



*Spirit of God,
Spirit of Wisdom,
Spirit of Jesus,
Be with us.
Enter our silence,
Enter the depth of our longing.
Enter our trusting, enter our fearing.
Enter our letting go,
Enter our holding back.
Come Holy Spirit,
Embrace us and set us free.
Amen*



Stockwell Good Neighbours

Dear Friends,

It has been the sunniest May since records began. Someone said to me 'it's as if God is giving this to us to help us cope with the gloom that the Coronavirus has brought on our world'.

Well the news is definitely a bit brighter for many, with lots of people taking advantage of the relaxation of lockdown and making use of open spaces, countryside, parks and beaches.

I've heard of several of you having social distance get togethers in your garden and the joy this has brought to see loved ones a little closer; but also frustration that you still can't physically give them a hug. The advice for those over 70 is that you should take particular care to minimise contact with others outside of your household and if you go out, which should be avoided, you must continue to comply with any general social distancing restrictions. Although as an over 70-year-old you may be fit and healthy, as you get older there is a higher risk of coronavirus, and of having a more serious infection. So please precious people stay safe.

You will receive an Earl Grey Tea bag courtesy of Twining's tea, so at 3pm on Monday, I would like you all to stop for tea and offer a thought or prayer for those who you care about.

Did you know you can ring Daily Hope free of charge from your landline on 08008048044, and listen to hymns, and prayers?

I will keep you informed of the funeral arrangements of Enid Harrison, a much-loved longstanding member of Stockwell Good Neighbours and sister to Pauline Dixon. May she rest in peace.



Let's keep the people of America and those at home who are campaigning against violence and systemic racism in our thoughts and pray that no more lives are lost in their pursuit for Justice.

It was Pentecost of course on Sunday, which Christians all over the world celebrate in different ways – this year maybe in a much quieter way, but nevertheless not to be forgotten. Let's ask the Holy Spirit to fill our sometimes leaky hearts and continue to work through us all, so that we continue to bear the fruits of the Spirit in our homes, our families, our communities, and our world.

Much Love in Christ. Lesley

Watch out – fraudsters about

There is some evidence of fraudsters contacting people, mainly by email or phone, saying they are from the contact and trace team and that you have been in contact with someone with the COVID-19 virus. They ask for your personal details, which can then be used to steal your identity. Don't be fooled. DO NOT give personal details to anyone contacting you - if in doubt, just put down the phone. If you are concerned you may have symptoms, use www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 111 (some sites say 119, but 111 will advise). If you think you have been in contact with someone with symptoms, then for 14 days: stay in and self-isolate; get food delivered (Lesley can help you to arrange this if you cannot get hold of family, friends or local council to help).

Sister Act

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

- NUNS
- MARY LAZARUS
- HABIT
- NEVADA
- SIMPLE LIFE
- COMEDY
- REVEREND MOTHER
- POPE
- REFUGE
- VAN CARTIER
- DELORIS
- SISTER ACT
- VINCE
- CHOIR

The impatient idealist says: 'Give me a place to stand and I shall move the earth.' But such a place does not exist. We all have to stand on the earth itself and go with her at her pace.



Chinua Achebe



Vera has been sending daily ideas for positivity to people from a mental health drop-in group during lockdown, and is pleased to share them with you

In Psalm 1:3 we are told of the way of the righteous who "shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water That brings forth its fruit in season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper"

Trees are the oldest living things on earth, some even being alive in the time of Christ. The fact that Psalm 1:3 likens us to being trees suggest that God is teaching us to think long-term. It is very easy in this modern world to be blinded by short-term gain and lose sight of eternity.

The verse before, Psalm 1:2, also mentions that "in His law he meditates day and night" It is important to read the Bible everyday. Our Christian life depends on how much we get the Word into our heart and mind and how obedient we are to it. Everything we need to know about God is found in the pages of His Word.

