# ST. WILFRID'S & ST. MICHAEL'S Meeting Needs, Bringing Hope, Sharing Love



**JUNE 2022** 

Church Warden John Cox 02476.394802 Church Warden Vic Murray X.D

#### 'AND IT WAS NIGHT'

Elie Wiesel's book *Night* starkly confronts us with the horrors of the Holocaust. Based on his own experiences, Wiesel's account flips the biblical story of the Exodus. While Moses and the Israelites *escaped* slavery at the first Passover.(Exodus 12) Wiesel tells od Jewish leaders being arrested following Passover.

Lest we criticise Wiesel and his dark irony, consider that the Bible contains a similar plot twist. On the night of Passover, Jesus, expected to free God's people from suffering, instead permits Himself to be arrested by those who would kill Him.

John ushers us into the holy scene before Jesus' arrest. 'Troubled in spirit' over what awaited Him, at the Last Supper Jesus predicted His betrayal.(John 13:21) Then, in an act we can scarcely comprehend, Christ served His betrayers bread. The account reads: 'As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.'(v30) History's greatest injustice was underway, yet Jesus declared, 'Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him'(v31) In a few hours, the disciples would experience panic, defeat, and dejection. But Jesus saw God's plan unfolding as it should.

When it seems as though the darkness is winning, we can recall that God faced His dark night and defeated it. He walks with us. It won't always be night.

Thank You, Jesus, for keeping Your Father's plan in view when You went through the steps to the cross. Thank You for conquering death for us.

Jesus, thank You for choosing to come to earth to offer Your life so that we could enjoy a relationship with God for all eternity

Loving God make our lives beautiful for You. Help us to resist the enemy through Your power because we cannot do it on our own.

Pray each Day during June: Praying for peace in Ukraine and an end to this devastating war 2 Compassionate God, help us to witness honesty to those who are experiencing pain and offer the hope You provide. 3 Gracious Lord give us the strength to face unbearable trials 4 Let us Pray for all Residents living in sheltered dwellings 5 Lord thank you for your encouragement to try new things 6 Lord, thank you for your Spirits help when we struggle to pray 7 Thank you for Your peace you give yesterday, today & tomorrow 8 Creator God, thank you for the beauty that surrounds us 9 Help us all Lord to be patient, to love and forgive as You do 10 Father, help us to do right by others & all You bring into our lives Lord,may Your extraordinary love flow through us to others 11 12 Mighty God, thank You for your promise of restoration in us 13 Heavenly Father, help us to choose to serve You today in everything we do. 14 Praying for all in Meadow Croft, Rowland Crt. Stewart Court 15 Pray for our Arley Churches of St. Wilfrid's and St. Michael's 16 Heavenly Father, Let us show love and kindness to all 17 Praying for all those in hospital at this time- Bless them Lord 18 God of Integrity, You're honest and faithful. Make us like You 19 Loving God, there's so much heartbreak in our world. Help us to follow You beyond what we can understand 20 Lord ,thankyou for your loving kindness you have shown us all 21 God we thankyou for your generosity and grace in giving many so many amazing gifts 22 Give thanks and ask blessings Lord, on all children worldwide 23 Help us to serve You in many ways and give us energy to do so 24 Father, we give You thanks for our wonderful Grandchildren 25 Praying for all studying for exams at University or College 26 Praying for Dr's. and Nurses and Carers in our Health Service 27 Pray for all night workers doing vital work in the community 28 Dear Lord, thank You for Your listening ear 29 Lord we offer You our gratitude and praise for all You do 30 Lets look forward to sunnier times ahead

