ST MARY'S
OLD SWINFORD
Parish Church
MONTHLY NEWS
NOVEMBER 2019
ONLINE EDITION

ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD **Parish Church MONTHLY NEWS NOVEMBER**



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times Tree Festival 20

Tel·

SUNDAYS AT ST MARY'S

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Parish Communion and Children Together

6.30 pm Evensong

(second Sunday) Worship Together 10.00 am

WEEKDAYS AT ST MARY'S

Daily: 9.00 am - Morning Prayer (Monday to Thursday) Daily: 5.00 pm - Evening Prayer (Monday to Thursday)

Wednesday: 1.30 pm - Toddlers' Group at St Mary's (term time) parents

& toddlers

Thursday: 10.30 am - Holy Communion in Lady Chapel

7.30 pm - Bell Ringing Practice Thursday:

Friday: Choir Practice and Youth Groups (in term time)

Saturday: 10.00 am - 12.00 noon - Open Church - refreshments

available

Clergy Day Off Friday

OTHER REGULAR EVENTS

Third Wednesday in month, 10 -11 am 393454

Prayer Group Mothers' Union: Second Tuesday at 2.15 pm 392951

St Mary's Walking Group: Last Saturday of the month. Depart 9.30 am

CONTACTS

Reader:	Mr Roger King	379800
Church Wardens:	Mrs Judy Hall	377349
	Mr Antony Tatford	822661
- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		0-0-0 00 4 4

Director of Music: Mr James Bradley 07973 934177 Miss Katey Fletcher **PCC Secretary:** 378182 Vacant -Please contact the Parish Office **Monthly News Editor:**

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Liz Fourness 394359

Church Hall and

Coach House: - Bookings: Parish Office 441003

Parish Administrator and

Publicity Officer: Mr John Sutton 441003 Parish Office: Open 9.00 am -1.00 pm Tuesday to Thursday, 441003

9.00 am to 12.00 noon Friday

Closed Saturday, Sunday and Monday

Church website address: www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk

E-mail: st.mary.os@btconnect.com

www.facebook.com/stmaryschurcholdswinford Facebook:

Magazine e-mail address: stmary.parishmagazine@hotmail.co.uk

ENQUIRIES ABOUT WEDDINGS, BANNS OF MARRIAGE, BAPTISMS.

Please come to the Church on Saturday morning between 10.00 am and 11.00 am for Vestry Hour. You will be warmly welcomed. Tea and coffee will be available

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

Freyja Lutwyche-Smith 6 October Summer Westwood

Weddinas

None

Funerals

Graham John Wright 9 October aged 79

DIARY NOVEMBER 2019

	DIAIT NOVEMBER 2013	
Friday 1	All Saints day. Clergy day off	
Saturday 2	10.00 am - 12.00 noon Open Church with Vestry Hour	
SUNDAY 3	FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT	
	6.30 pm All Saints / All Souls Service	
Monday 4	7.30 pm Standing Committee Meeting	
Tuesday 5	7.30 pm All Saints /Advent Prayer and Reflection (1) *	
Wednesday 6	2.30 pm All Saints /Advent Prayer and Reflection (1) *	
Thursday 7	10.30 am Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel	
Friday 8	Clergy day off	
Saturday 9	10.00 am - 12.00 noon Open Church with Vestry Hour	
SUNDAY 10	THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT	
Remembrance S	Services - Our Act of Remembrance will be at the 10.00am service	
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	
Tuesday 12	11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft	
	2.15 pm Mothers' Union meeting in the Coach House	
	7.30 pm All Saints /Advent Prayer and Reflection (2) *	
Wednesday 13	2.30 pm All Saints /Advent Prayer and Reflection (2) *	
Thursday 14	10.30 am Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel	
Friday 15	Clergy day off	
Saturday 16	10.00 am - 12.00 noon Open Church with Vestry Hour	
SUNDAY 17	SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT	
	1.00 pm Baptism	
Monday 18	7.30 pm PCC meeting	
Tuesday 19	2.00 pm Tea in the Coach house	
	7.30 pm All Saints /Advent Prayer and Reflection (3) *	
Wednesday 20	2.30 pm All Saints /Advent Prayer and Reflection (3) *	
	7.30 pm Christmas Market meeting in the Narthex	
Thursday 21	10.30 am Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel	
Friday 22	Clergy day off	
Saturday 23	10.00 am - 12.00 noon Open Church with Vestry Hour	
SUNDAY 24	CHRIST THE KING	
Tuesday 26	2.30 pm Tuesday Tea in the narthex	
	7.30 pm All Saints /Advent Prayer and Reflection (4) *	
Wednesday 27	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge	
	2.30 pm All Saints /Advent Prayer and Reflection (4) *	
Thursday 28	10.30 am Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel	
Friday 29	Clergy day off	
Saturday 30	10.00 - 12.00 noon Christmas Market	
* \$00	details of this programme to be available in the Northey	

