

ST. WILFRID'S & ST. MICHAEL'S

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



MAY 2022

Churchwarden	John Cox	02476-394802
Deputy Warden	Vic Murray	XD

Matthew 18.20 :

Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered together in My name I am there in the midst of them". Jesus the Heavenly man is a family man & His family is the Church which is His body. So just because big buildings are closed doesn't mean we can't go to church because we are the church in fact it is impossible not to get to church because wherever we are is the church and the life of Jesus. Have been praying for you all very much and realising how much God has blessed, blessed to running over, pressed down flooded with blessing because of you lot our incredible kids (yes even including your better halves). Sunday is coming how about having a time of prayer and worship just yourselves "a little church in every house". The enemy thinks he has succeeded in separating us all, but as usual his plan will backfire because Gods families will rise up with all the saints and angels and glorify the Lord in their houses and who knows bring this plague to an end much quicker than anybody could imagine. Now a story for the kid's cos church always should have a kid's story (it's the only thing the adults listen to!) A long time ago when Pops left school he got a job looking after the animals in a zoo. All kinds of animals, kids to make this not boring I will need your help you are going to have to draw some pictures for me. Well there were all kinds of animals , sea lions that barked, lazy zebras that would never take off their pj's, ostriches that looked like upside down broom sticks, vultures that always looked at me as if I was their lunch, and many more. If this isn't too boring, I may tell you some other stories about some of them another time, but this story is about a baby elephant called baby elephant or BE for short. My job was to feed him 5 times a day with warn milk and rice which I put in a milk bottle and then pushed into his mouth. We became good friends , as soon as I came into his stable he would run up to me and reach out his little trunk like an arm and shake my hand but I had to be careful because although he was small he could still very easily push me over. My boss said I must feed him bananas as well as milk and rice he said I must peel them before I gave them to him. But I discovered if I put a banana on the floor BE learnt if he squashed the end of the banana just right then the banana would shoot out of its skin, well sometimes! This became one of our secrets it had to be a secret because for every banana that he shot out there would be lots that would become a squashy mess on the floor and my boss wouldn't like that very much. But our best secret of all was I learnt if I pulled BE's tail he would always walk forward. Well this little secret one day became very important, my boss was being paid by a comedian to take an elephant down to London airport so she could be filmed pulling an elephant through passport control like you pull a suitcase (I know stupid eh). Now as you Jesus made not only elephants

but ostriches, vultures and all the animals and the reason He made so many is because He wanted to show us things about Himself and one of the things I was learning was if I spent time with Jesus like I spent time with BE He would start showing me things about Heaven and Earth about God and man and best of all about Himself . when I began to spend time alone with Jesus, sometimes I thought my heart would burst with his loveliness. Back to my story, the big truck pulled up Saturday morning to take BE and me down to London but BE would not get into his box on the truck , my boss , the driver and the drivers mate where pushing BE as hard as they could but he would not budge , the boss didn't ask me to help because bosses always know best. If they couldn't get BE in soon they were going to be too late, so my boss grudgingly asked if I could help ,” sure “I said , I went up to BE and pretended to whisper something to him ,at the same time giving a little pull on his tail and like magic he went straight into his box. All the men were amazed “how did he do that “I just smiled. We got down to London airport, the famous comedian was waiting with the cameras and film crew. “Oh, David we will take it from here” the boss said but of course BE wouldn't move. “Can I help “I said,” no you are too scruffy for the television” said the boss. “He will be fine “said the comedian although he looks scruffy it seems the elephant likes him; it will make good TV. So, pretending to whisper in BE's ear and at the same time without anybody noticing I pulled BE's tail, off he went, and scruffy Pops went through London airport on the telly. “What a remarkable young man “they said “a boy that can talk to elephants” because nobody knew our secret except BE and me. So, next time you need to take and elephant for a walk, remember my secret. And if you want to know Jesus better and better just spend more and more time with Him

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As a parent, you're constantly transmitting your values to your children, so do these: 1) *Let them see you pray.* Help them understand prayer is a lifelong friendship with God. 2) *Show them what God is like.* Your child's concept of God is formed by you. 3) *Help them to see God in others.* When kids are encouraged to see God at work in their own lives, they begin to discern Him at work, in the lives of others too. 4) *Don't send them to Church, Take them.* Children need to believe – and belong. Teach them just like a limb dies, that's disconnected from a body, we die spiritually unless we are connected to a local church. Helping your kids to find the right path is the greatest gift you can give them.

LET US PRAY EACH DAY:

FATHER GOD HELP US TO FOCUS ON YOU!