Hope you have a blessed day, Vera :)

A number of trees are mentioned in the Bible – for those without internet access to look them up, here are some:



- Acacia:** Exodus 26:15;
- Almond:** Numbers 17:8, Ecclesiastes 12:5;
- Apple:** Joel 1:12, Song of Songs 2:2-5;
- Cedar:** 1Kings 9:11; 2Chronicles 2:3-8;
- Cypress:** Isaiah 41:19, 1Kings 9:11;
- Date Palm:** Psalms 92:12-14;
- Fig:** Song of Songs 2:11-13; **Henna:** Song of Songs 1:14;
- Oak:** Joshua 24-26, Gen 35:8 **Olive:** Judges 9:8-9;
- Pine:** Isaiah 41:19; **Pistachio tree:** Genesis 43:11;
- Pomegranate:** Song of Songs 4:13 and 6:11;
- Poplar:** Genesis 30:37; **Sycamore fig:** Luke 19:4;
- Tamarisk:** Genesis 30:37, 1Samuel 31:13;
- Vine:** John 15:1;
- Willow:** Leviticus 23:40; Isaiah 44:3-4, Psalms 137:1-3

Painting Colors

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

- GRAY
- DARK
- PURPLE
- RED
- LAVENDER
- BLACK
- TANGERINE
- DENIM
- BROWN
- PINK
- NAVY
- SILVER
- BEIGE
- PUCE
- PEARL
- MEDIUM
- ORANGE
- GOLD
- YELLOW
- MAHOGANY

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Your contributions make all the difference... please, please share - a quiz, poem, short piece about what you are doing at home, something about your life or a memory from your past... unless you write your name in the item it will be anonymous, so please join in! If you have email or whatsapp you can send a picture, too

A lovely version of the Alternative Beatitudes contributed by a reader:

Alternative Beatitudes

Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves;

They will have endless amusement.

Blessed are those who can tell a mountain from a molehill;

They will be spared a lot of trouble

Blessed are those who can go to bed and fall asleep without looking for excuses;

They will become wise.

Blessed are those who know when to shut up and listen;

They will learn new things thereby

Blessed are those who are attentive to the call of others without thinking themselves indispensable;

They will be sowers of joy.

Happy are you if you know how to take small things seriously and large things peacefully;

You will go far in life.

Happy are you if you can admire a smile and forget a frown; your path will be sunlit.

Some inspiration for the cooks among you...

The most remarkable thing about my mother is that for thirty years she served the family nothing but leftovers. The original meal has never been found. *Calvin Trillin*

I was watching an Australian cooking show, and people started cheering when the chef made a meringue.

I was shocked. Usually Australians boo meringue.

Our vet told us that because of my cooking our cat has only two lives left *Phyllis Diller*

Getting to know you... *Hermine Grocia*

Hermine Grocia was born in Clarendon, Jamaica, in 1938. She was the second eldest of eight children. Her parents separated when her father came to Huddersfield, where he started work in a textile factory, leaving *Hermine* with her mother, a seamstress, in Jamaica.

Hermine met *Lester* on the waiting to which brought 1959.



Hermine left *Lester* one, in marriage in

Registry Office they had four children together, living in Brixton until *Lester's* death in 2011. *Hermine* has nineteen grandchildren and twenty-two great grandchildren.

Asked a couple of years ago if there is anything she would change, *Hermine* said 'I doubt it. I live life day by day, that's me, there's nothing I can do about it...I'm very, very easy going'.

Hermine sits on the Stockwell Good Neighbours committee, as does her daughter *Margaret*, who is Secretary, and son *Noel*, who as you know is also a great DJ at club events.

As well as her own description as easy going, *Hermine* has been described as 'loved by all'.

8 A reader sent in some contributions, including some information about...



Nipper, the HMV logo dog

Francis Barraud, an English painter, had a brother, Mark; when Mark died, Francis inherited a phonograph player, recordings of Mark's voice, and Mark's dog, Nipper. He was called Nipper because he would nip the backs of visitors' legs.

Francis noticed that when he played the records, Nipper would run to the phonograph looking puzzled, as if trying to make out where the voice was coming from. This scene remained in Francis's mind, and three years after Nipper died, he painted it, calling it 'His Master's Voice'.

Barraud offered to sell the original picture of a wind-up Edison-Bell cylinder phonograph to the Edison-Bell Company located in the USA, but was turned down. In 1899, Barraud went to the offices of The Gramophone Company to borrow a brass horn to replace the original black one on the painting. The manager suggested that if he replaced the machine with a Berliner disc gramophone, he would buy the painting, and it became the trademark of the Victor, HMV, and later other record labels. The original oil painting hung in the EMI boardroom in Hayes, Middlesex, for many years.

Quick Quiz – Trees in Legend

Which fruit did ancient Jewish tradition say contained 613 seeds, equal to the number of Torah commandments?

According to legend, what type of tree was the Buddha sitting under when he achieved enlightenment?

The twigs of which tree are used by water diviners?

The fruit of which tree did Paris give to Aphrodite?