#### Children's Corner:

Gone Fishing One Saturday when Pops was still at school his dad took him on a fishing competition. It was held on the river Stour just south of Stratford upon Avon where Pops was born. They had to start very early in the morning because great grandads Austin 7 got very annoyed if great grandad tried to make it go any faster than 30 miles an hour, it would start wobbling its front wheels, the little windscreen wiper (just one) would start jumping up and down and lots of very grey smoke would appear from under the bonnet but Pops thought it just did that to show his dad that it could produce just as much smoke as his dad's pipe. His dad's pipe always won! There were about twenty men in the competition, each one had a "Peg" on the riverbank, and they couldn't fish anywhere else while the competition was in progress. Pops was the youngest in the competition and his "Peg "was next to the most experienced man in the competition, he even had little badges that he had won fishing pinned to his hat. The whistle blew for the start of the competition, Pops put his favourite bait two pinkie maggots on a No 14 hook - lovely! "'I'll show "Badge Man" next to me how to catch fish, thinks he's the best does he" said Pops to his box of maggots, Pops was a very strange boy! "I'll cast out as far as I can, and the Mr Badge Man will see what an expert caster I am". It was a very hot day; Pops was catching nothing but Badge man on the next "Peg" seemed to be catching fish far too often for Pop's liking. Pops was still showing off with his long casts, but his neighbour was doing the opposite, just short casts every time and making his float pop up just beside the lily pads that separated him and Pops. Eventually Pops realised what was happening, because it was a hot day the fish were sheltering in the shade of the lily pads and not even Pop's juicy pinkies could entice them out of the cool shade. The whistle blew for the end of the competition, the judges came down the line weighing the catches. Pops got his catch out, a couple of manky tiddlers, they hardly moved the scales. Next was Badge Man plop,plop,plop,plop, loads of fish making the scales jump as if it had hiccups. Of course, Badge Man won. "Why didn't you follow what I was doing and put your float next to your side of the lilies"? Badge Man said to Pops. But Pops just shrugged and said "Dunno" and walked away before he did something with the pinkie maggots and Badge Mans hat. Pops just couldn't talk to grownups especially when they were right, and he was wrong. He knew what was happening with the fish but because of his stupid pride he could not bring himself to change what he was doing and because of that pride he had no fish and had lost the competition and Pops hated losing. It had been many years since Pops last conversation with maggots, but he had never forgotten his stubbornness and the empty net and Pops knew if he was going to be a fisherman for Jesus and catch men for Him, he knew he would have to do it the Jesus way. The disciples fished all night and caught nothing but as soon as they heard the Lord's voice and cast their nets on the right side of the boat their nets were full. Pops was determined to turn his back on his foolish pride and stubbornness and discover the secrets that Jesus taught his disciples and those Christians down through history that became expert fishers of men. He read about George Fox, George Whitfield, John Wesley, Charles Finney, D L Moody and Hudson Taylor and many others and realised they had one thing in common, they had discovered the secret of prayer and when they had discovered it they prayed and prayed and prayed and as they prayed God changed them and they started living and fishing the Jesus way.

With kind permission of David Orange.

We will thank You Lord, among all the people. We will sing Your praises among the nations. For Your unfailing love is higher than the heavens. Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens. May Your glory shine over all the earth. (Psalm 108: 3 - 5)

Bend down, O Lord, and hear our prayers; answer us, for we need Your help. (Psalm 86:1)

And now unto him who is able to keep us from falling and lift us from the dark valley of despair to the bright mountain of hope, from the midnight of desperation to the daybreak of joy; to him be power and authority for ever and ever.

Martin Luther King Jnr.

#### THE SUNFLOWER BATTLE: (Colossians 2: 6 – 14)

The deer in our area and I have two different opinions about sunflowers. When I paint 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's nothing left. It's an annual summertime battle as I try to see the sunflowers to maturity before my four hoofed 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 beautiful sunflowers.

When Jesus nailed the 'record of the charges against us',( the penalty for our sins)to the cross(v14) He destroyed the powers that controlled us. We became 'rooted and built up'(v7) and made 'alive with Christ'(v13) In Him we have the power(v10)to resist the enemy's spiritual attacks and to flourish in Jesus – displaying a life of true beauty.

Living God, make our lives beautiful for You. Help us to resist the enemy through Your power because we can't do it on our own. Thank you for Jesus' death and resurrection – our source of hope, power and courage.

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for the courage You showed during Your life on earth. Fill us with Your wisdom and power when we face tense situations. Amen

Thank you Father, for promising to be especially close to the brokenhearted. Please comfort them with Your presence today. Amen .



#### **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

Let us pray: ......

We give our thanks, Creator God, for the fathers in our lives. Fatherhood does not come with a manual, and reality teaches us that some fathers excel while others fail. We ask for Your blessings for them all – and forgiveness where it is needed. This Father's Day we remember the many sacrifices fathers make for their children and families, and the ways – both big and small – they lift children to achieve dreams thought beyond reach.

So too, we remember all those who have helped fill the void when fathers pass early or are absent – grandfathers and uncles, brothers and cousins, teachers, pastors and coaches – and the women of our families.

