord, and we love You
7	Help us Lord to focus on you especially in times of trouble.
8	Cast all your cares upon our Lord and He will sustain you
9	Pray without ceasing – our Lord listens and cares for You!
10	Open our eyes Creator God to see all the beauty that surrounds us
11	Praying all families with children will be blessed and loved
12	Love your family. Love your friends. Love your neighbours
13	May the Holy Spirit bless and restore you each new day
14	God's overwhelming love for us dispels any fears we may have
15	Love puts a smile on our face and makes us feel good inside
16	Enjoy spending time with your children and grandchildren that will create memories for you all as you look back.
17	Pray today for people who need to hear and believe the Good News of salvation through Jesus.
18	Teach us, Holy Father, to hope in your name. Open our inward eyes to recognise You.
19	God's promises are intended to excite and encourage our prayers.
20	Grant us O Lord , purity of heart, so that we may honour You
21	Pray for His glorious power to give you endurance and patience
22	Let us give thanks to our Father for giving us joy in all things we see
23	Lord you are the source of all goodness and happiness – thank You!
24	We give You glory and honour for all You have created Lord God
25	Restore us, O God; make your face to shine upon us
26	Father God, help me to listen, to think clearly and respond honestly
27	Father, we invite You to work in our hearts today and encourage us.
28	Let us look forward to Spring and all what it brings to us.

God in the Garden in February: Not in our Hands:

One of the joys of gardening is dreaming about how things will look in the fullness of time. We can imagine and plan, but we can't know how things will behave until they start to grow. When we leave things to nature we are of course leaving them to God. Isn't this how we work, alongside God? God in His grace asks us to be His hands and feet on earth. We have a responsibility to do our best for God. With so many things we do and say the results are not in our hands. We can choose whether to see this as a frustration or a blessing. God doesn't need us to work for him, but we need to work for God. Whether you've had a specific call from God to undertake a certain task or if you are simply being a faithful servant to God in the every day tasks of life, we've been designed to be people with a purpose. God wants us to get stuck in. But we also need to recognize that we are only a small part of God's infinite plan, and have the humility to accept that, despite our best plans and preparations, some things are not in our hands, but God's.

Now listen, you who say, Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money? Why do you not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live, and do this or that. (James 4:13-15)

Consider these challenging words as you make your gardening plans for the coming year. Nothing in our gardens is ever exactly how we imagine it. Try to embrace the things which have happened in your garden 'by chance'. Learn to enjoy the sense of being a small part of God's great plan.

Holy God, you are magnificent. You spoke the universe into being with your words. You hold the future in your hands .I bow before you and recommit myself to your service. Amen.

Other possible gardening tasks this week include:-

Fixing up nesting boxes for the birds.

Using cloches or black plastic lining to warm the soil in your vegetable patch to prepare it for early sowings.

RELEASING THE POWER WITHIN YOU.

God is working in you to make you willing and able to obey him.
(Philippians 2:13)

The engine in your car is its power of source and its activated when you put the car in gear. Only then do you have the momentum you need to get where you need to go. One of the dangers in seeking to be filled with the Holy Spirit is that you can reduce it to an 'experience', rather than 'putting it in gear' to accomplish great things for God. In the New Testament - when someone was filled with the Holy Spirit – things happened. People turned to Christ. Healings took place. On one occasion they had a 'book burning' in the town square(See Acts 19:19) They just didn't celebrate in Church – they took it to the streets! In Scripture , the first picture we have of God is of Him in His creative roll. He creates us in His image, breathes life into us, then tells us, 'Go out and be productive'.(see Genesis 1:28) If you're praying for someone with all the answers to come along and change your circumstances, it won't happen. You're not a helpless bystander. What God has placed inside you will change what's outside you – provided you put it to work! What's within you is greater than the trouble you have been through, the situation you are in, or the obstacles that lie in your path. When everything around you is saying *no* and something within you is saying *yes*, that's God... working in you to make you willing and able to obey him' The 'willing' is your part, the 'able' is His part. When you get those two things working in sinc, your life will change.