1	Remembering All those persecuted and suffering in Ukraine, Lord protect them from all evil, bring peace and love to this war torn country
2	Let us continue to pray for a new vicar to lead us in our Church & Parish
3	Guide us Heavenly father towards those who are in need of our help
4	Praying for your blessing on our Families, Friends and Neighbours
5	Let us get closer to God and build a relationship with Him
6	We give thanks Lord for nature and the beauty that surrounds us
7	Be gentle, showing every consideration for all people
8	Praying for all residents in Stewart Crt, Meadow Croft and Rowland Court
9	The word of God...effectively works in you who believe (1Thess2:13)
10	Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.
11	The Holy Spirit helps all of us in our weaknesses (Romans 8:26)
12	Praying for all those awaiting hospital appointments and results
13	Praying for the sick in body, mind and spirit, Lord uplift them
14	Thank you Lord for the joys and humour of our Grandchildren
15	Let us pray each day for the blessing of renewed energy Gracious Lord
16	Thank you for all those looking after our Churches both inside and out
17	We pray for more in our congregation to help keep our Church doors open
18	Pray for those who live alone and the lonely, may they know your presence
19	We give thanks for our Royal British Legion in based here in Arley
20	Praying for all who are housebound – let us all reach out to them
21	Father God, make us more like You, help us to see others through your eyes
22	Pray for those who mourn the loss of a loved one. Bring them comfort Lord
23	We look forward to celebrating our Queens Platinum Jubilee in June
24	With a thankful heart we sing your praises Blessed Lord
25	Help us all to enjoy this better weather which will make us feel much better
26	Our prayers are with all school children and students at this time
27	We give thanks for our Church family and support they give us
28	Thank you Lord Jesus for being the centre of our lives
29	Help us Father God to persevere when things become difficult
30	Lord fill us with your wisdom and power when faced with tense situations
31	Holy Spirit - thank you for being part of all our lives

Eating in the UK in the fifties (Found on Facebook)

Pasta had not been invented
Curry was a surname
A Pizza was something to do with a leaning tower
Bananas and Oranges only appeared at Christmas time
All crisps were plain: the only choice we had was whether to put salt on or not
A Chinese chippy was a foreign carpenter
Rice was a milk pudding and never ever, part of our dinner
A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining
Brown bread was something that only poor people ate
Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking
Tea was made in a teapot using leaves and never green
Coffee was Camp and came in a bottle
Cubed sugar was regarded as posh
Only Heinz made beans
Fish did not have fingers in those days
Eating raw fish was called poverty and not sushi
None of us had ever heard of yoghurt
Healthy food consisted of anything that was edible
People who did not peel potatoes were considered lazy
Indian restaurants were only found in India
Cooking outside was called camping
Seaweed was not a recognized food
“Kebab” was not even a word never mind a food
Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days, and was regarded as being white
gold

Prunes were medicinal
Surprisingly Muesli was available, it was called cattle food
Pineapples came as chunks in a tin: we had only ever seen a picture of a real
one

Water came out of a tap, if someone suggested bottling it and charging more
than petrol for it, they would have become laughing stock

The only thing we never had on the table in the fifties was our elbows

ODE TO THE PIOUS

There once was a pious young priest
Who lived almost wholly on yeast
“For” he said, “it is plain
We must all rise again
And I want to get started at least

Memories of a London lad (By Vic Murray)

In this article I am going to say a swear word (WORK). I promise to wash my mouth out now I have used it. The year was 1957 and it was a couple of weeks before my thirteenth birthday. It was then that my father raised the issue. He told me that the newsagent at the top of our road was short of paper boys. He said I was reaching the age where I would want things that the other teenagers had. This was my chance to be able to buy some of them. A week later it all began. Up at 06:30am and off to the newsagents to collect the papers for my round. All my deliveries were nearby so my bike stayed in the shed. There were however two downsides. The first involved a four storey block of flats without a lift. That's right no lift!!! It meant a lot of exercise very early in the morning and just to post a couple of dozen newspapers. The second downside occurred every Sunday. As virtually all of the papers on the so called "day of rest" contained supplements. My paper bag weighed so heavy that I was tilted to one side when I left the shop. As the round progressed and the load reduced I gradually returned to an upright position. One house in particular made my blood boil. They did not have just one of the heavy papers. They had four of the heaviest ones. To get them through the letterbox required posting the paper and supplement separately. Four papers and four supplements meant I had to post eight separate items. To ease my frustration I would thump each one as I posted it. Sending them flying down the hall. The occupants would have all been wide awake by the time I had finished. The strange thing is that I never received a Christmas tip from that house. A few months after joining, I was offered what was classed as a better round. One where all of the deliveries were well spaced out. Of course this meant cycling to finish in time for school. As the houses were a reasonable distance from the shop the paper boy had the responsibility of collecting the payment. That meant going to each house twice on a Saturday. Before breakfast delivering the newspapers. After breakfast collecting the money. That meant goodbye to a lazy Saturday morning. However it was worthwhile at Christmas when the people tipped me for my hard work. There was one downside with living close to the shop. Because it meant that the manager knew where I lived. So if a boy failed to turn up he would come running, to ask me to do there round. As a result I have on a few occasions done two and a half paper rounds

