

# **ST. WILFRID'S & ST. MICHAEL'S**

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



### **Ash Wednesday - Beginning of Lent**

Lent is about mercy,  
Mercy is about love in the way God wants us to love,  
Mercy is all about charity.  
Charity is about giving something up or fasting  
and offering it as a free gift that is given  
purely from the motivation of love,  
Fasting is much more of an invitation to grace  
than the imposition of a burden.  
Fasting is about being freed from all that binds us.  
It could be fasting from a food or drink.  
Or refraining from any intentional act  
that requires a certain self-denial.  
So make this a great Lent  
but don't get stuck thinking that  
the Lenten sacrifices are burdensome

LENT

### **March Newsletter 2022**

Churchwarden	John Cox	02476-394802
Deputy Warden	Vic Murray	XD

## AND FOUR OTHERS;

Tragedy struck after a Leicester City football match in October 2018 when 5 people died in a helicopter crash. Most news stories began with 'Leicester City owner Vichai Srivudhanaprabha and *four others* lost their lives in the accident. It's natural and understandable for news articles to

focus on the well known person involved in a horrible situation like this – and the death of Mr. Vichai was heartbreaking for many people. But we must keep in mind that in life's big picture there's no dividing line that makes the 'four others'(Kaveporn, Nusara, Eric & Izabela) any less significant. Sometimes we need to be reminded that each human is important in God's eyes. Society shines bright lights on the rich and famous. Yet fame doesn't make a person any more important than your next door neighbour, the noisy kids who play in your street, the down on his luck guy at the food bank or *you*. Every person on earth is created in God's image (Genesis 1:27) whether rich or poor (Proverbs 22:2) No-one is favoured more than the other in His eyes (Romans 2:11) and each is in need of a Saviour (3:23) We glorify our great God when we refuse to show favouritism – whether in the church (James 2:1 – 4) or in society at large.

*Heavenly Father, help me to show love and kindness to all, regardless of their station in life.*

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## Releasing the power within you: (Philippians 2:13)

The engine in your car is its power source, and activated when you've 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 is 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. When someone is filled with the Holy Spirit, things happen. People turned to Christ, Healing took place. Our God who is our Creator, breathes life into us, then tells us, 'Go out and become productive' (see Genesis 1:28) You are not a helpless bystander. What God has placed inside you will change what's outside you. When everything around you is saying No, and something within you is saying Yes, that's God working in you.

## HOPE CUTS THROUGH STORMS:

In the Spring of 2021, several storm chasers recorded videos and topok photo's of a rainbow, next to a tornado. In one video, long stalks of wheat in a field bent under the power of the whirling winds.(just like we are experiencing at present) A brilliant rainbow cut across the grey skyline and arched towards the twister. Bystanders in another video stood on the side of the road and watched the symbol of hope standing firm beside the twisting funnel shaped cloud. In Psalm 107, the psalmist offers hope and encourages us to turn to God during difficult times. He describes some who were in the middle of a storm, 'at their wits end' (v27). Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress'(v28) God understands His children will sometimes struggle to feel hopeful when life feels like a storm. We need reminders of His faithfulness, especially when the horizon looks dark and tumultous.

Whether our storms come as substantial obstacles in our lives, as emotional turmoil or as mental stress, God can still our storms 'to a whisper' and guide us to a place of refuge (vv 29 – 30) Though we may not experience relief in our preferred way or time, we can trust God to keep the promises He's given in Scripture. His enduring hope will cut through any storm.

**When have you struggled to feel hopeful during a storm in your life?  
How has God given you reminders of His promises through Scripture  
abd His people when you needed a burst of hope?**

*Loving God, thank You for being my hope-giver no matter what's going on in my life.*

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Jesus Loves You! He can walk into those places of sin and failure, wipe the slate clean, and give you a new beginning. Jesus knows the worst about you, yet he believes the best, because He sees you not as you are, but as you will be, when he gets through with you. What a friend! Who else are you going to trust? In His hands you are safe and secure, today, tomorrow and for eternity. (Jeremiah 29: 11 – 13)

