

A few words from the Vicar

As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. [Psalm 103:15-16]

The date of the Flower Festival is looming fast. I therefore thought I'd be a clever vicar and find a suitable Flower-Festival-type verse from the Bible to begin this month's 'Vicar's Letter.'



This isn't something I've ever bothered checking before. I'm not green fingered and, whilst I don't mind having flowers around the house (I love the scent of lilies), unless prompted by Polly, I'd never think of buying any flowers to brighten up the vicarage.

Indeed, as for the last time I bought Polly some flowers I'd rather not say! Put it this way, it was so long ago that, I suspect, if I ever presented Polly with a bunch of flowers the shock might just prove fatal!

What I found when I checked my sources was that the words 'flower' and 'flowers' (rather than a specific type of flower) are only mentioned in six verses in the whole of the Bible. In each case these verses say nothing about the enjoyment we get from gazing at the natural beauty of flowers or even from breathing in the scent they give off. Rather, they remind us of the transitory nature of wealth or life (like the verses taken from Psalm 103 shown above).

Flowers, beautiful though they are, fade and die. Likewise, none of us lives forever!

There are no exceptions; sooner or later we are gone and, if we are fortunate enough to have accumulated a degree of wealth, this passes to our beneficiaries (or the State). There are no pockets in shrouds!

Nonetheless, transitory though our life is, it is meant to be lived to the full during the time we have available to us. We are made for both work and play. So, for as long as we are able we contribute to the common good through our work but we also have fun and enjoy ourselves too.

And this month dear reader we, the good folk of Christ Church will be working hard to provide you with two events for your enjoyment.

On the 3rd of June from 12 noon onwards we are hosting a picnic on Ainsworth Recreation Ground to celebrate Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. Essentially this is a street party in the park with music, games (with prizes) for all ages and face painting. We will provide a few snacks but people are asked to bring along some food to share.

We are staging the event on behalf of the community and all are welcome to come along.

Thanks to the generous support of the Big Lottery Fund, the Ainsworth Village Task Force and members of the congregation, there is no charge for this; not even a collection or a raffle!

The Church and Community Hall is available as a backup in case of bad weather.

Then we have our Flower Festival which stretches over three days (29-30th June & 1st July), finishing with a Songs of Praise type service on the Sunday evening. The festival has a Jubilee theme ('Jubilee – something to celebrate') and all the displays will be the work of people associated with our Church.

This is my first flower festival at Ainsworth and it is already clear to me that a lot of hard work is going into organising the event. It promises to be a good showing and even I, someone who isn't particularly bothered about flowers, can't wait to see how the festival theme is interpreted in the displays.

So, why not come along and see for yourself.

Even better, come to both events and enjoy yourself!

Every Blessing

Dave