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HARVEST WITHOUT A FESTIVAL

This is the year of forced re-imagining. All our traditions, like the gathered corn, have been thrown up in the air and it could be a small positive we can glean from 2020. It's the year we've had to re-imagine our lives, homes, families, time, values and church.

It's been a year of loss and a year of plenty. A year of empty loo-roll holders, offices, pubs and Churches. A year of empty promise, like the many cancelled holidays and delayed graduation or weddings, but these are nothing compared to the loss of loved ones.

Harvest is going to be another disrupted festival. We know the Harvest can't be delayed, as it comes and goes with the weather and the

seasons, and the farmers are finding that the workers truly are few.

Harvest time reminds us, like the Pandemic, how fragile we all are. We looked to our great institutions like the NHS for security and hope, but it nearly collapsed.

Proverbs 18:10 reminds us that when the outer wall of the city falls, there is a Strong Tower or 'Keep' to run to. The cities' 'Keep' was also where the harvest was stored. In the event of a siege, the people ran to it to be safe and fed. But only the people of the City would be let in (the righteous ones.) ***Jesus is our Strong Tower, and through His death He makes us righteous. His people celebrate the safety and harvest of His 'Keep'.***

Pastor Andy Wilcock



Golden Cauliflower Soup



Ingredients

- 1 head cauliflower
- 1 large potato
- 1 medium onion
- 2 heaped teaspoons garlic puree
- Approx 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 600-900ml (1-1½ pint) vegetable stock (I like mine thick!)

Directions

1. Preheat oven to Mark 6/200C.
2. Cut washed cauliflower into small sprigs; peel potato and cut into bite-sized pieces.
3. Peel onion and cut into chunks.
4. Place all veg in large roasting tin, add garlic, sprinkle olive oil over and toss lightly.

5. Roast for 40-50 mins, turning occasionally, until beginning to brown.
6. Place veg in a large pan and cover with stock, adding a little more water if necessary.
7. Bring to boil and simmer for about 20 mins until tender. Season to taste.
8. Liquidize the soup in two batches then return to pan to reheat gently. Add water or milk if too thick.
9. Sprinkle portions with toasted almonds or croutons and serve with crusty bread. (serves 3-4)



undoubtedly be full of goodness both in physical and spiritual food. But why wait? Now is the time to get a grip on our health, eat sensibly, exercise as far as our condition allows and allow God to speak to us about our spiritual well-being too.

Golden Cauliflower Soup is low-carb, rich in nutrients, substantial and delicious. Enjoy it for lunch, share it with friends (good for veggies and vegans) and let God nourish your soul.

Sue Over

As we come out of lockdown, there's a lot of media interest in fitness. Some years ago, when I co-wrote *Fit for Life, Fit for God*, I was determined not to become a fat old lady. Ho-hum - I failed! And my current excuse is that I couldn't do the daily exercise the government prescribed because I was shielding Ernie...

Well, it's never too late (maybe!)

When we get to heaven, the table the Lord will spread before us will

72ND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Frank and Muriel Bruntlett



A photo taken on the occasion of their 72nd Wedding Anniversary (just an hour before their post lock down haircuts). A small group of us went down with gifts and sang the first verse of "Love

Divine" (one of their Wedding Hymns) and "Happy Anniversary to you". They are an inspiration to us all.

*Margaret Dennison
Bethel Community Church*

NOTICE

WRU ANNUAL, ONE DAY CONFERENCE

(Saturday, 21st November 2020)



Due to Coronavirus, our Annual Conference 2020 was rescheduled for Saturday, November 21st. It will be a One Day, business only Conference, at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick.

Further information has been emailed to Church/Circuit secretaries. All bookings must be submitted online by the end of September.

If you have any queries or need help with bookings, please contact the HQ on 01226 891 608 or by email admin@thewru.co.uk

BIBLE STUDY

A REAL COMMUNITY

Final Session of the Series

We are concentrating on Ephesians chapter 2 verse 19 and I quote from the Living Bible: - **"You are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and you belong in God's household with every other Christian".**

We have a tendency today to want to do our own thing, to be our own boss, to demand our rights, to get away from the rat race, to be our own person, to do what I want to do.

Let me say, I understand these things and to get away now and again is a good thing, but we all need people, we all need someone, and we need to belong. God designed us to belong, as we see in Genesis God created woman for the man that he might not be alone, we are created for community.

*Fashioned for fellowship.
Formed for a family.*

God's purpose is fulfilled when we work together in community.

We may read of those who went away for a short time to be with God for concentrated period, but their work was with people, they had to come and be where people were.

Ephesians verse 22 points to the special nature of that community.

"And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit." There was an advert some years ago where the husband said to his wife in a broad Birmingham accent "We want to be together". The reaction from his wife was not too favourable, the question would need to be asked therefore were their expectations the same? Clearly in that advert the answer was no.

