



August

SPOTLIGHT MAGAZINE –
CRAWLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
JULY AUGUST 2019

SANDRA'S THOUGHTS

Well here I am sitting in my office with my thermal vest on and long sleeved top, and Yes! It's June!!!

We might moan about the rain but let's see it as a blessing, rain/water gives life and sustains life, and there are places on this planet praying for rain!!! It's such a precious commodity, lets treasure it friends.

I have a precious friend who calls rain "God's moisturiser"

However, on the front cover of this Spotlight is a picture of a bucket and spade! What do I think about when I see that? It reminds me of the footprint poem, maybe it will encourage you on your journey at this moment in time? I pray it will indeed bless you as you read it.

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND

One night a man had a dream.
He dreamed he was walking along the
beach with the Lord.
Across the sky flashed scenes from his life.
For each scene, he noticed two sets of
footprints in the sand; one belonging to
him, and the other to the Lord.
When the last scene of his life flashed
before him, he looked back at the
footprints in the sand.
He noticed that many times along the
path of his life there was only one set
of footprints.
He also noticed that it happened at the
very lowest and saddest times in his life.
This really bothered him and he questioned
the Lord about it.
"Lord, you said that once I decided to follow
you, you'd walk with me all the way.
But I have noticed that during the most
troublesome times in my life there is only
one set of footprints.
I don't understand why when I needed
you most you would leave me."
The Lord replied, "My precious, precious child,
I love you and I would never leave you.
During your times of trial and suffering, when
you see only one set of footprints in the sand
it was then that I carried you."

My eyes were also drawn to the sailing yacht and the song we sing “Be the wind in these sails, be the reason that I live, Jesus”

May you know the Holy Spirit equipping you day by day to live the best you can for Him.

Enjoy the summer, please think about booking into the Tea afternoon, the Senior’s retreat day and Staycation – they are all opportunities to enjoy love, friendship and fellowship.

Love and prayers

Sandra



WHY DO WE ALLOW IT

A £5 note is worth £5. If we buy something for 85p we will get change from £5. If we throw away our £5 it is still worth £5. If we tear up our £5 it is still £5, if we crush it into a ball it is still worth £5. If we spend it we will get £5 worth of goods. So no matter what we do with it £5 is worth £5.

So if £5 is always worth £5 no matter what we do with it – it does not lose its value, even if we throw it away, tear it up or screw it into a ball, why then do we allow ourselves to feel worthless?

We let ourselves feel pushed aside, abandoned, talked about, hurt, tossed to one side and torn up inside. When we have been abused, hurt, stomped on and thrown away, we feel less, we feel like our value has been lost.

But if a £5 note retains its value then you too can retain your value.

You were created and born, you are here, you have value and a life purpose, and even though you may have been through rough times, had low moments, been depressed and sad and lonely – Don't let that define you, don't let it be your condition, your predicament, your momentary situation – don't let it be your value or your worth.

Nothing can take your worth or value – like the £5 note – no matter what, your value is still your value, it is fixed no matter what life throws at you. So pick yourself up, dust yourself off and keep moving forwards.

OLD IS THE NEW YOUNG

Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it!!!

Beautiful young people are accidents of nature, but beautiful old people are works of art!!

The key to successful ageing is to pay as little attention to it as possible.

Age is just a number. It's totally irrelevant unless, of course, you happen to be a bottle of wine.

If you obey all the rules, you miss all the fun.