For those who are fathers, we ask for wisdom and humility in the face of the task of parenting. Give them the strength to do well by their children and by You.

In Your Holy Name we pray. Amen

#### June recipe:

#### ALMOST INSTANT BANANA PUDDING:

#### Ingredients:

- 4 thick slices of ginger cake
- 6 Bananas
- 2 tblspns Lemon Juice
- ½ pint Whipping Cream or Fromage frais.
- 4 tblspns Fruit juice
- 3 4 tblspns Soft brown sugar

#### Method:

Break up the cake into chunks, arrange in ovenproof dish. Slice bananas and toss in the lemon juice Whip the cream, and, when firm, gently whip in the juice (If using fromage frais, just gently stir in the juice) Fold in the bananas and spoon the mixture over the ginger cake.

Top with soft brown sugar and place under hot grill for 2-3 minutes to caramelize. Chill to set firm again if you wish, or serve when required.

SUNDAY JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup> ST. MICHAELS CHURCH 10.30am (TRINITY SUNDAY)

SUNDAY JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup> ST. WILFRID'S CHURCH 10.30am

SUNDAY JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup> ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH 10.30 am (FATHERS DAY)

SUNDAY JUNE 26<sup>TH</sup> ST. WILFRID'S CHURCH 10.30am

PLEASE COME ALONG AND JOIN US.

# Covid-19 certificates fraudster sentenced to two years in prison

A fraudster who conned holidaymakers in to paying for fake COVID-19 'fit to fly' certificates at the height of the Coronavirus pandemic has been successfully prosecuted by Warwickshire Trading Standards and given an immediate two-year custodial sentence.

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.

The prosecution was brought by Warwickshire County Council's Trading Standards Service following an investigation after a customer became concerned that the certificates they had received were fake.

The trader, who advertised on social media, visited the homes of customers to take swabs that should then have been tested at a laboratory. However, no laboratory tests were ever carried out and the COVID 'free' certificates issued were worthless.

The investigation found that over a 17 day period, KANDOLA had agreed to provide at least 47 certificates obtaining almost £5000. She only stopped marketing her services when she found out she was being investigated by Warwickshire Trading Standards.

For more information about the work of Warwickshire County County Council's Trading Standards Service, please visit: <a href="https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards">https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards</a>

Simon Cripwell. Snr. Standards Training Officer.

The history of Father's Day goes back to 1908, when a church in West Virginia held a sermon to honour 362 men who had been killed the previous year in a coal mining explosion. This was the country's first-ever event to strictly honour fathers, but it was just a one-and-done thing, at least in that community.

Father's Day is a holiday that celebrates and honours fathers and their influence in our lives. You don't solely have to honour your biological father on this holiday though—you can celebrate <u>grandfathers</u>, <u>stepfathers</u>, adoptive fathers, and others you consider father figures.



#### **Lessons to Learn From Noah**

Noah stands out among fathers in the Bible as a man who clung to

God in spite of the wickedness all around him. What could be more relevant today? Noah was far from perfect, but he was humble and protective of his family. He bravely carried out the task God assigned to him. Modern fathers may often feel they are in a thankless role, but God is always pleased by their devotion.

God promises to bless and protect those who faithfully follow and obey him.

Obedience is not a sprint but a marathon. It means a lifetime of faithful devotion

Even the most faithful fathers have weaknesses and can fall into sin.

#### Continued:-True stories from Anne about the village of Whitacre:

On our journeys we often spent our time leaning out the back of the vehicle, waving to passers by, who sometimes waved back. I threw my crusts out to feed the birds and we enjoyed the sensation in our stomachs when we went over a hump backed bridge.

Soon we were back in Whitacre at the White House Cottages. I rushed to check everything. I checked whether the hens had hatched chickens or the goats and rabbits had babies. I scratched the back of the large white sow in the pigsty. Mr. Conway said she weighed twenty score and I gave William a hug and a kiss and made him a slice of bread and jam which I though6t would be a treat for him. Within an hour or two we had settled down to our normal life. The next couple of weeks passed very quickly and then it was time for school again. Janet had already started school and David was about to join us. My mother has asked me to ask Mrs. Hicken if he could start, I probably misled her about his age because when I took him she said, 'I thought he was older than this'. However, they kept him, in those more relaxed days a few months here and there didn't matter.