As followers of Christ, who do we want to be with? Clearly, we are expected to be with other Christians as described in Romans 12:5 **"So in Christ we, who are many from one body, and each member belongs to all the others."**

In the context of this reading we are not talking about members as in adding our name to a list but being part of a single unit. The church is not an organisation but an organism.

The idea is clear, we cannot be effective if we cut ourselves off from the rest of the body of Christ, we learn in the environment of other Christians, so that we may be more effective in our witness in the world.

How do you feel if you miss worship with other Christians?

I know I miss it very much if I am unable to meet with my Christian family to worship.

If we miss fellowship then things begin to slip, Jesus wants us to be together Matthew 16:18. We are stronger together 1Peter 2:17.

That means, we are to be strong together through our fellowship, committed to each other, accountable, that cannot be achieved by running from church to church, but by belonging to each other in a place of safety.

As Jesus said in John 13:35 **"All men will know you are my disciples if you love one another."** When we come together from different backgrounds and love one another that is a powerful witness to the world. When we achieve that sort of love for each other then it becomes natural to express love to all.

1Corinthians 12:26 and 1John 3:16 show that it was an important part of the message in the early church.

We also find it possible to exercise our gifts within the fellowship, participating in the full life of the church builds our spiritual muscle. Ephesians 4:16 **"From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."**

To love and pray for one another, to encourage and serve, greet, teach, admonish, accept, forgive, honour and submit to one another and be devoted to each other, these are clearly family responsibilities that take beyond mere membership.

*We grow faster together.
Each of us is needed.*

We share a common mission and that helps us stay on message and mission.

Each of us share in that mission, though we have different gifts our aim is the same Ephesians 2:10 **"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."**

A real community prays together for others and for themselves, we must not get disconnected.

We will take on responsibilities and receive benefits from the real Christian community we help to build, people will be blessed by you and you in turn will be blessed by them. There may be times when we are frustrated by some but that is true in any community/family.

The best example of Christian community is found in Acts 2:42 **"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."**

A real Community

Rev Peter Norton



The Lord is my Shepherd

As we continue to live through the issues raised by the global Covid-19 pandemic, what encouragement might we take by looking at Psalm 23?

I remind myself that Jesus would know that the local shepherds led their flock

- the sheep recognised the shepherd
- they knew the shepherd's voice
- they followed in his path

I am also encouraged as I imagine a beautiful valley where God is leading me: I am able to be calm and peaceful as I follow him. He goes ahead keeping me secure even when I might be distracted by dealing with things I would rather avoid.

I am reminded that I am treated with respect - like a guest. In Eastern culture it was customary to anoint guests with fragrant oil and hosts were expected to protect their guests as well as feeding them. I can be assured that God will constantly watch over me.

Inevitably, we have found this global pandemic frightening at times and often perplexing as we have followed restrictions. We have missed meeting with family and friends and in some cases, we have had to 'walk through the valley of the shadow of death'.

The whole situation will change but perhaps not as quickly as we would wish.

One thing is constant - God's love for us all if we take time

- ***to recognise the shepherd***
- ***to hear the shepherd's voice***
- ***to follow in his path***

Muriel Stonehewer



ONCE AGAIN...

...there is civil unrest in the USA. And once again it is over race.

I'm sure that we all are disturbed by what we are seeing and hearing in the media, both in terms of the cause for the current disturbances and also the way in which different organisations are responding to it.



How do we respond?

Racial, religious and ethnic disharmony is not of course a new thing. Down through the ages people have argued - and worse - in their determination to be in the right, even at the expense of others.

But what is the right attitude to adopt as evangelical Christians?

I'm sure most of us are familiar with the story that Jesus told of 'the Good Samaritan' (Luke 10:25-37). This was told in a time when Jews and Samaritans were at total enmity over ethnicity and religion. And it was a Jew (Jesus) who deliberately described crossing the 'acceptable' line in order to reach out to another culture - and not for the only time (John 4).

And that leaves me asking the question - how much does what I believe and consider to be right colour how I respond to others?

We can and should pray for all the participants in the events unfolding across the Atlantic, and now in our own country and elsewhere. But perhaps at the same time we ought to be praying about how we respond the next time that we find ourselves shying away when we are confronted by people or events which offend our own sensibilities.

Cliff Darby

OBITUARY

NEW SWANNINGTON CHURCH

Iris Rossell

It is with great sadness, and yet joy, to record the passing of Iris Rossell, aged 89, to be with the Lord. Iris passed to glory on 7th July and a small funeral service was held at Whitwick Cemetery on 23rd July, led by our Pastor, Rev John Langford. Iris has been a member at New Swannington for many years, holding a number of offices, including Sunday School teacher and Church treasurer, and was involved in the Ashby Circuit too. She preached at local Chapels and spoke at ladies fellowships. In recent years Iris was housebound, but remained active in prayer and encouragement. We uphold Arthur and the family in prayer and look forward, God willing, to being able to celebrate Iris with a much wider company of friends, when we can sing the hymns she had chosen for her funeral service.