^{*} See details of this programme to be available in the Narthex

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

November, notoriously a bleak month, is a time for remembering. In ancient days it was also the time for a change in pace. In Old Dutch the name for November was 'slaughter-month'; marking the time when beasts were killed and salted down for winter eating. The Old Saxon name meant 'wind-month' which referred to the laying-up of the fishing fleet for winter. The French Republican Calendar had it as 'fog-month'. As a child I always associated November with that exciting time when the dusk thickens early, darkening the day so that leaving school felt more than usually adventurous.

In the liturgical year, November counts down the Sundays until Advent and so brings the Church year to a close. All Saints' Day and the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, (All Souls' day), are traditionally celebrated on the first two days of November and they introduce the theme of remembering; both celebrate the mutual belonging of every baptised Christian. Through baptism we become members of one body in Christ and the liturgy of All Souls' Day recognises that this belonging transcends death. In the Eucharist we also remember – we recall Jesus' sharing the bread and wine and telling his disciples to 'do this and remember me'. Rowan Williams describes resurrection as God re-membering us, literally 'God putting all our members back together.'

The time between All Saints' and Advent is a good time to 'prepare to prepare'! Advent is a season of preparation, a season of penitence and reflection as we wait for the Incarnation and the wonderful celebrations around Jesus' birth. But it is often also a busy time, gathering in pace as we try to make sure everything is ready for Christmas. So we thought that this 'inbetween' time, All Saints' to Advent, might be a good time for us to 'prepare to prepare' by remembering one another in prayer.

We are inviting St Mary's people and others to join a group which will explore prayer and how we can learn to pray in different ways. There are as many ways to pray as there are people praying and it is good advice to 'pray as you can and not as you can't.' But, unless someone describes them to you, how can you know about ways of praying which you've never tried before? One of the aims of the groups will be to share our experiences of prayer and in so doing inspire one another to deepen our prayer lives.

If you haven't yet signed up for one of the groups it isn't too late, please just ask Mary, Roger, John or Alex.

November needn't be the 'No' of the famous poem by Thomas Hood:

No sun - no moon!

No morn - no noon
No dawn - no dusk - no proper time of day.

No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,

No comfortable feel in any member
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,

No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds!
November!

Instead, this November could be a time of remembering: remembering to say 'Yes!' to God.

	John

LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF WORCESTER

Together with the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Birmingham, Bernard Longley, I recently led an ecumenical pilgrimage to Rome, accompanied by 20 Anglican and 20 Roman Catholic pilgrims.

One of the highlights was a general audience of the Pope in St Peter's Square. There were many thousands of people at that audience, as there are every Wednesday morning, but we were very fortunate to be singled out and warmly greeted by the Pope who asked us for our prayers for him. 'Don't forget!' he added.

At the heart of such audiences is a simple Bible study, given by the Pope in Italian and translated into a number of languages. On this occasion he reflected on the occasion recounted in Acts 8 when the apostle Philip met the Ethiopian who was reading a passage from the prophet Isaiah. As he said:

'Yet, without a guide, he is unable to understand its full meaning. Philip explains to him how the Old Testament prophecies reach their fulfilment in Christ. As a result, the Ethiopian professes his faith in Jesus, and asks to be baptised. From the baptismal waters he emerges no longer a stranger, but a member of the Body of Christ. The dialogue in this encounter reveals to us the key to reading the Scriptures: namely, Christ. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will strengthen all the baptised to follow the example of Philip in bearing witness to the saving power of the Gospel and bringing others to Jesus.'