### **Praying each day during March:**

1	This if the day the Lord has made,we will rejoice and be glad in it
2	Ash Wednesday – service at St. Wilfrid’s at 7pm-come and join us
3	Thank you Lord for caring for our family and keeping them safe
4	We’re so glad You go before us.You lead and guide us and comfort us
5	Father staying calm isn’t always easy,thankyou,we can focus on You
6	Father,show us others that we can bless today,to lead by example
7	When we get tired-and we surely will.remind us only to seek all answers from You
8	Lord,Thank you - may we keep marching, hoping and believing
9	May our words be pure and blameless so we can bring honour to You.
10	Lord,let us pray for those in spiritual leadership,they work so hard
11	Help us to follow you Lord, especially when things are difficult
12	You are such an example to us Lord – make us more like You
13	Father when we are feeling low and anxious let us feel your loving arms around us and restore us, so we may serve You gracious Lord
14	Thank you Creator God,what beauty You surround us with.Thank You
15	Praying for all our service men and women serving abroad
16	When we look at other countries around the world we realise how lucky we are and blessed with your abiding love.
17	Draw us closer to You Lord, and Your wonderful ways
18	Let us pray for the people of Ukraine who are being terrorised by Russia
19	We pray Lord for peace in this world of tourmoil – bring calmness to all
20	We give you thanks Gracious Lord for your many blessings
21	During these difficult days we pray for our churches to be restored
22	Thank you for nature and the joy we get from all of your Creation Lord
23	Praying for all living in residential homes in Stewart,Meadow & Rowland Crt
24	During this cold spell Lord – protect the elderly and infirm
25	Praying for all Dr’s, Nurses and Carers in our villages
26	Protect and keep safe all our Children and Grandchildren blessed Lord
27	Praying for all Mums – giving thanks and praise for their love for us, and remembering all carers.-, and those who look after us-THANKOU
28	Thinking of those in hospital or those awaiting results of tests
29	Keep smiling. Feel uplifted and look forward with hope to Spring
30	Look forward to seeing all the wonderful spring flowers God’s sent
31	Thank You Lord for all your love and care for each one of us

CLOSE:

One heart-breaking image has stuck in my mind from the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral last year. Due to the pandemic restrictions, our Queen of the United Kingdom spent the service sitting on her own. A solitary figure, surrounded by rows and rows of empty pews, bidding farewell to her husband of seventy three years.

Her isolated mourning resonated with thousands of viewers who had faced similarly lonely farewells during the coronavirus pandemic. There's something hollow about having to grieve alone. Yet, many commented that, despite the empty pew, her strong faith in God meant she wasn't alone at all.

This was the life changing truth David experienced when he felt alone and afraid (see 1 Samuel 21:10 – 12) 'The Lord is close to the broken-hearted', he wrote (Psalm 34:18) God is in our grief, our pain and our questions. The word to describe God's presence in our painful times is not distant, but *close*. His eyes are fixed on us (v15). His ears are attentive to our cries(v16) and He delivers (his people) from all their troubles'(v17)

Even those of us who haven't grieved during the pandemic may be emerging out of it feeling more fragile. Lonier. Sadder. More anxious. While full recovery may not be immediate, a crucial part of God's deliverance in His intimacy when our hearts ache. May He be our refuge today, for the Lord is close to the broken-hearted.

*Heavenly Father, thank you for promising to be especially close to the broken-hearted. Please comfort us with Your presence today. Amen*

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*Lord, today we choose to refocus on You, Your messages to us, Your love, help us to move forward in the direction You would have us. We're grateful for Your guidance dear Lord. Amen*

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Loving God, thank You for being my hope – giver no matter what's going on in my life.

## RECIPE FOR MARCH: PRIMROSE SPRING RING:

### Ingredients:

195gms.( 6.1/4oz )Butter  
195gms (6.1/4oz) Caster Sugar.  
Zest of one Lemon, finely grated.  
3 Large Eggs.  
145gms(4.3/4 oz)Self eaisingflour.  
50gms(2oz) Cornflour  
½ Teaspoon baking powder.

### Icing:

175gms(6oz) Icing Sugar  
Juice of one Lemon.  
A few drops of yellow food colouring(optional)  
Decorate with fresh, artificial or sugar paste primroses.