<u>The Old Farm:</u> Now we were all safely at school Mum could carry on with her cleaning job at the Old farm without worrying about us. As I have already mentioned Mum had this job with a family called Thomson and this was the start of an association with the Old farm and its occupants that was to last nearly thirty years until her death.

Mrs. Thomson used to allow Mum to take us children with her when she cleaned during the school holidays, and I'm sure seeing this house and its contents influenced me throughout my life. I have always loved old furniture, china and glass. I didn't know why I liked this old furniture I just knew I loved the smooth shininess of the wood and the deep dark colour. Likewise my mothers taste also changed, previous to this she had been quite content with her veneered utility dining room suite but now she preferred chintz and mahogany to uncut moquette and fumed oak.

The house which had once really been a working farm once having been owned by the Hayfield family in earlier years was a very attractive place. It

was set sideways on the road and was in an 'L' shape. There was a conservatory which ran along from the back door all along the side of the house, but it wasn't a conservatory where one sat amongst exotic

flowers, but really an extension to the kitchen housing storage cupboards and an inside lavatory to be used by 'the help' as Claire Salt said some years later. The kitchen was a functional place with deep sinks and plate racks and also a large cupboard style refrigerator – the first one I ever saw. This kitchen opened out into the breakfast room which had a carved Jacobean dresser a huge table and an Aga. The larders were as big as our cottage, tiled all in white with the shelves full of tins, pockets and packets. I suppose \Mr. Thomson being in the fruit trade had contacts and I doubt his family went short of much. There was a little room at the other side of the breakfast room which they called the Butler's pantry, a bit pretentious because the house would never have been grand enough to warrant employing a butler. Above the door leading into the hallway was one of those panels which they had in old houses which shows which room a servant is being summoned from, it was just there for show because there weren't any bell pulls in any of the rooms but I used to imagine the little maid servant running to the 'drawing room' when summoned.

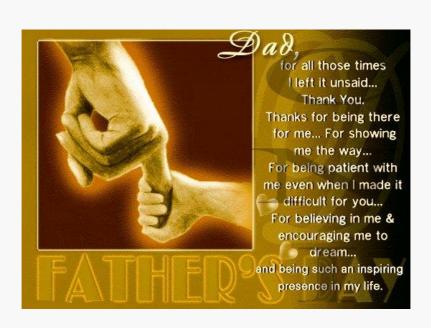
If I had been born 50 years earlier I would probably have been one of those.

In the hallway, with its parquet floor covered by a long Persian runner there was, of all things a telephone!! It was kept on a table at the bottom of the sweeping staircase and I would have loved to have had a 'go' on it, it would have been no use, we didn't know anyone who owned a telephone. Leading off the hallway to the right was the morning room, and they really did use this room in the morning's. It got all the morning sun and was very cosy and comfortable with a deep window seat in the bay window, I thought it was much nicer than the 'drawing room'. The dining room had a brick inglenook fireplace and the usual refectory table, a side - table under the window held silver dishes and salvers, it was one of my mother's jobs to clean these, so she didn't see them in the same light as I did. The drawing room was enormous with a French window at one end leading on to the terrace. I think the furniture was covered with gold damask if my memory serves me correctly, and there was a 'baby grand' in the middle of the room. Ann Thomson was taking piano lessons at her convent school and showed me some five finger exercises and I stretched my little hand to play 'C"D"C"D"E"D"C, to this day that is all I can play on the piano.

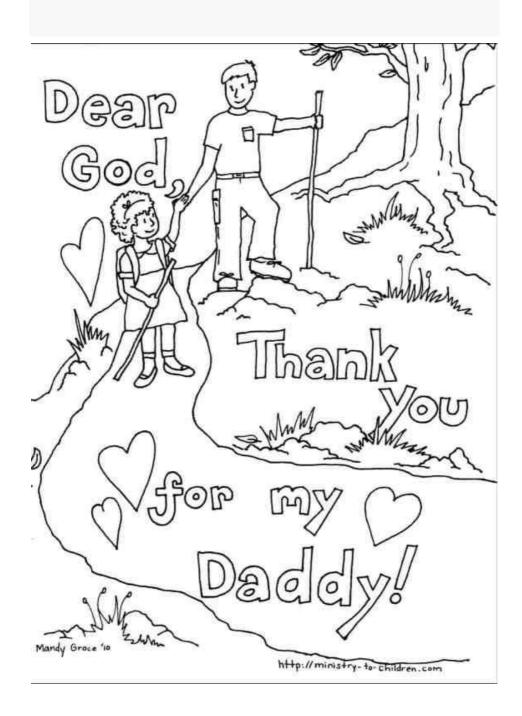
Thank You Anne for taking us down Your memory Lane. Maureen x