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Grace:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 1:7) In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. Ephesians 1:7) My grace is sufficient for you. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace. (Hebrews 4:16)

Now I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.(Acts 20:32)

This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.

2 Timothy 1: 9-10)

More True stories from Anne about her family and Whitacre

Village:

My Mother, when she was a clippie on the buses often used to see my grandparents with the curly haired Eveline and think she was the only child of elderly parents.

The first children were all alike, undeniably Ibbersons' in appearance, but Eveline was one on her own. She had blunt features whilst the others all had aquiline noses and quite thin lips and didn't show much of their teeth when they smiled. She had a wide mouth and a toothy grin and funny little spatulate thumbs. She didn't like her thumbs so she would hide them by tucking under her fingers. Probably she looked like her mother's family the Hamblins. I don't know much about my grandmothers family except she had been born in Cannock, her father was working there at the time and that her mother was a Spiritualist. My father mentioned that Grandmother Hamblin smoked a clay pipe which musty have been a sight to see. His one memory of them is of them serving him cold chips which he liked to eat in a sandwich. Quite recently Janet took him a sandwich of cold chips into the residential home where he lives because he still likes his cold chip sandwich even after eighty years.

My father was, and is a very moral type of man and Auntie Phil was a saint but Clarice and Eveline were a bit on the 'fast' side to say the least. T've already told you that my mothers brother called her 'the officers comfort', but I think she was just like many of the attractive young girls in the war years, they just wanted a good time, and who could blame them. Auntie Clarice was engaged to a man caloled Frank Taylor for fourteen years!

Jack dancer who was a friend of my father had said that the Taylors were not the marrying kind and indeed he did not marry my aunt but went off with a younger model. Clarice, however had a young admirer in the manager of 'Burtons Taylors' (a married man) a this went on for some time until it fizzled out. She worked as an inspector at an electrical company and she was friends with the factory nurse they both enjoyed walking and going for long walks together. They were friends for some years until they found out they were both seeing the same man – Bruce Millwood, the personnel officer. Naturally the friendship between the two women broke up when the best woman won, and Auntie Clarice finally married Bruce, Grandma died and they had about 25 years together.. Uncle Joe was a throwback or so my father said, I don't know what he was a throw back from or to but he was indeed a

rogue. He was a commando in the war and married Maureen Emmerson who was a land girl. They set up home with Maureen's aunt and uncle who lived in a nice semi opposite Grandma's road. Maureen's aunt was terribly house proud and Joe probably felt very much a lodger there. Maureen had been brought up from a baby by the Emmersons and it wasn't till her aunt's death that she found out her father was the man she called uncle and her natural mother was Mrs. Emmerson's sister. He was a dubious character and was imprisoned many years later for sexual assault on a 9 year old girl. I only ever met him once, he was a very insignificant looking little man and she a large full bosomed woman, she reminded me of a pouter pigeon. You saw a lot of women like that in those days with huge busts pushed up nearly to their necks by rigid corseting. It wasn't very comforting to be nursed by these type of women when you were little, if they clutched your little head to their ample bosoms the whalebone stuck in your ear, you couldn't exactly snuggle. I soon made my escape I might tell you.

Poor Auntie Maureen being brought up by this couple. Once Uncle Joe and Auntie Maureen came to stay with their daughter Pauline. At bedtime she was lovingly bathed and dressed and her curly hair brushed and coaxed into tunnels. I was perplexed by this. We were used to a quick wipe with a damp flannel if we were lucky. What was the purpose of all this primping and pampering it would all have to be done again in the morning. It seemed totally unnecessary to me.

Many times in the years after the war the police would turn up at our cottage and ask my father if he knew the whereabouts of Joseph Ibberson. He usually didn't but Uncle Joe was always returned home after a while. Once he had been gone for about three months when he surfaced on an Irish stud farm. When he was a man in middle age he walked all the way from Barnsley with his dog to my father's. I think he must have just got fed up now and then with his life with the Emmersons and took off to get away from it all.