in the morning. Then another after school delivering the evening papers. Then finally ended the day by selling papers at the edge of a factory estate. I want to finish by telling my most embarrassing moment as a paper boy. Snow had fallen and the roads were very icy. I had just collected my papers and was about to leave the shop. When a lady came in to buy something. She turned to me and said "I hope you are not using your bike today". "It is absolutely treacherous out there". I replied saying "I will be fine" and then left. Outside of the shop was a four lane main road, which I had to cross. I climbed on my bike and started on my way. Before I had got halfway I slid on the ice, and ended up on my backside. I got back on and continued on my way. Before the far curb I was on my backside for a second time. Realising that woman was likely to have been watching me out of the window. I picked up the bike and carried it back to the shop. Then I threw it against the shop wall. I then set off on foot mumbling away to myself. I was a paper boy for two and a half years. Finishing only when I left school. Two weeks later I started my first real job. But that is another story.

Vic's ponderings

A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two-tired.

A backwards poet writes inverse.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

If you don't pay your exorcist, will you get repossessed?

With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

Show me a piano falling down a mine shaft, and I'll show you a flat minor.

I have just started reading a book about locks and chains. However I am struggling to get into it.

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.

For further details please contact Mrs Denise Whittle on 01676.541916

Quiet Corner: Let us pray together.....

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We write to you as the world is in turmoil following recent events in Eastern Europe. I am sure that you will agree that the horrific and unprovoked attack on Ukraine is an act of great evil.

Now, more than ever, we need to place our trust in Jesus Christ, as we remember that God is not the author of confusion but of peace; and so I urge you to pray for a ceasefire, a withdrawal of Russian forces and for peace to prevail. Pray for the innocent – the women, men and children who are displaced, whose lives are disrupted, and who live in fear of the atrocities of war. Pray for those with power – that they may make a resolute and public decision to never use force, to actively work for peace and seek peaceful solutions to dispute and disagreement. Pray that there may be a recognition of common and shared humanity and God's promise of flourishing life for all people.

Please make this this prayer for Ukraine.

The Bishop in Europe has asked us to join them in prayer for the chaplaincy in Kyiv and the churches that serve Ukraine.

At this time of great uncertainty, we place our hope and trust in God, whose love never fails. Lord, have mercy.

Mighty God, your Son revealed himself again and again and convinced his disciples of his glorious resurrection. Help us to feel his risen presence, so that we can lovingly feed his sheep, and care for the lambs of his flock in our villages of Old and New Arley. **Amen**

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Most believers know that loving God is a key to a successful life. Loving others isn't always easy. Why? Because (Unlike God) the people in our lives let us down.

They fail. That's why its so important to read the rest of the verse. When we add 'as yourself' it all begins to make sense. We forgive ourselves for our flaws, don't we? Why are we so hesitant to extend the same grace to those we love? Truly loving them means we quickly let go of the things that bring division. When we do this, His love flows through us.

Lord, thank you for the reminder that loving others – even those who are difficult to love – is an important thing we can do in this life. Show us how to do this, we pray. Give us the courage to embrace grace, even in complicated situations. Amen

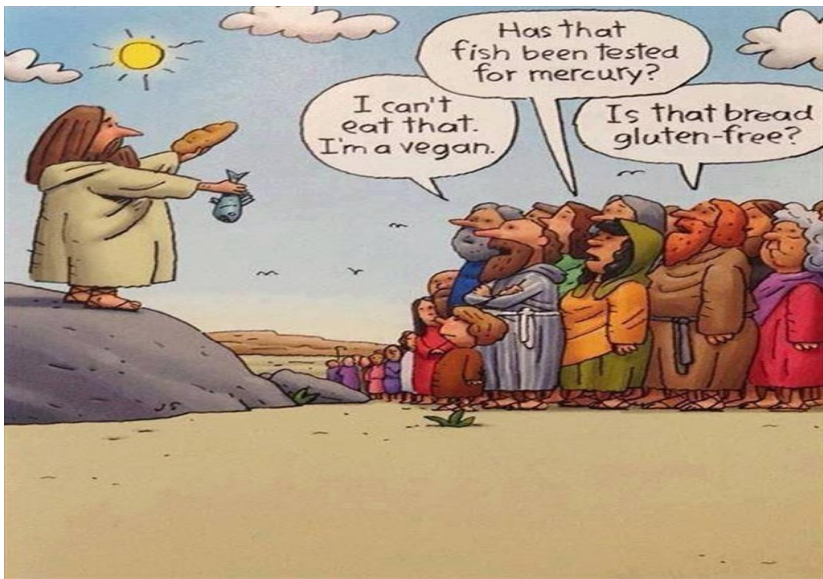
CHILDREN'S CORNER:

