



## Wesley's Blog

Most of us know the 23rd psalm but this is a new take on the well loved words:  
 The Lord is my Shepherd - that's relationship  
 I shall not want - that's supply  
 He makes me lie down in green pastures - that's rest  
 He leads me beside still waters - that's refreshment  
 He restores my soul - that's healing  
 He leads me in the paths of righteousness - that's guidance  
 For His name's sake - that's purpose  
 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death - that's testing  
 I will fear no evil - that's protection  
 For you are with me - that's faithfulness  
 Your rod and staff comfort me - that's discipline  
 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies - that's hope  
 You anoint my head with oil - that's consecration  
 My cup runs over - that's abundance  
 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life - that's blessing  
 And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever - that's eternity

You have probably noticed that often people reveal their personalities by the way they view the world. This rhyme by the American writer and librettist Arthur Guitermann, puts the point beautifully

What one approves, another scorns  
 And thus his nature each discloses  
 You find the rose bush full of thorns  
 I find the thorn bush full of roses,  
 Hopefully you will find more roses than thorns in your life!

Life has its peaks and troughs but through all the ups and downs some things are constant and dependable. As the historian George T Hewitt wrote during the second world war, 'The best things in life are never rationed. Friendship, loyalty and love do not require coupons.' It was true back then and it has been ever since!

A class of schoolchildren was asked to write down what they thought were today's seven wonders of the world. While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one pupil had not finished her exercise, so she asked her if she was finding the task hard. The girl replied, 'Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make my mind up because there are so many.' She hesitated then said, 'I think the seven wonders of the world are: to see, to hear, to touch, to taste, to feel, to laugh, to love.' A gentle reminder to us all that the most precious things in life can not be built by hand or bought by man

A much acclaimed preacher was invited to a new church. He delivered his rousing sermon without shouting or raising his voice. Afterwards someone asked, 'How can a quiet man like that be such a great evangelist?' The reply came, 'It is true that he does not roar like a foghorn. He has a better way - he shines like a lighthouse



Sean celebrating Remembrance Day at the Grove

One little unshed  
 raindrop  
 May think itself too  
 small  
 Yet somewhere a  
 thirsty flower  
 Awaits its fall

One little word  
 unspoken  
 May seem too small  
 to say  
 But somewhere for  
 that one word  
 A heart may pray

I didn't intend to do a thing  
 today and so far I'm right on  
 schedule

Sean and Faith at the Remembrance Day service at St Mark's. The balloon poppies were made by the Girls' Brigade along with the poppies and green hearts on the tree. The crosses in the middle represent countries where there has been conflict.





Some of the knitted hearts from The Grove are currently in this display.

And who do you say that I am?  
Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves;  
They will have no end of fun.  
Blessed are those who can tell a mountain from a molehill;  
They will be saved a lot of bother.  
Blessed are those who know how to relax without looking for excuses;  
They are on the way to becoming wise.  
Blessed are those who think before acting and pray before thinking;  
They will avoid blunders.  
Above all, blessed are you who recognise the Lord in all who you meet,  
The light of truth shines in your life for you have found true wisdom.



Some of the green hearts made by the Girls' Brigade at St Mark's as part of their badge work on the environment

A church member complained to his minister after yet another financial appeal had been made. 'The trouble with this church is that it's Give! Give! Give! All the time' The minister looked for a moment at the complainer and then quietly said 'Thank you. That's the best definition of Christianity I have heard.' Yes and not just of Christianity but of life itself; nor, of course, is it just a matter of money. Life's richness is not in getting and having, but in giving and sharing - happiness, friendship, good counsel, experience. What a lot we all have to give.

**LIFE GOES ON**  
What do we do with the moments we save  
As we rush through the course of the day?  
If we dash to the post, or run for a bus,  
Cut corners all the way.  
  
Will the minutes we save add up to an hour  
To be used later on? No alas,  
Moments are fleeting, and time doesn't wait  
But goes on, and life's days and years pass.  
  
Time is God - given. The best we can do  
Is to come to Him every new day  
And ask Him to fill every moment in time  
With His peace, as we go on our way.

Imagine a couple of the less complicated wonders of creation.  
Salt - it's made of sodium and chlorine. Either component, taken individually, is toxic but combined they are one of life's essentials.  
Water - it's made of hydrogen, which tends to explode, and oxygen which helps things burn. Yet, when combined they'll put out a fire.  
These are two of His simpler works! Is it any wonder that God rested on the seventh day? 'God saw all that He has made and it was very good.' (Genesis ch1 v31)

I dream of a church where love and people  
Are more important than stone and steeple.  
I dream of a church with an open door  
Where no-one is privileged except the poor.  
I dream of a church where milk and honey  
Will flow more freely than power and money.  
I dream of a church where young and old  
Will be inspired to change the world.

I know this is a little late, but I still like it!!  
From one pumpkin to another!!!!!!  
A woman was asked by a co-worker,  
'What is it like to be a Christian?'  
The co-worker replied, 'It is like being a pumpkin.'  
God picks you from the patch, brings you in,  
and washes all the dirt off of you.  
Then He cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff.  
He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed.  
Then He carves you a new smiling face and  
puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see.'  
  
This was passed on to me by another pumpkin.  
Now it's your turn to pass it to other pumpkins.

A little girl was late arriving home from school so the mother began to scold her daughter, but stopped and asked, 'Why are you late?' 'I had to help another girl who was in trouble', replied the daughter. Mother asked, 'What did you do to help her?' The little girl said, 'Oh, I sat down and helped her cry.'

The circuit has booked two First Aid courses in March next year, Thursday 15th and Saturday 19th, at Wesley Road. Depending on covid restrictions, places may have to be restricted so please book early in case we need to book further dates. More details to follow.