May we remember that the key to understanding the scriptures is Jesus and bring others to him by witness to the saving power of the Gospel recorded in them.

+John

REFLECTIONS ON HARVEST

The style of celebration of Harvest Festival may have moved away somewhat from the pattern many of us remember from our childhoods but this annual festival remains as significant as it always has been.

Traditionally, in past times when perhaps the most obvious focus for many families was on the provision of the food necessary to sustain them from one day to the next, the work of the farmers and gardeners that produced that food was something of which we were very conscious and openly grateful for. Before the days of high quality foods being transported across the world in refrigerated containers we had to rely much more on what we could grow at home. Consequently, people were more susceptible to the impact of the wrong weather at the wrong time such that a poor harvest really raised concerns over how one might get by.

These days, with our reliance on and general expectation that the supermarket will have on its shelves all that we need, the greatest concern that most of us have to experience may be higher prices at times of shortage.



However, as many of us are aware and already consider, for some families there is a real and often constant shortage of food and in a modern and rich country such as ours, adults and children survive on very limited, often inappropriate diets and may go hungry.

As Christians we know that God will provide and how it is part of our responsibility to ensure that, just as we love our neighbours, so we also ensure they are fed.

This year our Harvest Festival celebrations reflected both the traditional and the contemporary. With thanks to our Social Committee, 50 of us shared a wonderful Harvest Supper with great fellowship and mind-testing quizzes, when, collectively, we celebrated the goodness of God's generosity and provision.

On Sunday, our services stated our appreciation of God's bounty in our hymns and prayers and our congregation echoed that appreciation in donations to support the local Food Bank in its work with those less fortunate than us.

Thank you for your generosity. May you be blessed with all you need in your life and may you continue to reflect your wealth and consideration with regular support for the Food Bank throughout the coming year.

A special thank you to Ray and Jean Drew who regularly ensure the gifts you donate are delivered to the Food Bank every week.

Antony Tatford

CONFIRMATION

At a joyous and celebratory service on Sunday 6 October, five people were confirmed at St Mary's during a service led by Bishop Michael Hooper

Following a course of instruction and preparation led by Revd John Flitcroft and Revd Alex French, Ron, Ian, Anna, Alex and Martha renewed and confirmed the promises made on their behalf at baptism.

It was a delight and pleasure to welcome into the church, to share the service that day, many family members and friends who attended in support of those being confirmed.

From the start of the service Bishop Michael revealed his warm and welcoming nature, sharing how the service, whilst having a focus on those five candidates, each making particularly personal promises, was an inclusive occasion when everyone was invited to take an active and supportive part. And so they did, with loud, meaningful responses and joyful singing of the hymns.

Bishop Michael reflected on the New Testament reading, the meaningful words of Paul's second letter to Timothy —

"I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did - when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline."

— and he encouraged all to renew their commitment to a Christian life, to recognise, accept and meet the challenges life brings with confidence, to trust in our faith and to remember those who brought us to faith.

May Ron, Ian, Anna, Alex and Martha find peace and joy in their life with Christ at their side.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Each year Remembrance Sunday commemorates the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women involved in the two World Wars and later conflicts. This year is particularly important, marking the 75th anniversary of D-Day in the Second World War.

On 6 June 1944 and during the long summer that followed, men from all over the world came to fight in Normandy, France to defeat Nazism and re-establish freedom. Normandy will bear the scars of this moment in history, of the D-Day landings and the battles that were fought, for ever. This year in particular we remember and pay tribute to the veterans from America, Britain, Canada, Belgium, Denmark, Holland, Norway, Poland and Australia, along with their brothers in arms, those many heroes who lost their lives here during that summer of 1944, 75 years ago.



Earlier this several summer significant events commemorated contributions of all those who gave so much to enable the eventual successful outcome of D-Day. Not least are remembered those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Normandy, with its many museums, historic sites, cemeteries and cultural and teaching facilities, became the focus of world attention once more, an open-air history book where veterans remembered, visitors learned, and all paid their respects to those who contributed to this significant event in our history.