A long time ago when Pops left school he got a job looking after the animals in a zoo. All kinds of animals, kids to make this not boring I will need your help you are going to have to draw some pictures for me. Well there were all kinds of animals , sea lions that barked, lazy zebras that would never take off their PJ's, ostriches that looked like upside down broom sticks, vultures that always looked at me as if I was their lunch, and many more. If this isn't too boring, I may tell you some other stories about some of them another time, but this story is about a baby elephant called baby elephant or BE for short. My job was to feed him 5 times a day with warm milk and rice which I put in a milk bottle and then pushed into his mouth. We became good friends , as soon as I came into his stable he would run up to me and reach out his little trunk like an arm and shake my hand but I had to be careful because although he was small he could still very easily push me over. My boss said I must feed him bananas as well as milk and rice he said I must peel them before I gave them to him. But I discovered if I put a banana on the floor BE learnt if he squashed the end of the banana just right then the banana would shoot out of its skin, well sometimes! This became one of our secrets it had to be a secret because for every banana that he shot out there would be lots that would become a squashy mess on the floor and my boss wouldn't like that very much. But our best secret of all was I learnt if I pulled BE's tail he would always walk forward. Well this little secret one day became very important, my boss was being paid by a comedian to take an elephant down to London airport so she could be filmed pulling an elephant through passport control like you pull a suitcase (I know stupid eh). Now as you Jesus made not only elephants but ostriches, vultures and all the animals and the reason He made so many is because He wanted to show us things about Himself and one of the things I was learning was if I spent time with Jesus like I spent time with BE He would start showing me things about Heaven and Earth about God and man and best of all about Himself . when I began to spend time alone with Jesus, sometimes I thought my heart would burst with his loveliness. Back to my story, the big truck pulled up Saturday morning to take BE and me down to London but BE would not get into his box on the truck , my boss , the driver and the drivers mate were pushing BE as hard as they could but he would not budge , the

boss didn't ask me to help because bosses always know best. If they couldn't get BE in soon they were going to be too late, so my boss grudgingly asked if I could help ,” sure “I said , I went up to BE and pretended to whisper something to him ,at the same time giving a little pull on his tail and like magic he went straight into his box. All)

the men were amazed “how did he do that “I just smiled. We got down to London airport, the famous comedian was waiting with the cameras and film crew. “Oh, David we will take it from here” the boss said but of course BE wouldn't move. “Can I help “I said,” no you are too scruffy for the television” said the boss. “He will be fine “said the comedian although he looks scruffy it seems the elephant likes him; it will make good TV. So, pretending to whisper in BE's ear and at the same time without anybody noticing I pulled BE's tail, off he went, and scruffy Pops went through London airport on the telly. “What a remarkable young man “they said “a boy that can talk to elephants” because nobody knew our secret except BE and me. So, next time you need to take and elephant for a walk remember my secret. And if you want to know Jesus better and better just spend more and more time with Him

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Recipe for May: Coffee and Walnut Cupcakes: (makes 12)

Ingredients:

2 tablespns Instant coffee granules.
175gms unsalted softened butter,
175gms Caster sugar
3 medium eggs – beaten
175gms plain flour
2tspn Baking powder
2 tblsp milk
50gm Walnuts, toasted, chopped into small pieces.

Icing:

21 tspn instant coffee granules
250gms Mascarpone
2.1/2 tblsp light brown soft sugar
25gms Walnuts, toasted and roughly chopped to decorate
Cocoa powder to dust.

Method:

Preheat oven to 180 degC/160deg C fan. Gasmark 4.
Line 12 hole muffin tin with cases
For cupcakes, dissolve the coffee in 2tblsp of boiling water and set aside to cool briefly.
Beat butter and sugar in large bowl with hand held electric whisk, until light and fluffy, about 5 mins.
Gradually add eggs, beating well after each addition, if the mixture looks as if its about to curdle, mix in 1 tbspn of flour.
Whisk in cool coffee.
Sift over the remaining flour and baking powder, then fold it in with the milk and walnuts to combine.
Divide mixture between the muffin cases and bake in the oven for about 20 – 25 mins, until golden and springy to the touch.
Cool in the tin for 5mins,remove to wire rack to cool completely
For the Icing, dissolve coffee in 2 teasp of boiling water, leave to cool. Beat mascarpone and sugar together.Stir in cooled coffee.
Spread or pipe over the cooled cupcakes.Sprinkle with walnuts and dusting powder.
Store in airtight container when cool. (387 cal.28g fat.carbs 29g) ENJOY!

CHILDREN'S CORNER: Pop's New Job

Most of Pops friends had left the zoo, BE, the crown cranes, the pelicans and Percy the penguin, all of them had found new homes in zoos up and down the country. Pops had also left he didn't want to clip anymore wings or force food down anymore throats, he was glad that he had left but what to do now?

A man who was to become one of Pops heroes told him "to stand still and be quiet and you will know what to do", Pops interrupted "Stand still , I'm 17 how can I stand still and be quiet I want to do something for Jesus". Eddie that was his name said, "Hold on I haven't finished, allow Gods Holy spirit to lead you and you will know what to do". Sometimes Pop's mouth was quicker than his brain!