When Pauline was about two years old they fell out with grandma. The little girl had been looking through the window and waved to her grandmother when she went past. The house was set well back from the road and grandma didn't see the little figure in the window. Auntie Maureen was adamant that she had ignored her grandchild and from then on they cut off all contact until a couple of years before Grandma's death.

Many thanks Anne for giving us a trip down memory lane. Maureen x

Quiet Corner: **Living God's Way:**

Think of someone at school, at work, at home who is ill. Ask God to be with them and their family.

Think of someone you know – a friend, a member of your family, or someone who lives down the road – who is unhappy or always on their own. Ask that God will help them to know that He is there.

Think of someone who thinks they don't matter any more or who feels that everything has gone wrong. Ask God to show them how much they matter to Him.

Think of someone who is really, really happy; someone who is very excited; someone who has been given some good news .Ask God to share their joy.

Think of someone you know – someone at school, a friend, a member of your family-who doesn't come to church or Sunday school; or someone who doesn't know how much God loves them. Ask God to fill them with His love.

Think of someone at home, at school, or at work, who is very frightened; someone who does not know what to do, what to say, or how to cope with what is making them afraid. Ask God to give them courage.

Think of yourself and all the things you must try to do this week: things you are looking forward to, and things that you aren't., things that make you unhappy or afraid and things that make you excited. Ask God to share everything, every day with you.

Lord in your mercy – hear our prayer, Amen.

We pray for those in need of love; for those whose lives have been spoiled or damaged by the neglect of others, and for those who never received love that was unconditional; for those who have spent their lives trying to be accepted and acceptable; and for those whose lives have been crippled by their striving for perfection on the assumption that they would only be accepted and loved when they achieve their impossible goal; for those who expect more of themselves than they do of others and for those whose love of God and for others is limited by their failure to love themselves.

May the Holy Spirit's presence in their lives bear fruit in love.

Lord in your mercy – hear our prayers. Amen

ADONIRAM JUDSON.:

Two pigs snuffled around the boy's feet as he emptied the scraps from his little bucket into their trough. Then the maid poured in a much larger pail of food. 'Listen to them!' she laughed, as she picked the child up, out of reach of the mess. I'm glad you don't make a noise like that when you are eating! Three year old Adoniram laughed. 'Piggie's speak with their mouth full', he said. 'They say 'slurp slurp'. What does the cockerel say then? The child grinned. He loved the cockerel. 'Cockadoodledoo! He crowed. 'You are a clever little boy', the maid said, as they picked their way through the mud at the back of the house and up the path to the kitchen door.

'Master Adoniram knows all the animal sounds now', the maid told Mrs Judson, the child'. I 'Papa Papa ; mother. Mrs Judson smiled. 'And he says them all with your Boston accent'. 'And its one all his little friends will have when he goes to school'. On the subject of school, Adoniram', his mother said, 'lets you and me go through to the parlour. There's something I'd like us to do'.

Mrs Judson sat down on her rocking chair, pulled her son on to her knee, and opened the big Bible. The child looked confused. 'Is it bedtime?' he asked, knowing his mother or father always read him a Bible story before he went to bed. Smiling at the thought, Mr. Judson explained that she read the Bible a number of times each day. 'That's good', said Adoniram, 'cos I'm not sleepy'. Then a thought crossed his mind, 'Mama why does Papa have to go away so often'. 'He has to go away to preach, to tell people about the Lord Jesus'. Adoniram knew about preaching, because his father was a minister. 'Would you like to give Papa a surprise when he comes home next week?', Mrs Judson asked the little boy. 'What surprise?' His mother opened the Bible, 'Lets see if we can teach you to read for Papa'.

She pointed to a word. That says God, and the three letters are G-O-D. 'can you see anywhere else on the page that says God?' Adoniram searched over the page, 'there' he said triumphantly, 'and there, and there! 'Well done' laughed his mother, 'you can read a word already, and such an important word. Now lets find another one'. She pointed to the page. That word says Jesus, and the five letters are J_E_S_U_S, can you see anywhere else it says Jesus?' It took him a minute, but the lad soon found it. 'I like this game' he said. A week later, a very excited little boy watched at the window for his father.' Papa! Papa!' he shouted, when he saw him coming. 'Come and see the surprise'.