#### To My Dad On Father's Day

The pain that I am feeling Never seems to go away I wish I could visit Heaven If only for a day I know that you would hold me And whisper in my ear "Don't think of me as gone away, Because I am always near" I know you're in a better place where you are at peace and free To be happy in eternal life And can still watch over me Although the door between our worlds Is closed and we're apart Until the time God opens it You're always in my heart



#### **CHILDREN'S COLOURING PAGE:**



#### Little Quips:

The story is told of a father of five children who came home with a toy. He summoned his children and asked which of them should be given the present. "Who is the most obedient one here? Who never talks back to Mum and does everything that Mum says to do?" He inquired. There were a few seconds of silence, and then all of the children said in one accord: "You play with it Daddy!"

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"Fathers are the great gift-givers of the world!"

Father to teenage son: "No, you can't use the car—but please feel free to use the lawnmower."

"You don't raise heroes; you raise sons. And if you treat them like sons, they'll turn out to be heroes, even if it's just in your own eyes."

My father always told me, "Find a job you love and you'll never have to work a day in your life."

"God is the Father who is always home."

A father is a thing that is forced to endure childbirth without an anaesthetic...A father never feels worthy of the worship in a child's eyes. He's never quite the hero his daughter thinks, never quite the man his son believes him to be, and this worries him, sometimes. So he works too hard to try and smooth the rough places in the road for those of his own who will follow him...Fathers are what give daughters away to other men who aren't nearly good enough, so they can have grandchildren who are smarter than anybody's. Fathers make bets with insurance companies about who'll live the longest. One day they lose and the bet's paid off to the part of them they leave behind."

#### **Update on Ukraine**

Dear Friends

Please find enclosed an update from our friends in Moldova and Poland.

Our brother pastor Vladimir sent us this a short while ago

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

you can see here the damaged building (sorry we can't post the video here) of the Evangelical Baptist Church in Mariupol.

And in the courtyard of this church, 5 of our brothers, members of this church, were buried, they were shot by the Russian military at that time when the brothers, risking their lives, were delivering food to the hungry and needy people of Mariupol.

Once I already wrote that I do not glorify the heroes of the faith, but glorify the One who makes ordinary people heroes of the faith.

On the wall of this church, very well known to me, there are words from the Bible spoken by Jesus Christ: "I will build my Church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18).

This is truly a prophetic word from the Lord himself!

Vladimir Franchuk. (With Kind permission of David Orange)



Loving God, We pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.

We pray for the world, that in this moment of crisis, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for all the world. Amen

### Fathers Day Word Search

Find the hidden words.

| S         | S         | D | S | S            | R | L            | G            | Z         | Τ         | Χ            | K | R         | L | В |
|-----------|-----------|---|---|--------------|---|--------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|---|-----------|---|---|
| T         | Ε         | F | L | $\mathbb{W}$ | E | A            | L            | Н         | I         | I            | A | G         | N | A |
| R         | K         | U | 0 | Ε            | T | Χ            | 0            | A         | S         | P            | Н | U         | G | S |
| 0         | 0         | N | 0 | E            | Н | U            | U            | S         | В         | T            | R | A         | Ε | Н |
| P         | J         | N | Τ | Τ            | G | D            | Ε            | $\bigvee$ |           | $\mathbf{T}$ | E | D         | G | V |
| S         | T         | Y | 0 | Н            | U | S            | L            | S         | U         | M            | 0 | N         | M | G |
| F         | $\bigvee$ | C | T | Н            | A | $\mathbb{W}$ | $\mathbf{E}$ | R         | 0         | Z            | 0 | 0         | N | W |
| $\bigvee$ | I         | F | Ε | G            | L | I            | E            | Н         | Q         | R            | L | I         | F | Н |
| D         | U         | S | Ι | P            | R | T            | C            | Ε         | T         | 0            | R | P         | L | 0 |
| L         | A         | F | Н | 0            | S | F            | N            | S         | V         | A            | J | G         | A | L |
| E         | T         | D | M | I            | U | E            | A            | E         | C         | G            | U | I         | I | I |
| S         | I         | E | D | J            | N | Z            | R            | T         | R         | M            | N | $\bigvee$ | C | D |
| A         | M         | Τ | L | Y            | Z | G            | 0            | Ι         | Н         | A            | E | I         | Ε | A |
| F         | A         | M | Ι | $\mathbb{L}$ | Y | В            | R            | A         | $\bigvee$ | $\mathbf{E}$ | P | N         | P | Y |
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| BBQ      | FATHER   | HOLIDAY | LAUGHTER | SPECIAL    |
|----------|----------|---------|----------|------------|
| BRAVE    | FISHING  | HOME    | LOVE     | SPORTS     |
| CARING   | FOOTBALL | HONOR   | MEMORIES | STRONG     |
| CHILDREN | FUNNY    | HUGS    | NURTURE  | SWEET      |
| DADDY    | GIFTS    | JOKES   | PARENT   | THOUGHTFUL |
| DEVOTED  | GIVING   | JUNE    | PROTECT  | TIE        |
| FAMILY   | HEART    | KISSES  | RESPECT  | TOOLS      |