Within a couple of days Pops had got a new job. John one of Pops friends in the church told him of a temporary job helping with the harvest on the farm where he worked. Perfect, Pops started the next day. it was brilliant, driving tractors, stacking straw bales onto trailers, and carting them away from the fields into the barns. But the best job of all was following the combine harvester, driving the tractor that pulled the special trailer that caught all the corn that spilled out of the combine and then racing back to the farm , backing up to the tall silos and tipping the load of corn into the big pit where a special machine took it up to the top of the silo. Everyone worked flat out from early morning to late at night. Nothing was more important than getting all the harvest in before the autumn weather arrived. It seemed to Pops the same things were happening at church. More and more people were coming and joining the church, not just young people but people of all ages, there seemed to be an invisible combine harvester at work. Pops didn't understand how it was happening, but it was great fun, Pops decided he wanted to live like this forever. Then one day without any warning the harvest on the farm was over, the last trailer load of corn had been tipped and the last straw bale had been stacked under the big roof of the barn. "Well Dave, what do you think of farming?" the farmer asked Pops. "Brilliant" Pops said, Pops was still a little shy when talking to older people. "Well we would like you to stay on full time" "Yes please "Pops was going to become a real farmer, drive tractors and everything. The "everything came as a bit of a surprise. The farmer had just bought a new field and he wanted to take John and Pops to see it, so John and Pops jumped onto the trailer and the boss towed them with the tractor to the new field. The field followed a river for a long way and Pops couldn't quite make out where the field ended. "I like this field; this field is going to be very good for us "said the farmer. Pops felt very special that the farmer should confide in them both and wondered what job he wanted Pops and John to do.

Pops hoped that it would be to plough up the field. Pops had watched somebody ploughing and thought that it would be a great job to do even though he hadn't the first idea.

"Right I am going to drive slowly up and down the field and you two will walk behind the trailer and pick up all the large stones and boulders you see and throw them in the trailer" it took Pops and John three days to clear that field of stones. Pops thought he was quite fit and strong but by the end of three day he could hardly walk and only just lift his knife and fork to eat his dinner , which in all his life had never happened , Pops liked his food. What a difference from all the fun and excitement of the harvest. During harvest he was driving tractors all over the farmers fields up and down all the lanes and through the villages but this job he was focused on one field and just one small piece of that field making sure that he didn't miss any stones most of which were the size of footballs. Pops really liked the farmer but in his heart he couldn't help grumble "Look at the farmer just sitting on that tractor all day and us working like slaves under the hot sun , who does he think he is ?" Pops didn't like himself for thinking like that which only made him feel worse. When the job was finished and the field was clear of stones, the farmer said "That was a very important job and it had to be done if we had left the stones the plough and other machinery would keep getting smashed and broken but now the field is clear we can get on and plough, I'll teach you". Pops started to think "Could my heart be like the farmers new field"? The farmer had bought the new field and was very pleased and excited about its future but if he had left the stones then it would never produce the crops of wheat that the farmer wanted. Pops was still feeling so free and happy knowing that Jesus had forgiven him everything but just as Pops and his friend walked up and down the field looking and removing anything that wasn't what the framer wanted , so the Holy Spirit was beginning to look and remove stones from Pops heart. Stones of grumbling, they had to go, pop's tempers, his arguing, his swearing, and feeling sorry for himself, enough stones to fill up a lot of trailers. Some were in deep, just as Pops sometimes had to dig to release a stone so the Holy Spirit had begun digging deep in Pops heart.