Rev. Adoniram Judson, tired after his long journey, took off his coat, sat down on the chair and pulled his son onto his knee. 'You have a very weary papa', he said, 'but you make up for me. You're so full of energy' 'May I show you my surprise?' the child begged. 'It's in the parlour'. Adoniram told his papa to sit by the fire. The boy sat down in his own little chair and his mother handed him the Bible open at the place. Then Adoniram Judson read a whole chapter to his amazed papa!. The words were read quite slowly, but correctly. Only when he had finished reading did the child look up. 'Why are you crying papa?', he asked, shocked at his father's response. Rev. Adoniram Judson hoisted his son on to his knee and hugged him close. 'These are not sad tears', he explained, 'These are happy tears, very happy tears. Who taught you to read the Bible?

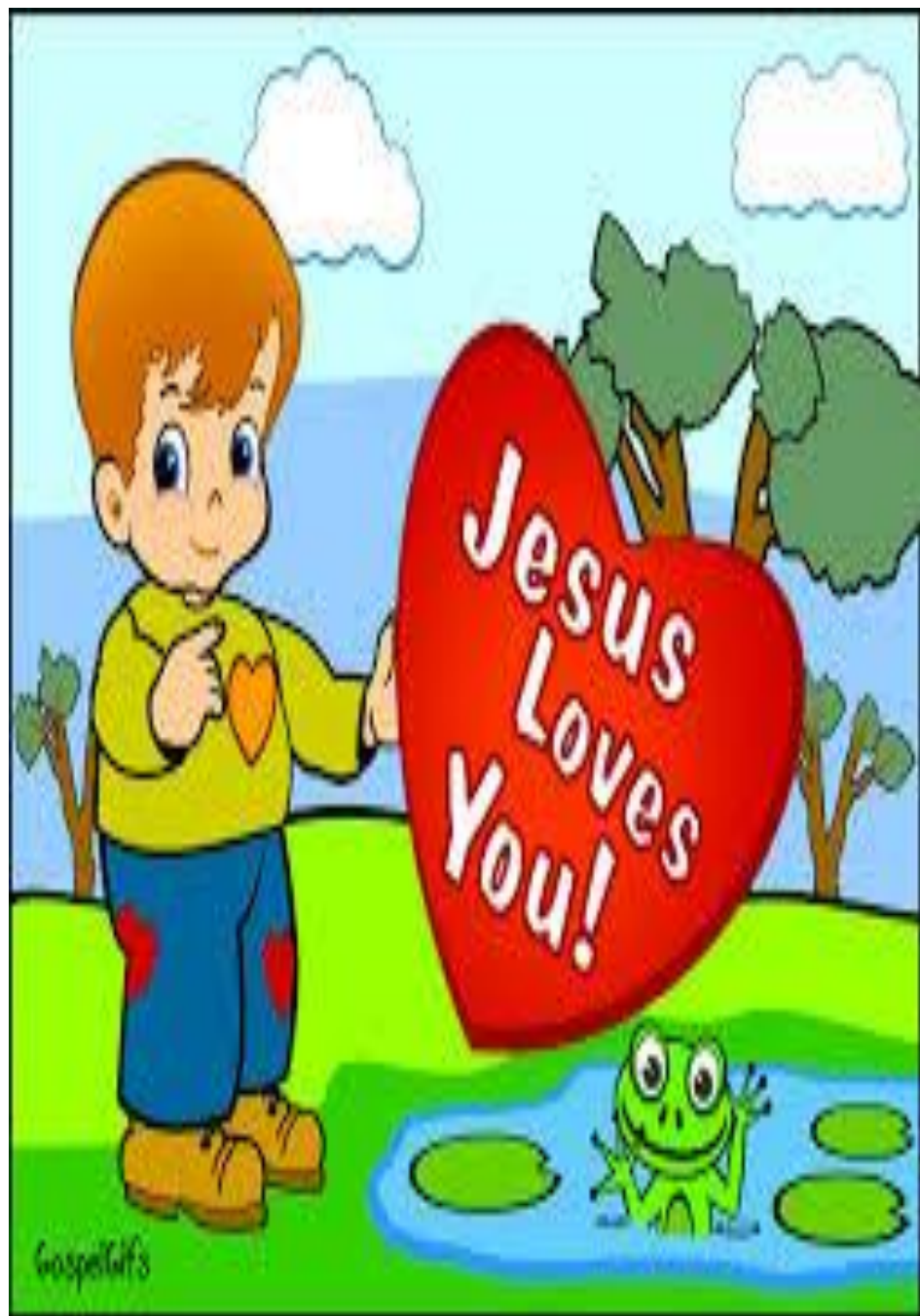
Mrs Judson was grinning. 'Mama did' explained the boy, 'She said I could learn to read a chapter when you were away for a week, and I did'. 'And you've made me the happiest father in Boston. And the most amazed. What a clever boy you are. And what better book to read than the Bible.' 'It's my favourite book, the child said, stroking the leather cover. By the time he went to Master Dodges School some time around 17896, he had read much of the Bible for himself.