<sup>©</sup> Crafting The Word Of God

FATHERHOOD: Joseph, as far as being a Christian man that is guided by the Holy Spirit given by God when Jesus ask for Him to be sent to earth to be with us. Most men believe that being a good provider means supporting a family financially. ... A man should also contribute to the emotional, spiritual, physical and mental well-being of his family. These characteristic apply to his spouse as well as children and anyone else that is his responsibility. Joseph was picked to be the earthly (adopted) father just as much as Mary was picked to be the mother of our Saviour Jesus. Even before God spoke to Joseph - Joseph didn't have any vengeance or bitterness in his heart. The Bible says: he "was minded to put her away secretly". There were ways in which a divorce (engagement to be married was the same as marriage under the Jewish Law) could be enacted very guietly, without the involvement of a judge, and Joseph was already considering the best way to do this.

Joseph was kind. He LOVED Mary. His love for her was based on a real commitment. And husbands, the Bible says we must love our wives with all that we are. Ephesians 5:25 - the example is that we must love our wives sacrificially, even as Christ loved the church and lay down His life for it. But we also see that Joseph was a loving man in his relationship toward Jesus. If loving to Jesus so to his other children also.

When the child came along at first Joseph was in shock. He probably couldn't eat or sleep and his mind was restless over the situation. Then he was visited by an angle: Matthew 1:20: But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

Joseph accept the child he had not conceived - there was no attitude in Joseph after his visit by an angel "This boy isn't my flesh and blood". There was no resentment or indifference toward Him; no lack of love at all. Joseph adopted Jesus as his own. He protected Him from the hatred of Herod. He nurtured Him and cared for Him. Evidently he taught Jesus his own trade of carpentry.

He adopted the one that the rest of the world would reject.

Pentecost is a Christian observance commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus Christ's disciples, according to the Christian Bible. Many Christians in the United Kingdom celebrate Pentecost, which is also known as Pentecost Sunday, Whitsunday, or Whit Sunday.

#### What Do People Do?

Pentecost is a joyous period for many Christians in the United Kingdom. Many churches have special Pentecost services for people – both members and guests – to learn more about Pentecost, its history and the meaning of this occasion in modern times. Whit Sunday is called "Bread and Cheese Day" in Gloucestershire because of an old tradition that involves throwing bread and cheese. Many church groups organise celebrations in venues such as parks or community halls. These celebrations often include speeches from special guests, music, food, activities for children, and opportunities for people to socialize. Pentecost is also a day allocated for baptisms in some churches. Many Christians recognise Pentecost as the birth of the Christian church.

The Pentecost Festival is a Christian festival in London during the Pentecost weekend. The festival features various events including music, sport, art, and cultural events. Many churches and Christian organisations participate in this festival. The Pentecost Festival was first held in 2008 and featured 150 events at more than 60 venues and outdoor spaces. More than 100 people were out on the streets around the events, talking to people and praying.

<u>Background</u> According to the Christian Bible, it was on the 50th day after Easter when the apostles prayed together and the Holy Spirit descended on them. They received the "gift of tongues" – the ability to speak in other languages – and immediately began to preach about Jesus Christ to Jewish people from all over the world who flocked to Jerusalem for the Feast of Shavuot.