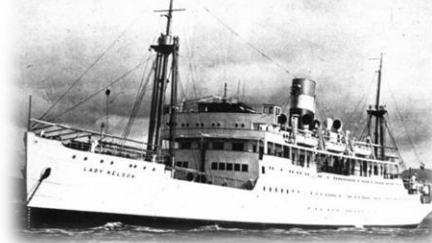
What was the Druids sacred tree?

Pomegranate, Bo/bodhi (a type of fig tree), Hazel, Apple, Oak

A Memory of War, from a former Nursing Sister

My uncle was a taxi driver who brought the news of all the happenings on the island. One day he came home to say that at midnight a German submarine had bombed the Lady Nelson – that there were no casualties, but the ship was badly damaged. The Lady Nelson was a cruise ship, bringing visitors to visit the island. The ship that was protecting it had run the submarine out of the island.

In the broadcast on the day following the incident, all residents were asked to purchase black curtains to display at 6pm to bring the island into complete darkness. At 6pm it was repeated on loudspeaker: 'O yea, O yea, O yea, blackout, O yea, O yea, blackout, all black curtains must be displayed to bring the island into complete darkness. This means no housework, no activities, no homework. Any person showing light will be prosecuted – prison'. That was our time of war. The bright light on the Lady Nelson brought the submarine to cause the accident.



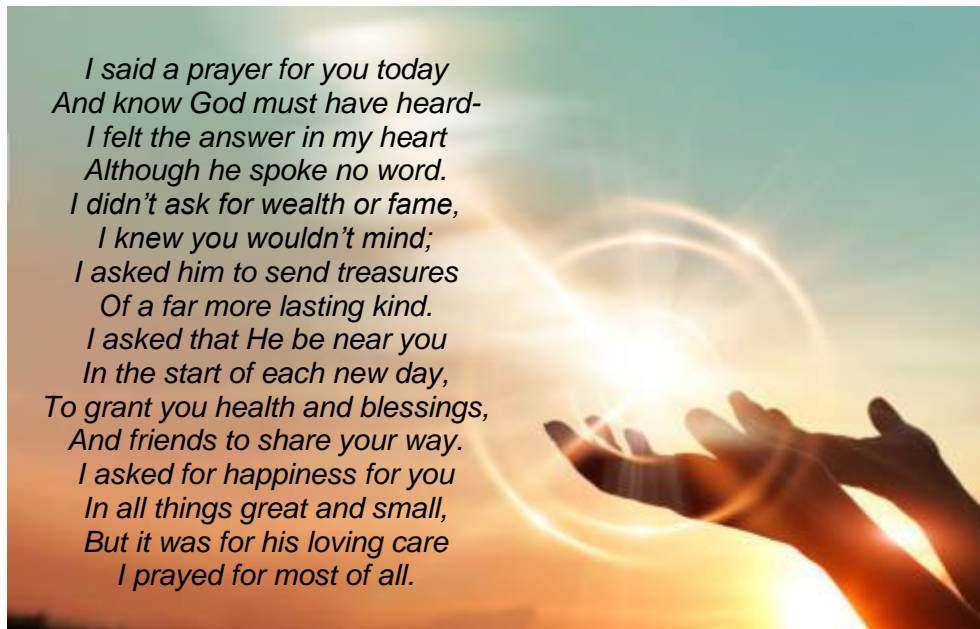
Note: RMS Lady Nelson was torpedoed by U-161 while alongside at Port Castries, St. Lucia, on 10th March 1942. 15 passengers, 3 crewmen and 7 dock workers were killed. The ship sank at the wharf, but was later re-floated and served as a hospital ship for the Canadian Army until the end of the war.

*Do all the good you can, By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can, In all the places you can,
At all the times you can, To all the people you can
As long as ever you can.*

John Wesley



Some prayers suggested by readers:



*I said a prayer for you today
And know God must have heard-
I felt the answer in my heart
Although he spoke no word.
I didn't ask for wealth or fame,
I knew you wouldn't mind;
I asked him to send treasures
Of a far more lasting kind.
I asked that He be near you
In the start of each new day,
To grant you health and blessings,
And friends to share your way.
I asked for happiness for you
In all things great and small,
But it was for his loving care
I prayed for most of all.*

Hail Mary, Queen of Heaven, your path is one of truest devotion; a life of courageous service to the Lord, as the mother of Jesus. You gave all of yourself, lovingly and without fail. We praise you both in our words, and in our actions serving others, as you so graciously served. At this time we ask you for your prayers, your solace, and your guidance, with unending gratitude for these precious gifts, in Christ our Lord, Amen

Psalm 46 (NIV)

God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.
Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
Come and see what the LORD has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."
The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.