'Let's play churches, Adoniram suggested to his little brother and sister some years later, when they were old enough to play with him. Their mother smiled from a seat near the fire. The younger children sat down. They liked this game because it meant a lot of noisy singing. Adoniram opened his Bible in the middle and read, I have hidden your word in my heart'

'Mama', he said. 'Why would anyone want to hide God's Word, even in their heart?' Mrs Judson thought for a moment, 'It doesn't mean its all hidden away and forgotten about, it means that you love it so much you learn it by heart and remember it. Do you understand'?

The boy nodded, but it still seemed to him a strange idea to hide a Bible.

Years later the little boy who had liked playing at preachers was a real preacher, and not in America, but on the other side of the world, in the Buddhist country of Burma. He and his wife Ann were missionaries. But there were problems in Burma's golden city because the Burmese were fighting the English. The situation was desperate, Rangoon had fallen to the British, and they were suspected of being spies. He was arrested. He was beaten but Ann took food to him everyday .Eventually he was freed to go back to Burma to help negotiate the peace treaty with the King of Burma.



Gospel4U's



Through the World Day of Prayer, women are encouraged to become aware of the other countries and cultures and no longer live in isolation. They are also encouraged take up the burdens of other people, to sympathize with the problems of other countries and cultures and pray with and for them. They are further encouraged to become aware of their talents and use them in the service of society. The World Day of Prayer aims to demonstrate that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world.

Every year, worship service focuses on a different country and a specific theme. World Day of Prayer National/Regional Committees of that country prepare the order of worship on these themes to be used on the next World Day of Prayer, which will be the U.K.

On the first Friday of March, then, in services all over the world that country becomes the focus of prayer and understanding. Through preparation and participation in the worship service, women worldwide learn how their sisters of other countries, languages and cultures understand the biblical passages in their context. They learn of the concerns and needs of those women and to empathize and feel in solidarity with them.

To mark the occasion there be a Service at St John's Ansley Common

FRIDAY 4TH MARCH AT 10:30AM

The theme this year will be

I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU

Mighty Warrior:

Diet Eman was an ordinary, shy young woman in the Netherlands – in love, working and enjoying time with family and friends – when the Germans invaded in 1940. As Diet (pronounced Deet) later wrote; ‘When there is danger on your doorstep, you want to act almost like an ostrich burying its head in the sand’. Yet Diet felt God calling her to resist the German oppressors, which included risking her life to find hiding places for Jews and other pursued people. This unassuming young woman became a warrior for God.

We find many stories in the Bible similar to Diet’s, stories of God using seemingly unlikely characters to serve Him. For instance, when the angel of the Lord approached Gideon, he proclaimed, ‘The Lord is with you, mighty warrior’.(Judges 6:12) Yet Gideon seemed anything but mighty. He’d been secretly threshing wheat away from the prying eyes of the Midianites, who oppressively controlled Israel at the time.(vv1-6.11) He was from the weakest clan of Israel Manasseh) and the ‘least’ in his family(v15). He didn’t feel up to God’s calling and even requested *several* signs. Yet God used him to defeat the cruel Midianites.(Ch.7) God saw Gideon as ‘mighty’. And just as God was with and equipped Gideon, so God is with us, His ‘dearly loved children’(Ephesians 5:1) – Supplying all we need to live for and serve Him in little and big ways.