### Method:

Preheat oven to Gasmark 5/190degC/375deg F.  
Cream together Butter, Caster Sugar. Lemon Zest until fluffy.  
Beat in eggs one at a time,always allowing mixture to become fluffy after each addition..Stir together Flour,cornflour and baking powder, fold into creamed mixture. Pour into 9inch spring form ring mould and place on baking tray incase any mixture escapes through loose base.  
Bake 25 -30mins until golden and springy.Allow to cool and remove outer ring.Ease cake from base and invert onto cooling rack. When cool, transfer to a cake board. Mix the icing sugar with lemon juice and drop of yellow colouring if desired. Drizzle icing along top of cake and allow to run down the sides. Decorate with silk flowers or make them.

Spring! Whar does that mean to you? For me, it means stowing away all heavy winter coats and boots and looking forward to signs of new life pushing through the ground. I can honestly say I'm not much of a gardener, Although happy to do some weeding!. However it always thrills me when I see unpromising little seeds or bulbs show beautiful colours later on. Primroses are my favourite Spring flower especially in their natural setting. Creator God,thank you for the wonder of all you have made. Amen

## OLNEY PANCAKE RACE

No one is quite certain how the world famous Pancake Race at Olney originated. One story tells of a harassed housewife, hearing the shriving bell, dashing to the Church still clutching her frying pan containing a pancake. Another tells that the gift of pancakes may have been a bribe to the Ringer, or Sexton that he might ring the bell sooner; for ringing the bell signaled the beginning of the day's holiday and enjoyment, no less than to summon the people to the service at which they would be shriven of their sins before the long Lenten feast. Tradition declares that the race was first run in the year 1445, pancakes at the time being a popular dish, receiving royal favour. It was run on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Lent, and the whole day was given over to a festival of celebration, pranks and pastimes. It is not known where the original start line was but the finish line was at the Church door. The race continued through the centuries, and whilst many other local customs died, and the race itself may have lapsed many times, such lapses never caused the race to be entirely forgotten by the womenfolk of Olney. It is known to have taken place during the troublesome times of The War of the Roses (1445 to 1487).

After a lapse during the Second World War, it was revived again in 1948 by the Vicar of Olney the Reverend Canon Ronald Collins. In clearing out a cupboard he came across some old photographs, which had obviously been taken in the Nineteen Twenties and Thirties of women running with frying pans. Filled with enthusiasm to revive the ancient custom, he called for volunteers, and in response thirteen runners appeared on Shrove Tuesday that year. The race immediately caught the popular imagination and people of Olney set out to enjoy this simple and colourful link with their rich past, a day of festivities.

In 1950 the race became an International event. A challenge was received from the town of Liberal in Kansas, USA, where they had, after seeing the press photographs of the race at Olney, conceived the idea of setting up a similar custom. Olney readily accepted the challenge and, in a spirit of international goodwill and friendship, the two towns now compete annually and prizes are exchanged. The race is run on a timed basis.

## Memories of a London lad (By Vic Murray)

Up to 16 years of age my social life revolved around the scouts. To belong it was necessary to go to church. The same was true for the girls who attended Guides. The year was 1960 and teenagers were looking for more from life than just scouting and guiding. There was a high risk that if something was not put in place; a lot of us were likely to disappear. One idea that was put forward was to start a youth club. An idea that came to fruition just a few short weeks later. When St Johns youth club opened its doors for the first time. Yet over sixty years later the members still speak of those days with a lot of pride. In the early days the youth club consisted solely of the people who were from the scouts and guides. Then as time passed members started to bring along friends from outside the church. The numbers grew until we had a nice healthy group of regulars. The fact that you had to attend church did not seem to stop anyone from joining. The first couple of years the club was run by leaders. Then as we grew older we started to become more independent. We knew we could always call on one of our old leaders if help was needed. The amazing thing was that although we were teenagers we never quarrelled. We always worked together in whatever we set out to do. Our meeting night was on a Monday. In addition we were also given free use of the church hall on a Sunday evening. That was if we had attended the evening service. When we started to look old enough to be eighteen years of age, we stopped going straight home after youth club. Instead we would go for a pint in our local pub. Over time that pub became our meeting point. Any night of the week you found yourself with nothing to do you would head for the pub. To see if anyone else was at a loose end. From there we would go off somewhere else for the evening. Living in a London Suburb there was a variety of things available. There was a frequent bus and train service to all the local areas. Half hour on the tube and you could be in the centre of London. Something we did when there was a big film or show on in the West End. As an example we once attended the NME annual show. For those of you who have never heard of the NME it was a magazine about pop music. Their annual show featured all the chart toppers of the year. It was held on a Saturday afternoon at a large venue in the middle of London. Tickets for it were like gold dust. We applied early but all the tickets had been sold. That year the volume of people wanting tickets was so big that they put on a second concert the same evening. For which we were lucky