Acts of Remembrance will be performed by churches and public groups all over the Diocese on Remembrance Sunday, 10th November.

The services at St Mary's will include an Act of Remembrance when we will pay Remembrance Sunday tribute to all those who have responded to the call to stand side by side in a fight for freedom throughout the years and we will acknowledge all those who serve in our armed forces today. A tribute will be laid on each of the war graves in the churchyard.



KNITTED CHRISTMAS TREES

For the last Christmas Tree Festival many people made Christmas trees using French knitting. These were used to decorate the window sills and the remainder were sold. This year we are going to knit trees using the pattern below. Please feel free to knit trees and hand them in either to Elaine Buchan (Thursday morning service) or Sally Frost (01384 377146).

Cast on 28 sts in green DK wool on straight 4mm needles

Row 1: k (28 sts)

Row 2: k1, k2tog, k to the last 3 sts, k2tog, k1 (26 sts)

Rows 3 to 5: k (26 sts)

Rows 6 to 45: rep rows 2 to 5 eleven times (6 sts)

Row 46: k1, [k2tog] x 2, k1 (4 sts)

Rows 47 to 49: k (4 sts) Row 50: [k2tog] x 2 (2 sts)

Row 51: k (2sts) Row 52: k2tog (1 st)

Bind off



Finishing

Note that the cast on edge is the bottom of the tree. Weave in the yarn tail from your cast on stitches.

Sew on your decorations (pom-poms, buttons, beads or sequins - anything you fancy!)

Abbreviations

DK Double Knitting Wool

k Knit

k2tog knit two stitches together

rep Repeat st(s) Stitches

[....] Repeat the sequence between the square

brackets by the number indicated

(..sts) The number in round brackets at the end of the instruction indicates the number of stitches after working the row



This pattern was included in the October magazine—but there is still time for you to add your contributions if you are able. Thank you for your help.

10

STOURBRIDGE STREET PASTORS

The Autumn 2019 Newsletter displayed in the Narthex reflects on ten years of amazingly generous work by all those involved with this very local organisation. Although Stourbridge town centre is not quite as busy and challenging as it used to be during the evenings and at weekends the work of the Street Pastors continues to serve a vital need.

Through and in conjunction with the work of the Street Pastors, everyone sleeping rough in Stourbridge is visited and offered alternative accommodation via the local authority.

As you are able, with practical help, funds and your prayers please maintain your support for the Street Pastors, especially Helen Gale of our congregation, as they enter their eleventh year of assistance to those who find themselves at risk on the streets of our town.

FAIR TRADE

Stourbridge will have to re-apply for its Fair Trade status, something that continues to serve an important role in securing better trading and working conditions for many people throughout the world who might otherwise face real poverty. We are fortunate that Maggie Abbotts and Gaynor Hill maintain for us regular access (via our church stall at the 10.00 am service) for the purchase of Fair Trade products. These are even available for delivery to your home if you wish to purchase items directly. Please do continue to support Fair Trade and to help Stourbridge confirm its Fair Trade status. All refreshments served at St Mary's use Fair Trade products.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your support for the many initiatives in which St Mary's is involved and promotes. Your contributions to the Food Bank, to our work in schools and elsewhere with children, support for those in need of company and assistance, for the many activities that seek to serve our local community with entertainment, the opportunity to worship or to find a moment of quiet reflection, and for the time you share with individuals in their times of need. All of these are appreciated. Thank you for your contributions however large or small you may consider them to be. They are of immense value, a real treasure.

St Mary's Church, Rectory Road, Oldswinford. DY8 2HA





CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

2019

A display of specially decorated **Christmas Trees prepared by local groups**

Including events for children, demonstrations and activities

Friday 20th December, 11.00 am - 4.00 pm Saturday 21st December, 11.00 am - 4.00 pm and 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm with festive refreshments Sunday 22nd December 12.00 noon - 4.00 pm

Light refreshments available at all times.

Free Entry

Donations invited

All proceeds in support of St Mary's Church

John Hill has produced timetable sheets for stewarding and helping with refreshments during the festival. These will be at the back of church from the end of October for people to sign up if they are able to help during the times the festival is open to the public. Do help if you can.