Who are some other Bible characters God used despite their weakness to accomplish much for Him? How has God moved you outside your comfort zone to serve Him?

God, I’m so thankful You don’t see me as I see myself. Help me to see myself as Your dearly loved child capable of doing big and small things in service to You.

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God cares for you to leave you in any doubt about His love. Human love is flawed; it keeps a checklist of all our sins and shortcomings – and consults it often. God keeps no such list. His love casts out our fears because it casts out our guilt. If our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart. When you feel un-forgiven; question your feelings, but don’t question God. Go back to His Word; it outranks self criticism and self doubt. Nothing fosters confidence like a clear grasp of God’s grace, and nothing fosters fear like ignorance of it. The fact if you haven’t accepted God’s grace , you are doomed to live in fear.

CHILDREN'S PICTURE TO COLOUR:



February Recipe: Roasted Butternut & Carrot Soup:

Ingredients:

1 Butternut Squash – peeled and chopped
2-3 Carrots – peeled and chopped
1 Roasted red Pepper – Skinned
2 cloves of garlic, unpeeled
½ teaspoon chilli flakes(optional)
Glug of Oil
500ml Chicken/Veg stock.
Good teaspoon of runny honey
½ - 1 teaspoon of ground cumin.

Method:

Put Carrot and Squash chunks into a roasting tray, along with the garlic cloves.

Drizzle with oil and scatter over the chilli flakes.

Pop in the oven, 180 degF/ 200C Gas/6 for about 35 minutes, turning a couple of times until veg is softened and tinging brown at the edges.

Squeeze the garlic out of its skin and pile everything into a large saucepan.

Add the stock, pepper, cumin, honey, then bring to a simmer for about 30 minutes until everything is tender.

Blitz with a stick blender or liquidizer, thinning with more stock Or some milk as preferred.

Enjoy straight away or freeze and feel the goodness seeping through you.

Quick tip:

Don't be put off cooking squash because of its tough skin.

When younger, squashes can be peeled with a potato peeler.

Once they have developed a hard skin, I treat them differently.

Simply cut in half lengthways, scrape out the seeds, then slice in half moons across the squash.

Use a sharp knife to cut away the flesh.

ENJOY!

Listen to the Right Voice

This is the way; walk in it'.

A respected author, along with her husband and friends, were on a mountaintop discussing which direction to go. One man said, 'That's South!'. Another countered, "No that's East;. Everybody threw in their twopennies' worth until finally the woman's husband produced a compass and said, 'We can settle this really fast'. Within seconds the *compass* confirmed they were , in fact, facing due west! The only reliable source had the final say, and nobody was about to argue with it. In the course of a day, many voices vie for your attention, and some that sound like experts can be dead wrong. Bottom Line: You had better know which voice to listen to, because if you look only at your circumstances, you will become disorientated. An unexpected phone call, aa floundering relationship, a lost job, or a sick child can make north look like south and east like west. When that happens, it's easy to lose your bearings, jump to conclusions, and end up on the wrong path. The Bible says, 'Whether you turn right...or left..., your ears will hear a voice saying, 'This is the way; walk in it'. There is only one true source of wisdom and truth, and Peter recognized that when he asked, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life' (John 6:68) You don't need to know every detail in advance; that's not how God works. Often, He doesn't show us the big picture because we would be overwhelmed and think it was impossible. He wants to develop in you and unshakeable trust in His character and goodness; an acceptance that in order to fulfill His plan, you must depend on His strength.

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Be a Restorer:

Sometimes when we fall we can get up by ourselves, other times we need someone to help us. Be kind, compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as Christ forgave you. Always try to offer an extending hand to those who fall.

Not one time did He condemn someone who was caught in sin and overtaken by temptation and failure. He willingly restored them.