enough to get tickets. All the bands that featured in the afternoon show played except one. I cannot tell you the exact number of bands and singers but it would have been about twenty. Following are the names of those that I can still recall Cilla Black, Dusty Springfield, Lulu, Sandy Shaw, Freddie and the Dreamers, The Merseybeats, The Hollies, Eden Kane, Gerry and the Pacemakers, The Rolling Stones, Dave Clark five, Brian Poole and the Tremeloes. I bet you cannot guess the name of the act that could not make it? The biggest name of the sixties - The Beatles. I never ever saw the Beatles live!!! I am going to finish there and in the next issue I will be writing about our youth clubs biggest achievement. One that we are still extremely proud of today.

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Vic's Quips:

Energizer Bunny arrested - charged with battery.  
The man who had fallen into an upholstery factory is now said to be fully recovered.  
A Freudian slip is when you say one thing but mean your mother.  
A hangover is the wrath of grapes.  
What did the grape say when the elephant stepped on it?  
Nothing, it just let out a little whine.  
What must you know to be an auctioneer? Lots.  
What do you call a train loaded with toffee? A chew chew train.  
Why can't a bicycle stand on its own? Because it's two tired.

Sign on a church notice board:

When you were born, your mother brought you here  
When you were married, your partner brought you here  
When your life is over your friends will bring you here  
Why not try coming on your own sometimes ?

We all know that small babies are delivered by Storks But did you know that big ones are delivered by Cranes

Did you know that the name of the Lord who had the biggest waistband was Sir Circumference

Mary Berry's Simnel cake Recipe: Cook 2 hours 15 mins.

INGREDIENTS FOR THE CAKE:

175 g soft butter or margarine, plus extra for greasing

175 g light muscovado sugar

3 eggs. 175 g self-raising flour

175 g sultanas. 90 g currants.

90 g glacé cherries, quartered, rinsed, and dried

30 g candied peel, roughly chopped

Grated zest of 1 large lemon

1 tsp ground mixed spice

FOR THE DECORATING:

500 g almond paste. 2 tbspr apricot jam

1 egg white

Roll out one-third of the

Deep 18 cm (7 in) round loose-bottomed cake tin

DIRECTIONS.

Roll out 1/3<sup>RD</sup> almond paste.

Using the base of the cake tin as a guide, cut out an 18 centimetre round.

Grease the cake tin and line the bottom and side with greaseproof paper. Combine all the cake ingredients in a bowl. Beat well until thoroughly blended. Spoon half of the cake mixture into the prepared tin and smooth the surface. Top with the round of almond paste.

Spoon the remaining cake mixture on top and level the surface.

Bake in a preheated oven at 150°C/gas mark 2 for two and a quarter hours or until golden brown and firm to the touch.

Cover the top of the cake with greaseproof paper if it is browning too quickly. Leave to cool for 10 minutes, then remove from the tin, and leave to cool completely. Warm the jam and use to brush the top of the cake. To decorate the cake, roll out half of the remaining almond paste and use the tin to cut out an 18 centimetre round. Put on top of the jam and crimp the edges. Roll the remaining almond paste into 11 even-sized balls. Place around the edge of the cake, attaching them with egg white. Brush the tops of the balls and the almond paste with egg white. Place under a hot grill for one to two minutes, until the balls are golden.

## **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.

True stories continued by Anne about her village of Whitacre:

What a waste to deprive a child of its grandparent for such a silly reason. I think this incident illustrated how weak Uncle Joe was. He wasn't prepared to stand up to his wife and allowed her to cause a huge rift between him and his mother. As laid back as my father was there is no way that my mother could have stopped him keeping contact with his mother and she had a lot more cause to do so than Maureen.