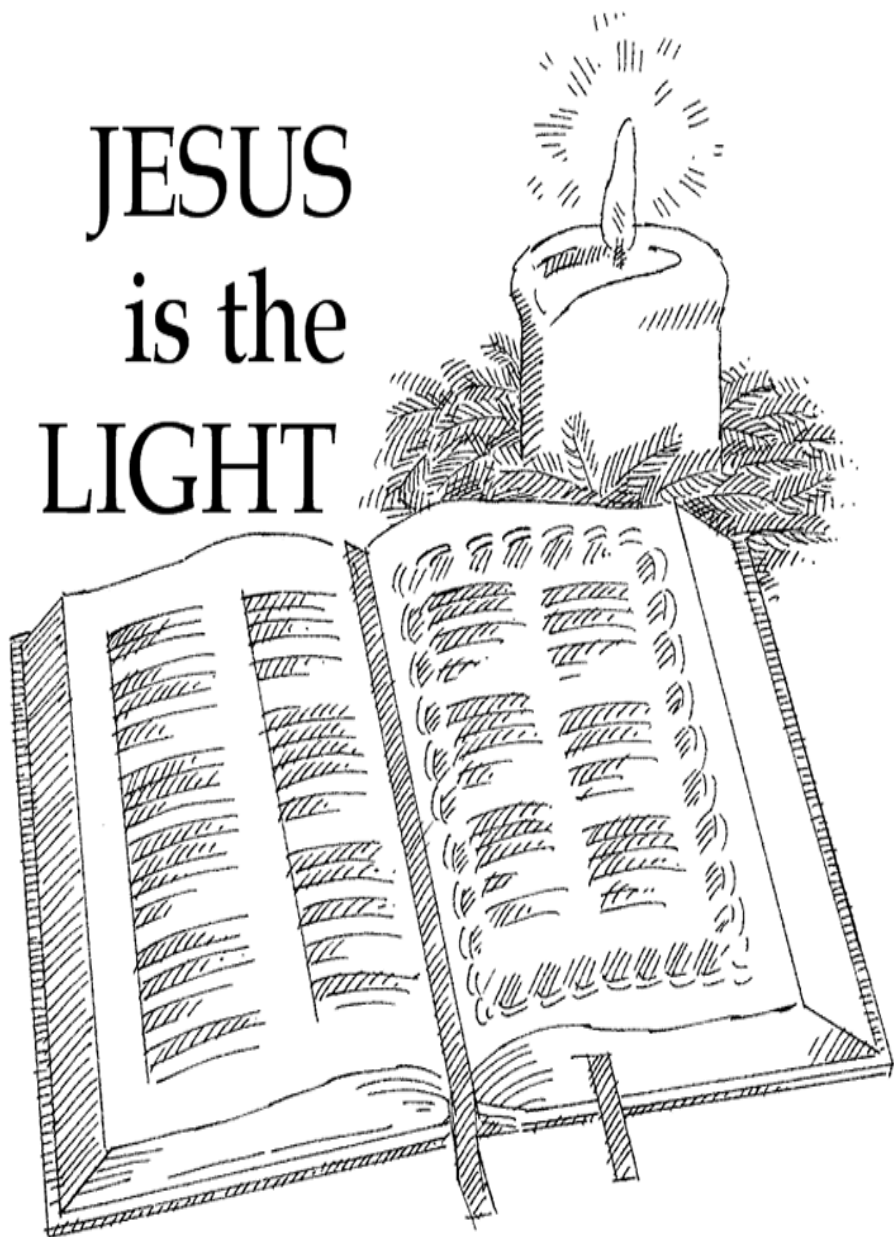
Pops wanted more than anything to have a heart like a good field where Jesus could grow a crop and harvest it over and over again.

So Pops was determined to say "Yes" every time the Holy Spirit discovered another stone that had to be removed.

Many thanks Katrina for your contribution. Maureen x

Children's picture to colour:

JESUS
is the
LIGHT



More True Stories from Anne about Whitacre Village(continued)

I don't know why she sang those two songs to us – we were never allowed to say belly or bum – it was rude. She also liked laments.' Land of the Leal was her favourite. It was written by Lady nairn and told of an old lady ready to depart this life talking to her husband John. One of the verses went:-
Dry your glistening'ee John; My soul longs to be free John.
And Angels beckon me, into the land o the leal.
Our bonnie bairns there John, she was both gude and fair, John
And O we grudged her sair, to mthe land o then leal.

Another painful dirge (not Scottish nthis time) went as follows;
Peep through the window, and what do you see?
A babe fast asleep, in its fond Fathers knee.
The babe soon awakes, and says, mother, dear
My child you have no mother now.

I had nightmar4es about the last two songs and one that 'Old Man Conway' sang about a girl saying to her mother,
Wake me early Mother dear, For I'm to be Queen of the May.

On goibg to wake her, the mother found the girl dead in bed. Regarding May day I always mourned the passing of the village maypole. I was convinced that the custom survived then because my birthday was on Mayday, then I would probably undoubtedly have been chosen to be Queen of the May. Thankfully the custom didn't survive and I didn't get disappointed.

Writing this brings a memory to my mind of my mother singing to Janet as a baby, it was probably that inane ditty 'night night Sharleys chuck chucks and Janry lying in oner of those old fashioned wooden cribs with rockers. It must have been very darki for the baby tucked up in one of these but very cosy because the crib stood by the hearth. As she sang my mothers foot rythmically rocked the crib. I wonder where she got it from, it would have been old fashioned in Edwardian times. Donald McNair once did a family tree of the McNair clan and found that we belonged to the McFarlanes. I looked this up. In a book in the library and got quite excited when I read that the McNairs had