Christian Pentecost not only commemorated the Holy Spirit's visit but also marked the birth of the Christian Church. Although it is not certain when Christians started observing Pentecost, it may have been early as the first century CE. Whitsuntide, also referred to as Whitsun in modern times, is the period beginning with the Saturday before Whitsunday and ending the following Saturday. According to church tradition, Pentecost is about seven weeks after Easter Sunday, or 50 days after Easter, including Easter Day churches still observe holidays according to the Julian calendar, which preceded the Gregorian calendar adopted by many western churches.

The Easter date depends on the ecclesiastical approximation of the March equinox.

## HIS CROSS OF PEACE: (Mark 15:21)

Sombre eyes peer out from the painting *Simon of Cyrene* by contemporary Dutch artist Egbert Modderman. Simon's eyes reveal the immense physical and emotional burden of his responsibility. In the biblical account from Mark 15, we learn that Simon was pulled from the watching crowd and forced to carry Jesus' cross.

Mark tells us that Simon was from Cyrene, a big city in North Africa

With a large population of Jews during Jesus' time. Simon had probably journeyed to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. There he found himself in the middle of this unjust execution, but was able to perform a small but meaningful act of assistance to Jesus.(Mark 15:21)

Earlier in the gospel of Mark, Jesus told his followers, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me'.(8:34) On the road to Golgotha, Simon literally did what Jesus figuratively asked His disciples to do: he took up the cross given to him and carried it for Jesus' sake.

We too have 'crosses' to bear; perhaps an illness, a challenging ministry assignment, the loss of a loved one or persecution for our faith. As we carry these sufferings by faith, we point people to the sufferings of Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross. It was His cross that gave us peace with God and strength for our own journey.

Jesus, thank You that You understand and sympathise with the pain I experience as I take up my cross and follow You. Give me courage and strength even when the journey is difficult. Amen.

Thank You Father, for giving wisdom 'generously' and 'without finding fault'(James 1:5) to those who ask. Please help us to pause more to talk to You.

Almighty God, thank You for allowing us to serve You in many ways. As we passionately care for others, teach us also to work wisely so that we'll have the energy to do what You want us to do. Amen

# Opened a book by Julia Donaldson I opened a book and in I strode Now nobody can find me I've left my chair, my house, my road, My town and my world behind me. I'm wearing the cloak, I've slipped on the ring, I've swallowed the magic potion. I've fought with a dragon, dined with a king

And dived in a bottomless ocean.

I opened a book and made some friends.

I shared their tears and laughter
And followed their road with its bumps and bends To the happily ever after.

I finished my book and out I came.

The cloak can no longer hide me.

My chair and my house are just the same,
But I have a book inside me.

Nuneaton and North Warwick Equestrian Centre Galley Common are pleased to be forging links with Ukrainian families throughout the Community by offering Horse and Pony experiences. We feel this will help the families, especially the children to integrate into our communities in what is the most awful of situations they have experienced. Anyone hosting a family can join a regular meeting held at the Methodist Chapel in Old Arley. For more information contact Sue <a href="mailto:Shannon@outlook.com">Shannon@outlook.com</a> or andywagstaff@gmail.com

#### **CELEBRATING PLATINUM ANNIVERSARY**



**ELIZABETH 2 OUR GRACIOUS QUEEN** 

The Queen has ruled for longer than any other Monarch in British history, becoming a much loved and respected figure across the globe. Her extraordinary reign has seen her travel more widely than any other monarch, undertaking many historic overseas visits. Known for her sense of duty and her devotion to a life of service, she has been an important figurehead for the UK and the Commonwealth during times of enormous social change. Her Majesty continues to carry out a full programme of engagements, from visits to charities and schools, to hosting visiting Heads of State, to leading the nation in Remembrance and celebratory events - all supported by other members of the Royal The Queen sees public and voluntary service as one of the Family. most important elements of her work. The Queen has links - as Royal Patron or President - with over 600 charities, military associations, professional bodies and public service organisations. These vary from well-established international charities to smaller bodies working in a specialist area or on a local basis only.

Testimonies, stories Or memories from years ago – we would love to hear

from you. Please contact Maureen or John on 02476.394802 or send us ane-mail on <a href="mailto:strowgerhouse@btinternet.com">strowgerhouse@btinternet.com</a> Many thanks.