Today, others are watching us to see if the grace we preach to others, is the same grace we extend to one another. Let's not disappoint them!.

Valentine's Day Word Search

c g f l o w e r s i p
j s w e e t h e a r t
e f p a c u p i d a e
v h o i k a c p s r t
a o g u y h e a r t s
l o v e r r d e g o f
e k r a p t r r o w r
n r i r o s e s p x i
t o h s d r d e i r e
i s u h s p i n n h n
n r g a r e l l k t d
e o s c h o s r o s h
s w e e r t s f r i e
v c h o c o l a t e k

valentine
arrow
cupid
hearts
love

red
fourteenth
hugs
chocolate
pink

roses
friend
flowers
sweetheart
kisses

How to Lower your Anxiety Level (Cast your cares upon the Lord – Psalm 55:22)

When we're stressed, the surge of negative emotions can be overwhelming. And unless you unburden your soul before God, it's easy to make wrong decisions, succumb to wrong impulses, move in the wrong direction, and explode at the wrong people. The psalmist addresses this: 'Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you'. The extent to which you consciously lean on God, drawing strength from Him, is the extent to which you will lower your anxiety level. It's no coincidence that many of the psalms start with David crying out to God for help and end with him rejoicing because he vented his frustrations to the right person – God! The truth is, life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you respond to it. Your job, your finances, your marriage, your children, your health, and your future are all sources of anxiety, so you will never be totally free from angst. But you can lower your anxiety level by following Paul's advice: 'All praise to the God and father of our Master, Jesus... Father of all mercy! God of all healing counsel! He comes along side us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, he brings us along side someone else who is going through hard times.so we can be there for that person just as God was there for us. We have plenty of hard times...but no more so than the good times of his healing comfort – we get a full measure of that too.'(2Corinthians 1. 3 – 5) To quote a well known pastor; 'The more you pray, the less you'll panic. The more you worship, the less you worry'.

'SORROW LENDS STRENGTH'

Sorrow is a strange instructress; she teaches us the patient way, through pain, through grief, through anxious hours, through cherished dreams gone far astray.

Yet through this strange, bewildering pattern, there is one thread of faith so bright, that if we could but watch its weaving, we'd know that all would work out right.

So we must learn from all our sorrows, nor let fear its rich strength betray. For sorrow brings us close to courage, and often is the only way to the soul's rich understanding of Christ's Love and Comfort deep. How often Christ is seen most clearly through the weary eyes that weep.

In hours of tribulation which only Hope can penetrate, let us remember One who suffered .Who will not leave us to our fate. If we trust Him, He'll be with us in the dread moments of despair. Have courage then. Look up and know He is there.!

CANDLEMAS: On February the 2nd we commemorate the presentation of Jesus at the Temple it was the custom to present the child 40 days after the birth to be blest and also for the mother to be purified(this is a ceremony that was carried out in today's church and was known as churching a ceremony that as fallen away over the years). There is a special liturgy that is part of the service the service is referred to as Candlemas.

The following is taken from Luke's Gospel:-

And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;(As it is written in the law of the LORD, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons. And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;(Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem. And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.

DEAR LORD,

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR MANY BLESSINGS.
WE PRAY YOU MAY BLESS AND FILL OUR FAMILY WITH LOVE,
PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

WE ALSO PRAY FOR JOY, ABUNDANCE AND STRENGTH.
WE PRAY FOR GREAT HEALTH AND CONTINUED HEALING.

WE PRAY FOR OUR LOVED ONES.

WE PRAY FOR KINDNESS AND MERCY.

WE PRAY FOR YOUR GUIDANCE AND PROTECTION. AMEN.

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FEBRUARY CHURCH SERVICES:

6th 10:30 St Michael's

13th 10:30 St Wilfrid's

20th 10:30 St Michael's

27th 10:30 St Wilfrid's

March

2nd OF March - Ash Wednesday,

St Wilfrid's 19:00 Holy Communion Rev Denise Burgess

.NB: During February repair work is being carried out on the church. If we are unable to use the church the service will take place in the Old Barn.

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

**Checkout our church website
www.arleycofechurches.org.uk**