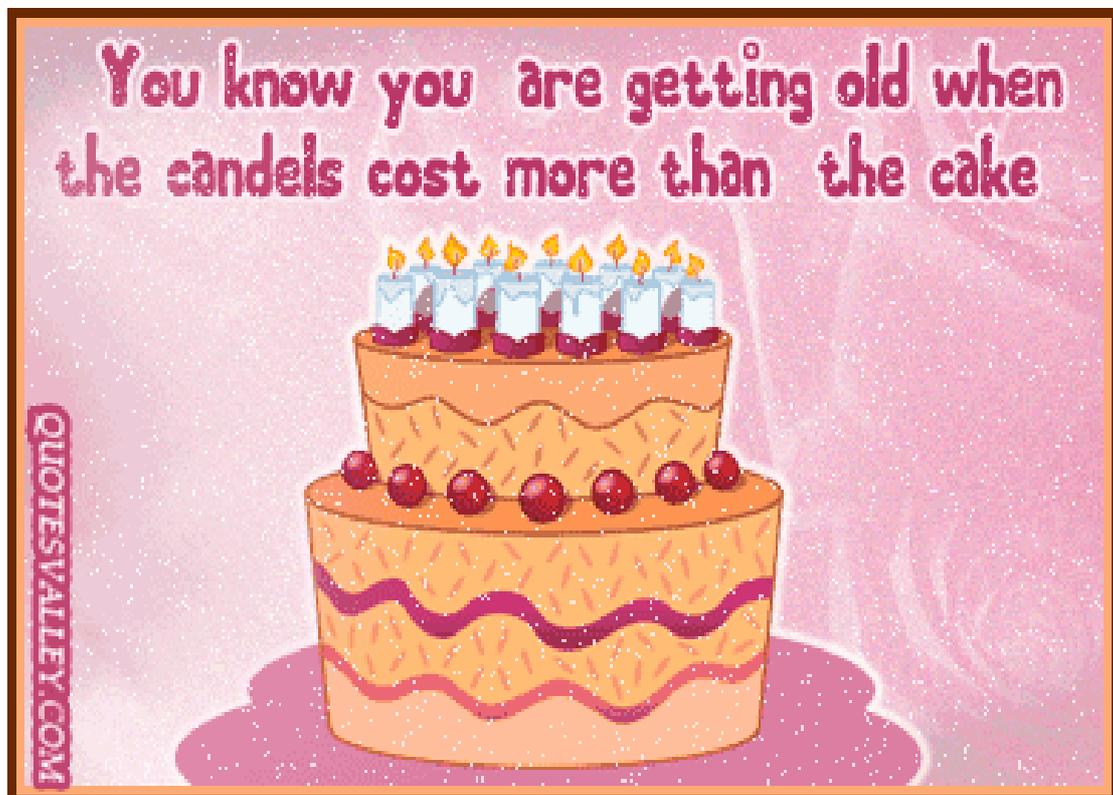
We do not stop playing because we grow old. We grow old because we stop playing!

The years between 50 and 70 are the hardest. You are asked to do things, and yet you are not decrepit enough to turn them down.

You don't get older, you get better.

You know you are getting older when the candles cost more than the cake!

Old age isn't so bad when you consider the alternative.



Every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. (John 15:2)

His purpose is for you to cut away immature commitments and lesser priorities to make room for even greater abundance for His glory.

Because of the grape's tendency to grow so vigorously, a lot of wood must be cut away each year. Grapevines can become so dense that the sun cannot reach down where fruit should form.

Left to itself a grape plant will always favour growth over grapes and so produce an underwhelming harvest.

For a Christian rampant growth represents all those preoccupations and priorities in our lives that, while not wrong, are keeping us from more significant ministry for God.

Pruning is how God answers your prayers so that your life will please Him more and have a greater impact for eternity.

Are you praying for God's superabundant blessings and pleading that He will make you more like His son?

If disciplining is about sin, pruning is about self.

Your heavenly Father loves you so much that He won't stop tending your life. The most fruitful and the most joy filled Christians are the most pruned Christians!

Eat without gluttony
Drink without getting drunk
Love without jealousy
Argue but don't go to bed mad
And occasionally, and with great discretion –
misbehave.....



JELLY BABIES FOR JESUS

After WW1 Jelly babies became known as peace babies, each colour representing a different continent or country, but during WW2 production had ceased because of rationing. After the second world war, Bassetts bought the company and reinterpreted each jelly baby differently. They were then produced with individual symbols to tell the Gospel Story.

The black jelly baby has a heart on it to remind us that sometimes our hearts are sinful and not how God intended them to be.

The green jelly baby is crying to remind us that God weeps over such a state of heart. The red jelly baby has the letter B to show that Jesus died for us and shed his blood for us.

The pink Jelly baby is crawling like a baby. This show that when we recognise Jesus and receive Jesus into our hearts then we are a new creation (born again) into a new life and lifestyle.

The yellow jelly baby bears a necklace to remind us that we will receive the riches of Heaven and the orange jelly baby carries a bum bag to show that we should be getting prepared to meet Jesus in heaven and we do this by sorting out our lives here on earth, seeking righteousness and holiness.



ROOTS

When you reduce your life to its simplest form, what do you find there?

Where do your main roots run?

Is it in love?

Is it in compassion?

Is it in God?

Is it in family?

Let what we find under the surface guide our 'to do' lists each day, as we examine what is real and necessary to fill up our lives. Let us find our own roots and water them well.