been attached to the earl of Lennox. Our David burst my bubble by explaining that the clan members took the name of their leader. So it seems they were just peasants and their only notoriety was for raping and pillaging. One of my cousins said that he had never pillaged anyone as far as he knew. I didn't meet many of my Scottish relatives. Bella and Jeanie Gilles were at Aunt Netty's funeral as were some other cousins. They had remained close to Aunt Netty as she had almost been a young woman when she left Scotland and so she kept in touch with them. The only other one was 'Bunty Frae Larkhall' as my grandmother called her, she was her niece and stayed with her for a short time. As the years went by the older generations died off, we lost touch completely with our Scottish relatives. TIME TO GO HOME;- After a week of reminiscing, spoiling and visiting it was time to go home. Our little bodies replete with ice cream, two or three afternoon teas a day and Yorkshire pudding swimming in gravy serves as a first course in the Yorkshire way, we stood sheepishly waiting for the customary florin from our Uncles which were received with thanks and a kiss. We were well aware that these coins wouldn't be in our keeping for long, they would be confiscated when we arrived home to swell the coffers and enable Mum to feed us until next payday. We didn't care, it was nice to jingle them in our pockets for a little while and we might be able to spend one coin on pop and crisps on the way home. The journey home was not as long-winded as the journey going because Mum and Dad would be 'skint'. On one occasion, Mum told me many years later, she had pawned her engagement ring when in Barnsley, probably to finance a few trips to Harbough Hills Club. I was peeved about that because she had promised that I could have that ring when I grew up. The same procedure was followed reading our journey home. We were bunged in the back of the landrover with a parcel of sandwiches, ignored until we stopped.

Many thanks for your memories Anne. – Maureen x

The Sunflower Battle:

The deer in our area and I have two different opinions about sunflowers.

When I plant sunflowers each spring, I'm looking forward to the beauty of their blooms. My deer friends, however, don't care about the finished product. They simply want to chew the stems and leaves until there is nothing left. It's an annual summertime battle as I try to see the sunflowers to maturity before my four hooved neighbours devour them. Sometimes I win, sometimes they win.

When we think about our lives as believers in Jesus, it's easy to see a similar battle being waged between us and our enemy – Satan. Our goal is continual growth leading to spiritual maturity that helps our lives stand out for God's honour. The devil wants to devour our faith and keep us from growing. But Jesus has dominion over 'every power' and can bring us to 'fullness'(Colossians 2:10), which means He makes us complete. Christ's victory on the cross allows us to stand out in the world like those wonderful sunflowers.

When Jesus nailed the 'record of the charges against us' (the penalty for our sins) to the cross. He destroyed the power that controlled us. We became 'rooted and built up', and made 'alive with Christ'. In Him we have the power to resist the enemy's spiritual attacks and to flourish in Jesus – displaying a life of true beauty.

Loving God, make my life beautiful for You. Help me to resist the enemy through Your power because I can't do it on my own. Thank you for Jesus' death and resurrection – my source of hope, power and courage.

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Rising to Dance: In a widely shared video, an elegant elderly woman sits in a wheelchair. Once a famed ballet dancer, Marta Gonzalez Saidarfa now suffers from Alzheimer's disease. But something magical happens when Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* is played to her. As the music builds, her frail hands slowly rise, and as the first trumpets blast, she starts performing from her chair. Though her mind and body are perishing, her talent is still there. Reflecting on that video, my thoughts went to Paul's teaching on resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15. Likening our bodies to a seed that is buried before it sprouts into a plant, he says that though our bodies may perish through age or illness, may be a source of dishonour and may be wracked with weakness, the bodies of believers will be raised imperishable, full of glory and power. Just as there is an organic link between the seed and the plant, we will be 'us' after our resurrection, our personalities and talents intact, but we will flourish like never before. When the haunting melody began to play, a man reached over and held her hand, and so it will be for us, and we'll dance like never before.

God's Forgiveness, Mercy and Grace.

(Perfect love expels all fear)

God cares about you too much to leave you in any doubt about His love. The Bible says His 'Perfect love expels all fear'. If God loved us with an imperfect love, we'd have cause to worry. Human love is flawed: It keeps a checklist of our sins and shortcomings – and consults it often. God keeps no such list. His love casts out our fear because it casts out our guilt. John writes, 'If our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart'.(1 John 3 v20) When you feel unforgiven, 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 is you haven't accepted God's grace, you are doomed to live in fear. No pill, no pep talk,

Psychiatrist or earthly possession can put your mind at ease. Those things may help numb your fear, but they can't eradicate it. Only God's grace can do that. Have you accepted Christ's forgiveness? If not, get down on your knees and do it now. The Bible says, 'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us... and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness'.(1 John 1:9) The place of confession is also the place of cleansing and restored confidence towards God. Your prayer can be as simple as this: 'Lord I admit I have turned away from You. Please forgive me. I place my soul in Your hands and my trust in Your grace. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.'

Now having received God's forgiveness, mercy and grace – live like it.!

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Many people look at grief as a bad thing, but it's really not. God gave us the emotions we have so that we'd have an outlet – a way to get things out in the open. When we're grieving we are openly expressing (on the outside) what we are feeling on the inside.

While it's not healthy to grieve for extended periods of time, it's equally unhealthy to turn your back on grieving.

If you are going through a hard season, don't be afraid to let your emotions out. Your body and heart will thank you.

Father, thank you for the reminder that its ok to grieve. You gave us these emotions, and we're so grateful. Please help us to grieve on Your timetable. May seasons of grief be short lived. Amen.