Nobody was good enough as a perspective in law for my Grandmother save Uncle Edward because he had an established business and his family

were staunch Methodists, not even Derek Sutton, Auntie Evelines' husband who had been a pilot in the war and had a promising career as an engineer afterwards and certainly not my mother. She would have liked to have kept her family to herself and succeeded with two of them because Eveline and Derek and their young family lived with her as did Auntie Clarice. My mother certainly didn't impress her. Not only was she just a 'clippie' on the buses and a miner's daughter, but, one of the Scottish miners to boot, who was someone looked down upon. Grandpa Ibberson said to his son one day. 'Who is the blue eyed conductress that always looks up at Quarry House when we pass it by on the bus. Then of course my father admitted he was taking my mother out.

I think they met at a dance, they were both good dancers, but prior to this my mother used to make fun of the dapper young man in his spats and said to the driver, 'Run over the little so and so'. From such inauspicious beginnings grew the relationship that was to last through thick and thin until my mothers death.

Grandpa Ibberson died in 1938 and then my mother was already pregnant. At Grandpa's funeral Great Aunt Eveline said to her nephew 'You must look after your mother now Ivan'. My mother stood alongside him and thought 'what about me'. At that time Dad had a mobile butcher's shop, for which he obtained a loan, My Uncle Jack acting as guarantor, but Dad was a hopeless business man, he felt sorry for the women if they couldn't pay for their meat so they took advantage. Likewise Grandma and 'the girls' used to go to Blackpool for weeks as a time and when Dad went to fetch them back he would be faced with the bill for their keep. Small wonder his business failed. My mother was repaying that loan for years after thye business closed up.

Grandma wasn't impressed with me either. I got off on the wrong foot by being born at St. Helens Hospital which had previously been the town workhouse, a stigma which still remained in Grandma's eyes. A friend of y mothers had heard Grandma talking at the cemetery when she was putting flowers on Grandpa's grave. She was talking to a neighbour and the neighbour asked after her granddaughter's Auntie Phil's Susan, having been born in the August of 1939 whilst I was born in the May of that year. 'Our Ivan's baby is a poor little thing'. stated Grandma,' but our Phil's baby is a lovely little lass'. Well she would be, wouldn't she. Susan was born in Pinder Oaks(a nursing home) as befitted an lbberson baby and weighed in at a respectable 7lbs, whereas I only made a miserable 5lbs.

Grandma McNair wasn't too impressed either. My mother had gone back to her parent's home after my birth while she waited to join my father in Water Orton. One day Grandma was bathing me in front of the fire and the tears were dropping on my puny little frame. 'We'll never rear her', wept my Grandmother. Poor Mum, her first new born who she thought was the sweetest little thing one earth was derided by both its Grandmothers. My name didn't suit either, Grandad was rocking me in my pram to get me to sleep and commented, 'Josephine Josephine what a big name for a wee lass'. Thereafter I was called Anne and have remained so ever since.

Grandma lbberson eventually came round, she told me that when I was about nine months old I sat on the rug and somebody dropped something and I said, 'bomb bomb'. It must have touched her to think that a baby hearing a bang would think it was a bomb. A sign of those times, I suppose I can remember and my Aunts laughing at me because I couldn't pronounce post office. I think I said pofoffice or something like that. They tried to make me repeat it but I said, 'Don't make me sing it again'. Perhaps the fact that I was was a funny old fashioned little creature endeared me tp my grandmother because we became very close as I grew older.

*Many thanks Anne for your memories, love them.!*  
*Maureen xx*

## ST. DAVID:



### Patron Saint of Wales:

St David became a **renowned preacher**, founding monastic settlements and churches in Wales, Brittany and southwest England – including, possibly, the abbey at Glastonbury.

When did St David become a saint? After his death, his influence spread far and wide, first through Britain and then by sea to Cornwall and Brittany. In 1120, Pope Callactus II canonised David as a Saint. Following this he was declared Patron Saint of Wales.

An angel foretold his birth to St Patrick, 30 years before it happened - although the exact date is believed to be some time **between 462 and 515 AD**. Some say he lived more than 100 years and died on 1 March 589 - hence St David's Day.

## ST. PATRICK:



St. Patrick was a 5th-century missionary to Ireland and later served as bishop there. He is credited with **bringing Christianity to parts of Ireland and was probably partly responsible for the Christianization of the Picts and Anglo-Saxons**. He is one of the patron saints of Ireland.

Patrick merged Christianity with more traditional parts of Irish culture, including adding bonfires to Easter celebrations and creating the Celtic cross, which incorporates the sun with the cross. He also is largely responsible for helping convert the Irish to Christianity.