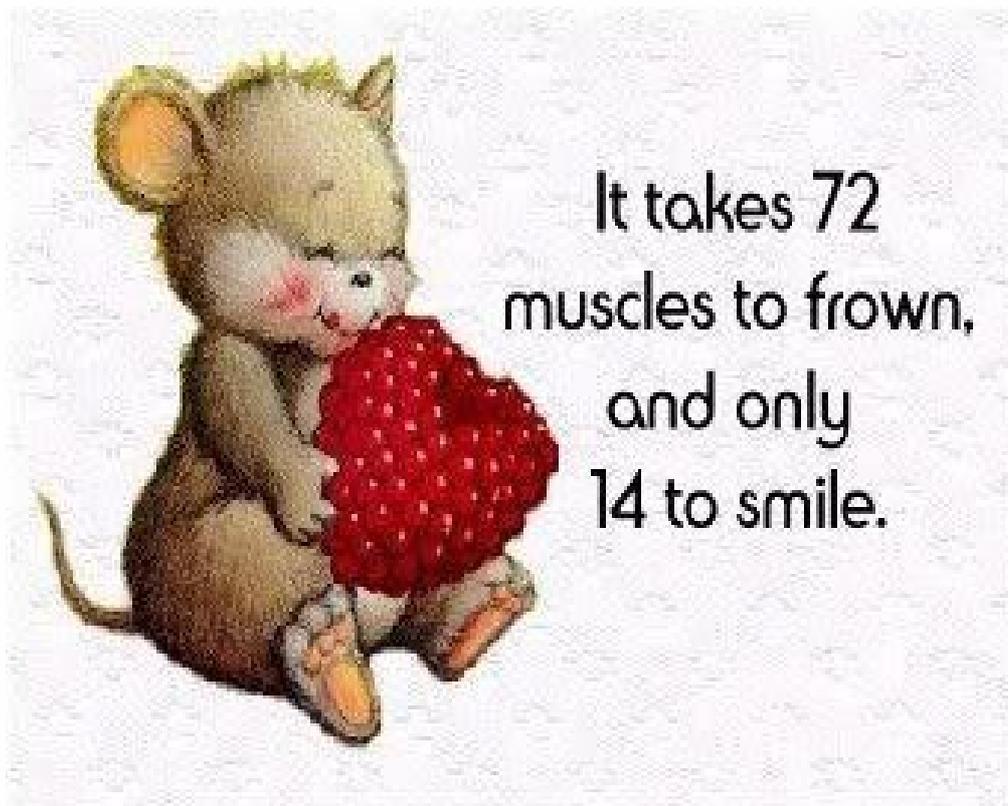
I do believe in simplicity. It is astonishing, as well as sad, how many trivial affairs even the wisest thinks he must attend to in a day.

Simplify the problem of life, distinguish the necessary and the real.

See where your main roots lie.



The past cannot be changed
Everyone's journey is different
Overthinking will lead to sadness
Happiness is found within
Kindness is free
You only fail if you quit
What goes around, comes around
Smiles are contagious!



He that perverts truth shall soon be incapable of knowing the true
from the false.

If you persist in wearing glasses that distort, everything will be
distorted to you!

When going through tough times
Know that, everything can, and will, change.
You have overcome challenges before
It's a learning experience

Not getting what you want can be a blessing
Allow yourself to have some fun
Being kind to yourself is the best medicine



IF I DO NOT HAVE LOVE.....

Heavenly Father I pray for patience with myself.

May I remember to be kind when I'm struggling, to not compare myself with others, who I imagine to be better than me,

Nor to belittle my achievements.

May I appreciate all that I am in you and be satisfied.

Help me not to get angry when I fail to meet my own expectations, and remind me of your forgiveness, when I seek to record my wrongs.

Help me to bear with those things I don't like about myself, to trust in your goodness, to always look for the best in me and to persevere.

For only as I love myself can I truly love others.

Amen.



"Self-compassion is simply giving the same kindness to ourselves that we would give to others."
~ Christopher Germer

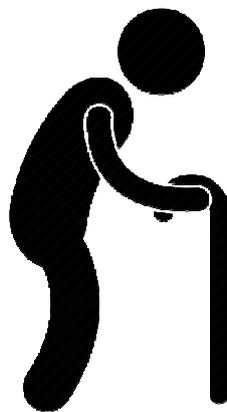


YOU WILL NEVER BE OLD

You never will be old
With a twinkle in your eye
With springtime in your heart
As you watch the winter fly

You never will be old
While you have a smile to share
While you wonder at mankind
And you have the time to care

While there's magic in your world
And a special dream to hold
While you still can laugh at life
You never will be old.



Accept others for who they are and for the choices they have made.

Create a family of friends with whom you can share your hopes, dreams, sorrows and happiness with.

