

Prayers for 21st November 2021 from Jan Teale

This weekend brings to mind one of my best and certainly my oldest friend, Denice. We started our school life together at 'old' Whiston School, first of all in the terrapin building where Sorrelsykes is now and then we moved up the hill in to a variety of buildings which made up the school itself.

I still keep in touch with Denice and we reminisce a lot when we are together. She was a fabulous cook and her signature dish was Christmas pudding. Her homemade pudding was wonderful and bore no comparison to the shop bought variety. She would make numerous puddings for all her relatives and friends, who valued them greatly.

I'm thinking of her now because this coming Sunday has the nick name of Stir Up Sunday, when traditionally the Christmas puddings were made. But it's much, much more than that. The name really comes from the Collect for the Day in the Book of Common Prayer:

'Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded.'

We are praying that God will stir up our wills so that we can get on with doing the good works he has promised for us.

Let us pray:

We pray for a better world where we might live in safety and in peace. We pray that we may be able to overcome the Covid virus and thank you once again for all the efforts of those still working on the frontline.

Give us strength, peace and love as we prepare for Advent and the Christmas season. Amen

We remember and pray for the recently departed Lee Rawlinson and Thomas Pashley and for all who may feel sad and lonely, especially those who have lost family and friends recently and for whom life will never be the same again.

We pray for all those who are ill, whether at home, in a care home or in hospital, remembering and praying also for those people who care and comfort them in their time of need.

And we pray for Ellen Twigg, a long-standing member of the congregation who passed away surrounded by her family on Tuesday evening and also for those whose anniversaries are commemorated in our memorial book this week: Barrie Marsden, Rowland Dyson, Frederick Parkes, Ivan Edward Willis and Mildred Walker. Amen