## A MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

*Heavenly Father, to you I pray...*

*On this day called,*

*"Mother's Day."*

*Let all mother's on earth give praise,*

*To you...for the children that you gave.*

*For you have blessed them from above,*

*with little souls to nourish and love.*

*Let them mould each one with care...*

*And teach them to be kind and share.*

*Forgiveness is the special key...*

*Start early on, to help them see.*

*Their fragile minds are easily impressed.*

*Please teach them ways, so they'll be blessed.*

*Sow godly seeds into their minds.*

*With careful pruning, you will find...*

*Young adults with such strong roots,*

*all through life, will bear rich fruit.*

*And then have faith for God to show...*

*Them all the rest they have to know.*

*Remember they're His children too.*

*For they were only sent to you.*

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### Grandmothers:

Grandmothers have magic, how else could they know

The out of way places – where buttercups grow?

The pond in the meadow, where polliwogs dwell?

The gossip the breezes are anxious to tell?

Or how can they tell, by the tracks on the ground,

Where hideaway rabbits and squirrels are found?

And why do they hug you with eyes all aglow,

And tell you the secrets You're longing to know?

Grandmothers have magic...or do they recall

The things that were magic, when they were quite small?

## *Sunday, Mothering Sunday*

*Maybe you've forgotten but today's a special day  
One on which I personally get a chance to say  
Thank you for my life, for my love, for my son  
Heaven knows without you there wouldn't be a single one  
Everyday that passes brings me closer still to you  
Right by my side in good and bad, you always pull me through  
It's nice to know that now I'm grown the favours are returned  
Now's the time for me to fuss, the tables have been turned  
Get your feet up, take a break and don't you answer back  
You're not too old to cross my knee and take a little crack!*

*Silent love I carry through the year  
Underneath you know I hold you dear  
Never change, I love you as you are  
Don't forget, you are my guiding star  
Anyway, I wrote these lines to say  
You are the best - Today and every day*



## GOD IN THE GARDEN DURING MARCH:

'Hardening Off' describes a process where seedlings which have been raised indoors or greenhouse are exposed to lower temperatures and increased air movement for a fortnight or so, before planted out in the garden. Cold frames can be used to protect, gradually opening the top more and more to get used to outside conditions. This process of hardening off plants is a little like sending your children off to university.

It is an intermediate stage. Not many plants or children are left entirely alone of course. Seedlings need hardening off before coping on their own in the garden. When we first become Christians it is not uncommon to have a very easy spiritual life for the first few years. We can feel God is always close and answering our prayers, this stage of Christianity rarely lasts forever. Sometimes Christians experience a 'hardening off' period which may make them feel abandoned. They describe it as a desert experience, especially when going through a low period and praying becomes difficult and painful.

In the Bible 'desert experiences' are important times of preparation and deepening of people's relationship with God. Elijah had his in the cave of Herob and Jesus went through his own desert experience in the wilderness. Elijah retreated in despair before hearing the 'gentle whisper' of God telling him to anoint two kings and anoint Elisha as his successor. Jesus spent time in the wilderness before starting his ministry and he went there because that is where the Spirit led him. When you are lead into a desert experience, it is difficult but you are not abandoned. God maybe toughening you up for some task, just as plants are hardened off before they are planted in the garden.

*I know there are times of my life where I will feel abandoned. Give me the strength to trust you through these difficult times. Give me the hope to keep me clinging to you. Give me ears to hear your gentle whispers. Amen .*

Other possible gardening tasks for this week include: Applying fertilizer to your flower beds and around shrubs and roses. Cleaning and sharpening secateurs and garden knives. Starting to feed citrus plants, and sowing hardy annuals.

## **Mothering Sunday:**

Mothering Sunday began as an explicitly religious event of the 16th Century, with no connection to mothers at all. The word "mothering" referred to the "mother church", which is to say the main church or cathedral of the region. It became a tradition that, on the fourth Sunday of Lent, people would return to their mother church for a special service. This pilgrimage was apparently known as "going a-mothering", and became something of a holiday event, with domestic servants traditionally given the day off to visit their own families as well as their mother church.