Try new things, the world has much to offer and much to give, when you try new things you learn more about yourself.

Forgive and forget. Un-forgiveness weighs you down and inspires unhappiness and grief.

Put your childhood in its place, whether it was good or sad, and embrace the things of adulthood.

Learn something new every day and you will grow.

Remember the warmth of spring always follows winter

Let love fill your heart, then you have room for endless happiness.

Manage your time and expenses wisely, then you can focus on the important things in life.

Do not ignore the poor, sick, weak and helpless, offer help, kindness and understanding.

Open your eyes, see the beauty all around you. There is always much to be thankful for.

Have fun along the way, success means nothing without happiness.

Share your talent, skills, knowledge and time with others. Everything that you invest in others will return to you many times over.

Even when your dreams seem impossible, try anyway – you will be amazed by what you can accomplish.

Use your gifts and talents to your best ability, they will bring unexpected rewards.

Value friends and family, be there for them.

Work hard every day, be the best person you can be.

Remember every sunrise offers another chance.



You're tired. Fatigue is not a foreign word. You know all too well its fruit: burning eyes, slumped shoulders, gloomy spirit, and robotic thoughts. You are tired.

We are tired. A tired people. A tired generation. A tired society. We race. We run. Workweeks drag like Arctic winters. Monday mornings show up on Sunday night. We slug our way through the long lines and long hours with faces made long by the long lists of things we need to do, gadgets we want to buy, or people we try to please. Grass to cut. Weeds to pull. Teeth to clean. Diapers to change. Carpets, kids, canaries – everything needs our attention.

The government wants more taxes. The kids want more toys. The boss, more hours. The school, more volunteers. The spouse, more attention. The parents, more visits. And the church, oh, the church. Have I mentioned the church? Serve more. Pray more. Attend more. Host more. Read more. And what can you say? The church speaks for God.

Every time we catch our breath, someone else needs something else. A taskmaster demands another brick for the newest pyramid.

'Stir that mud, you Hebrew!'

Yes, there he is. Your ancient counter part. The loin-clothed, bare-backed, stoop-shouldered, brick-stacking Hebrew slave of Egypt. Talk about tired! Slave drivers popped whips and shouted commands. Why? So Pharaoh with his Nile-sized ego could brag about another pyramid even though his fingers never developed a callus or lifted a piece of straw.

But then God intervened.

I am the Lord; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. Exodus 6:6.

Did He ever! He opened the Red Sea like a curtain and closed it like a shark's jaws. He turned Pharaoh's army into fish bait and the Hebrews into charter members of the Land of No More! No more bricks, mud, mortar and straw. No more meaningless, mind-numbing forced labour. It was as if all of heaven shouted.

'YOU CAN REST NOW!'

And so they did. A million sets of lungs sighed. They rested.

For about one-half of an inch. That's the amount of space between Exodus 15 and 16. The amount of time between those two chapters is about one month. Somewhere in that half-inch, one-month gap, the Israelites decided they wanted to go back into slavery.

They remembered the delicacies of the Egyptians. Couldn't have been more than bone stew, but nostalgia is no stickler for details.

So they told Moses they wanted to go back to the land of labour, sweat and blistered backs.

The response of Moses?

Did someone put a hex on you? Have you taken leave of your senses? Galatians 3:1

Oops, my mistake. Those are the words of Paul, not Moses. Words for Christians, not Hebrews. New Testament, not Old. First century AD, not thirteenth century BC. Understandable error, however, since the Christians of Paul's day were behaving like the Hebrews of Moses, both had been redeemed, yet both turned their backs on their freedom.

The second redemption upstaged the first. God sent not Moses but Jesus. He smote not Pharaoh but Satan. Not with ten plagues but a single cross. The Red Sea didn't open, but the grave did, and Jesus led anyone who wanted to follow Him to the Land of No More. No more law keeping. No more striving after God's approval. 'You can rest now' He told them.

And they did. For about fourteen pages, which in my Bible is the distance between the sermon of Peter in Acts 2 and the meeting of the church in Acts 15. In the first, grace was preached. In the second, grace was questioned. It wasn't that the people didn't believe in grace at all. They did. They believed in grace a lot. They just didn't believe in grace alone. They wanted to add to the work of Christ.

I became a Christian about the same time I became a Boy Scout and made the assumption that God grades on a merit system. Good Scouts move up. Good people go to heaven. I worked toward the day, the great day, when God, amid falling confetti and dancing cherubim's, would drape my badge laden sash across my chest and welcome me into his eternal kingdom, where I could humanly display my badges for eternity. But some thorny questions surfaced.