May Day Celebrations

Many folklore customs have their roots planted firmly back in the Dark Ages, when the ancient Celts had divided their year by four major festivals. *Beltane* or 'the fire of Bel', had particular significance to the Celts as it represented the first day of summer and was celebrated with bonfires to welcome in the new season. Still celebrated today, we perhaps know *Beltane* better as May 1st, or May Day. Down through the centuries May Day has been associated with fun, revelry and perhaps most important of all, fertility. The Day would be marked with village folk cavorting round the maypole, the selection of the May Queen and the dancing figure of the Jack-in-the-Green at the head of the procession. Jack is thought to be a relic from those enlightened days when our ancient ancestors worshipped trees. These pagan roots did little to endear these May Day festivities with either the established Church or State. In the sixteenth century riots followed when May Day celebrations were banned. Fourteen rioters were hanged, and **Henry VIII** is said to have pardoned a further 400 who had been sentenced to death.

The May Day festivities all but vanished following the Civil War when **Oliver Cromwell** and his Puritans took control of the country in 1645. Describing maypole dancing as 'a heathenish vanity generally abused to superstition and wickedness', legislation was passed which saw the end of village maypoles throughout the country.

Dancing did not return to the village greens until the restoration of **Charles II**. 'The Merry Monarch' helped ensure the support of his subjects with the erection of a massive 40 metre high maypole in London's Strand. This pole signalled the return of the fun times, and remained standing for almost fifty years.

Maypoles can still be seen on the village greens at Welford-on-Avon and at Dunchurch, Warwickshire, both of which stand all year round. Barwick in Yorkshire, claims the largest maypole in England, standing some 86 feet in height.

May Day is still celebrated in many villages with the crowning of the May Queen.

May Day traditions in southern England include the Hobby Horses that still rampage through the towns of Dunster and Minehead in Somerset, and Padstow in Cornwall.

Bible Word Search:

NAMES AND TITLES OF JESUS

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

CHRIST

KING of the Jews

LORD

RABBI

SON OF DAVID

EMMANUEL

LAMB of God

MASTER

REDEEMER

SON OF GOD

JESUS

LIGHT of the World

NAZARENE

SAVIOR

SON OF MAN

Royal British Legion Arley Branch

40th Anniversary of the Falklands War

On Wednesday the 25th May at 10am the Arley Branch of the Royal British Legion will be holding a service to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands War

We will also commemorate the sinking of H.M.S Coventry with the loss of 19 lives on this day in 1982

A wreath of remembrance will be laid

A local man, Mr Frederick Kelly, was a Chief Petty Officer on board HMS Coventry. After the laying of the wreath, on the Cenotaph, we will proceed into the churchyard to lay a posy on Fred Kelly and Jean Kelly's graves.

Simon Cripwell simoncripwell@warwickshire.gov.uk

For your information.

A fraudster who conned holidaymakers in to paying for fake COVID-19 'fit to fly' certificates at the height of the pandemic has been successfully prosecuted by WCC's Trading Standards Service.

Saranjeet Trina Kandola (aged 41) of South View Road, Leamington Spa traded as 'Travel Test Solutions Ltd', a business that offered PCR tests for holidaymakers costing between £60 and £149 per person.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/2878/fraudster-conned-travellers-with-fake-covid-19-certificates>

To make a consumer complaint, obtain consumer help and advice or report an issue to Trading Standards, please contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133. For consumer or business help and advice, including details of our approved trader scheme, please visit our website: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards>

Standards Officer. Warwickshire County Council. Shire Hall (Post Room)

Northgate Street.
Warwick CV34 4RL
01926 738987/07771 975570
simoncripwell@warwickshire.gov.uk.

ALSO

Warwickshire Trading Standards is alerting both retailers and consumers to an urgent product recall of some **Kinder chocolate** products that may be contaminated with **Salmonella**.

Warwickshire retailers are being asked to check their shelves for Kinder products that are subject to the product recall and remove affected products from sale. For more information visit: <https://www.food.gov.uk/news-alerts/alert/fsa-prin-25-2022-update-2>.

Consumers should check their cupboards. If you have one of the listed Kinder chocolate products, **do not consume it**.

Consumers can find out more here: <https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/fsa-alerts-files/production/FSA-PRIN-25-2022-update-2/Customer-notice-Ferrero-recalls-Kinder-products-due-to-salmonella-3.pdf>

OBEDIENCE
(John 14:15)

It's tempting to read this Scripture and quickly move on to the next one.

We don't care much for the idea that love and obedience go hand in hand, but they, but they do!

When a child loves his parents, he obeys them. The same is true with us, God's kids.

The way we prove our love is to follow His commands. Which commands?

Oh little things like, 'Do unto others as you would have others do unto you'

That sort of thing. Or maybe, 'In all your ways acknowledge Him'. Here's the good part: Obedience comes naturally to those who love.

It's not a sacrifice or an act of service. It is a true reflection of a loving heart,

One that seeks to please out of a genuine desire to do right by the other person.



FATHER WE WANT TO DO RIGHT BY YOU. WE LOVE YOU SO MUCH.

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.

www.arleycofechurches.org.uk/