Despite its long existence in British culture, Mothering Sunday eventually fell out of fashion at the dawn of the 20th Century. This is where a lady named Constance Penswick-Smith enters the picture. The daughter of a vicar, she thought the loss of Mothering Sunday was a great shame, and worked hard to rekindle interest, even writing a book whose title clearly laid out her ambition - it was called The Revival of Mothering Sunday. As if that wasn't enough, she also founded the Society for the Observance of Mothering Sunday. Her determination paid off, and the fading festival was restored to the culture of the country, only with much more of a focus on celebrating motherhood.

## **SIMNEL CAKE**

One of the tastiest traditions of Mothering Sunday was the baking of Simnel cake. Often regarded as a purely Easter-related confection, this rich fruit cake is also tied to Mothering Sunday, as a bit of indulgence to make up for the general austerity of Lent (and a nice home-baked present to take home to your mother). Consisting of layers of cake and marzipan, a traditional Simnel cake also reflects the religious overtones of the event by being adorned with 11 balls of marzipan, representing all the disciples of Jesus, minus Judas.

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## **THANK YOU!**

We would like to give thanks to all who are running our Churches during the absence of a Vicar! We are very grateful to Denise and Vic for their undivided attention to St. Wilfrid's, and Janice and Kim for their work at St. Michael's.

You have all managed to keep our Churches OPEN and we pray that your efforts will be rewarded by a growing congregation in our village churches.

God Bless You All!



Beware online dating approaches from men claiming to be doctors travelling to Syria to work in the refugee camps. The 'doctors' asks their victims if they could send their belongings, including a diamond ring worth over £10,000 to them for safe keeping. The victims are then asked to send money in order to receive the belongings. This can sometimes be several thousand pounds. They are encouraged to send the money after they are told that the belongings will be seized if they do not. Criminals disguise their requests for money by dropping it harmlessly into conversation. They'll appear vulnerable, emotional and in desperate need of your help. Stop and think. It could protect you and your money.

#### **Bogus tax refund**

Residents have reported receiving bogus HMRC telephone calls. The callers state that based on their National Insurance contributions, the residents are owed a tax refund. Given that National Insurance rates have been in the news recently, it's very likely that criminals will seek to reference the tax in any scam emails or phone calls. It is unlikely that you will receive a telephone call from HMRC that you were not expecting. Treat all such calls with extreme caution. If you are unsure if a communication from HMRC is real or not, you can contact HMRC via the official Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/contact-hmrc>

#### **Bogus 'green' companies**

More Warwickshire residents have reported receiving unexpected phone calls from bogus 'green' companies, falsely claiming to be able to offer free or discounted loft insulation via a Government scheme. They may claim that your current insulation is no longer fit for purpose or that theirs is of a higher standard. In reality, these bogus companies want to sell you loft insulation that is usually overpriced and unnecessary. It can be hard to tell a good trader from a bad one over the phone or at the doorstep. Don't buy from unexpected doorstep traders or those who contact you unexpectedly. Try to use businesses you know and trust or consider using a Trading Standards approved traders scheme:

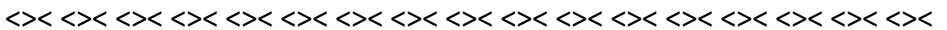
The Prayer Circle:

I always thank God as I remember you in my prayers(Philemon 1:4) Have you ever pondered the word *always*? When you say you'll always do something, it means you won't walk away and forget.

Unfortunately, we don't always remember to *always* do what we say. We are forgetful people! Aren't you glad God is an *always* God? He brings to mind the things we forget to remember, like praying for specific people at specific times. What an honour, to lift someone up in prayer as they are walking through tough situations. And how good of the Lord, to bring them to mind at just the right moment. Our prayers have a rebound effect, too. Those very people we're praying for are the ones who lift us up when we're in need. What a lovely prayer circle, and what a wonderful God, to remain at the centre of it all.

*I love our prayer circle, God. We're surrounded by people praying for us, and we pray for them as well. Thanks for bringing to mind the folks who need our prayers today. We lift them up to Your throne, grateful to have them in our lives. Amen.*

Thank You God for our Church Family and Friends, you are all very special to us!. Love Maureen & John xxx



A Rainbow in the Sky: Most of us don't like to think about the possibility of a burglar coming into our home and stealing our stuff. We cringe,pondering what ifs.'Stealing'stuff' is one thing but stealing our hope is another! So many times we allow the enemy to rob us of this very valuable tool! God never meant for us to be without hope.Why do you think he placed the rainbow in the sky after Noahlanded on Mt.Ararat? Whenever Noah saw those beautiful colours aligned he remembered God's promise to us.