If God saves good people, how good is 'good'? God expects integrity of speech, but how much?

Most people embrace the assumption that God saves good people. So be good! Be moral. Be honest, Be decent. Keep the Sabbath. Keep your promises. Stay sober. Pay taxes. Earn merit badges.

God has a better idea.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8

We contribute nothing. Salvation of the soul is unearned. A gift. Our merits merit nothing. God's work merits everything.

Say no to the pyramids and bricks. Say no to the rules and lists. Say no to slavery and performance. Say no to Egypt. Jesus redeemed you. Do you know what that means?

If you don't, I know the cause of your fatigue. You need to trust God's grace.

We find it easier to trust the miracle of resurrection than the miracle of grace. We so fear failure that we create the image of perfection, lest heaven be even more disappointed in us than we are. The result? The weariest people on earth.

You hearts should be strengthened by God's grace, not by obeying rules. Hebrews 13:9

Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Mathew 11:28

There is no fine print. A second shoe is not going to drop. God's promise has no hidden language. Let grace happen, for heaven's sake. No more performing for God, no more clamouring after God. Of all the things you must earn in life, God's unending affection is not one of them. You have it. Stretch yourself out in the hammock of grace.

You can rest now.

BIRTHDAYS

JULY

Carol Chamberlain

21st July

Alan Michele

11th July

Jeanne Mumford

4th July

AUGUST

Lou May

1st August

Gwen Mathews

21st August

Janet Trevett

14th August



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Create & Craft 2.30pm

2nd July

Pilgrims 12.30pm

9th July & 13th August

Friendship 2.30pm

16th July & 20th August

T-Set 2.30pm

23rd July & 27th August

MIDWEEK CHURCH

4th & 18th July

15th & 29th August -

29th July - Outing instead of 1st August mid-week church



Please Pray...

DAPHNE BARRS

LYN & BRIAN CARMEN

JOAN JONES

MALCOLM ROBERTS

TERRY & ANN WIGMORE

JOHNNY AND NILA ALVARO

ANDREW MIDDLETON

LISA AND MARK WILSON



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God's Promises

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from unrighteousness.

1 John 1 : 9

Flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and portion forever.

Psalms 73 v 26

He mocks proud mockers but gives grace to the humble.

Proverbs 3 v 34

Walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess.

Deuteronomy 5 v 33

Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it

Proverbs 22 v 6



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A LATE STARTER

Why did I wait so long, my Lord

To turn my face to you?

Why did I waste so many years

Ignoring all you do?

Why did I think that I knew best

As I wandered my life through?

Pleasing myself, and pleasing my friends

With never a thought of You.

Why did I turn my back on you

In spite of your gift to me?

Refusing your offer of life, Lord

Given to set me free.

But now I've been born again, Lord

I've been given a brand new start

I can give my love, my life to you

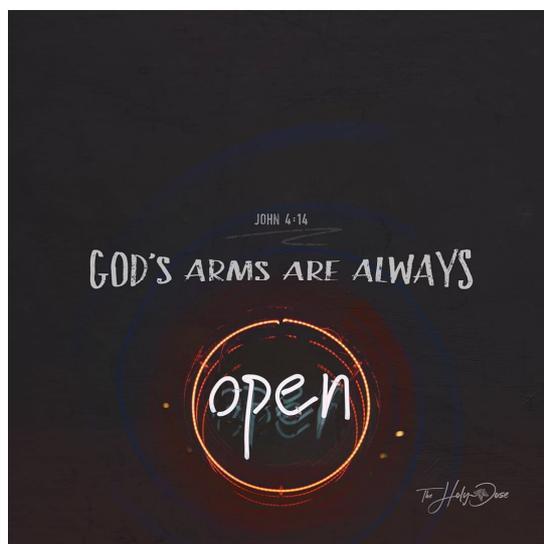
With a willing and faithful heart.

**With you to walk beside me, Lord
I can conquer every sin
When I falter, your arms are there, Lord
Just helping me to win**

**Finally then, I shall see your face
My Master and my Friend...
I started late in the race, Lord
But I stayed until the end.**

From Pat Haworth.....

**Look in Reception for the Why Jesus? Alpha books... maybe think
about joining the next Alpha course held here at CBC.....**



TURN ON THE TAP

Water can't run unless you turn on the tap

Power waits to floor dry earth,

Glory waits to dazzle eyes

Hope waits to fill dead hearts

God is waiting to move

Waiting for me

Waiting for you

Waiting for us to turn on the tap.

God bless

Marielle