When we do, we will never be hopeless. Never let the enemy win.

*We don't have to wait for a rainbow in the sky, Father. All we have to do is remember Your promises – that You will be with us, that You will never leave or forsake us. Amen.*

Children's Colouring Page:



## Her Hands (Mother's Day)

Her hands held me gently from the day I took my first breath.  
Her hands helped to guide me as I took my first step.  
Her hands held me close when the tears would start to fall.  
Her hands were quick to show me that she would take care of it all.

Her hands were there to brush my hair, or straighten a wayward bow.  
Her hands were often there to comfort the hurts that didn't always show.  
Her hands helped hold the stars in place, and encouraged me to reach.  
Her hands would clap and cheer and praise when I captured them at length.

Her hands would also push me, though not down or in harm's way.  
Her hands would punctuate the words, just do what I say.  
Her hands sometimes had to discipline, to help bend this young tree.  
Her hands would shape and mould me into all she knew I could be.

Her hands are now twisting with age and years of work,  
Her hand now needs my gentle touch to rub away the hurt.  
Her hands are more beautiful than anything can be.  
Her hands are the reason - I am me.

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## A Song in the Night:

Have you ever had one of those nights when you couldn't sleep?  
Maybe you tossed and turned for hours. Here's a fun way to still your mind and calm your heart. Sing a worship song, you don't have to do it loud( especially if you share a room.) but a silent song of worship will accomplish several things; quiet your thoughts, put your focus on God, and remind you that He is in control. God does so many amazing things for us throughout the day, but His work doesn't end when the sun goes down. He wants to croon a lullaby all through the night. So...listen!  
Perhaps He's singing over you now, encouraging you to join in. In the stillness, His song rings out, loud and clear.

*Father, what a lovely reminder that Your song is always with us. Our hearts hear it in the stillness of the night, whenever everyone around us is silent.*

*Thank You for placing that song in our hearts, Lord. Amen.*

## NOT FORGOTTEN:

At her Mothers 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration with hundreds of people present, first born daughter Kukua recounted what her mother had done for her. The times were hard, Kukua remembered, and funds were scarce in the home. But her single mother deprived herself of personal comfort, selling her precious jewellery and other possessions in order to put Kukua through high school. With tears in her eyes, Kukua had said no matter how difficult things were, her mother never abandoned her or her siblings.

God compared His love for His people with a mothers love for her child. When the people of Israel felt abandoned by God during their exile, they complained: 'The Lord has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me' (Isaiah 49:14). But God said, 'Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!' (v15)

When we are distressed or disillusioned, we may feel abandoned by society, family and friends, but God does not abandon us. It is a great encouragement that the Lord says, 'I have engraved you on the palms of my hands'(v16) to indicate how much He knows and protects us. Even if people forsake us, God will never forsake His own.

*Father, no-one could love me more than You*

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A Happy Vision: Remember that story about Hansel and Gretel? They dropped breadcrumbs as they walked through the forest so that they could find their way back. The birds came along and ate the crumbs. Perhaps you can relate. You set out on life's journey, sure of where you are going, but then before long, you can't seem to find the right path. Perhaps its time for a vision check, If God stirred your heart to move in a particular direction, then go back to Him and ask for a re-ignited vision.

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# March Wordsearch:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Ash Wednesday Word Search

**DIRECTIONS:**  
Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.



- Abstain
- Almsgiving
- Ash Wednesday
- Ashes
- Bless
- Christian
- Church
- Cross



- |            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| Desert     | Mortality      |
| Dust       | Palm Sunday    |
| Easter     | Penitence      |
| Fasting    | Prayer         |
| Forehead   | Purple         |
| Forty Days | Repentance     |
| Jesus      | Sacrifice      |
| Lent       | Shrove Tuesday |
| Mass       | Temptation     |

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Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March  
at 7pm.Holy Communion at St. Wilfrids



## MARCH 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 – Mothering Sunday - Come along and join us for this special service:

2nd March - Ash Wednesday, St Wilfrid's 19:00 Holy Communion Rev. Denise Burgess



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](mailto:strowgerhouse@btinternet.com) Many thanks.

[www.arleycofechurches.org.uk/](http://www.arleycofechurches.org.uk/)