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP SEPTEMBER WALK – 6 CANALS IN 5 MILES!

From Langley Green Railway Station we joined the Titford Canal; at 511 feet, this is now the highest on the Birmingham canal network. Built in 1837 it served as a feeder to the Main Line Canal from mines and engineering works. We followed it down the Tat Bank Locks to the Old Main Line Canal, directly beneath the M5 Oldbury Viaduct. This time we turned left, away from Birmingham towards Tipton.

At the first junction we paused at the top staircase lock for a snack and then descended to the Gower Branch Canal which we followed to Albion

Junction on the New Main Line (NML) canal where we turned right towards Birmingham. After half a mile we had to cross over to turn left onto the Wednesbury Old Canal, (WOC) at Pudding Green, which after another 3/4 mile split again at Ryders Green junction, ahead to Walsall and right to West Bromwich still known as WOC. This section was much less well used than the previous canals and was, in places, completely blocked by bullrushes.



Our walk was due to finish at Black Lake

Metro Station preceded by a possible eatery for lunch, but as we rounded a bend our way was obstructed by a fallen tree that completely blocked the towing path and half the canal. The tree had several trunks and was covered in ivy. A pair of secateurs was produced, and the ivy cut back to the trunks enabling us to go under the first and over the second trunk. (See photo) A little further on the Ridgeacre Pub did excellent value lunches and was most accommodating in seating our group of 13 walkers all on one long table.

After a good lunch it was only a ¼ mile along the Ridgeacre Canal, a continuation of the WOC but cut off from it by the Black Country Spine Road, built without adequate headroom. We travelled back by Metro to the Hawthorns and then by train to Stourbridge.

The walk took place at a time of very unsettled weather with thundery showers and gusty winds. 13 was not an unlucky number for us as the morning was predominantly dry with only two very light and short-lived showers and plenty of sunny periods. The heavy rain held off until we were travelling on the Metrol

The walk was generally very quiet and peaceful, not many flowers left but trees starting to show autumn colours. We saw only limited wildlife, herons, mallards, Canada geese, coots and moorhens.

ST MARY'S WITH ST JOHN'S MOTHERS' UNION

Jean Rolfe was presented with her long service membership certificate. Jean and Gemma, members of staff from CHADD, a charity organisation in Dudley Metropolitan Borough, were presented with several knitted jackets and bobble hats for babies and young children in refuges. These items had been gifted to our branch and been blessed in church earlier.

Kanthi Ariaraj led our prayers on the meaning of refuge especially as found in psalms. So, linked with our relationship with God, on whom we can rely at all times for strength, protection and confidence, if we trust in him in times of despair or praise, we go on to blessed assurance.

Kanthi then related two special moments which she treasured on her Sri Lankan holiday. The first was in Kandy, at the temple of Buddha's Tooth, Dalada Maligara, a sacred shrine in the Central Highlands. There she was chosen to pour a bowl of water covered with lotus flowers round a sacred tree linked with the Nirvana enlightenment philosophy. Barefoot, she had to climb up and down 50 steps with no handrails for support. At the top the view was wonderful but her constant prayer was "Lord bring me back safely". At the end she also felt a sense of peace and calm as well as relief.

Secondly, her visit to Ratha Pura, centre for mines and precious gemstones especially rubies and sapphires made her aware of earth's bounty and beauty, often hidden and hard won. Kanthi was thanked for taking us along her special journey.

Diary Dates:

Next Meeting: Tuesday 12th November 2.15pm at the Coach House –

Remembrance - Speaker Roy Peacock.

MU Coffee Morning: Norton Church Hall, Saturday 16th November, 10.30 am. All are welcome.

Dawn Nex

Whatever one's opinions regard to the EU one cannot help A Brief Account of that bloudy and fubble Defign laid against the King, his Lords but consider whether contemporary events may lead to a similar annual observance in years to come.

hope and pray for a peaceful resolution to the challenges facing our Parliamentary representatives.

GUN-POWDER Plot:

and Commons in Parliament, and of a Happy Deliverance by Divine Power. To the Tone of Min not too tigh.



TBur Poredante I pray you do drato near, dinto this Diery lind attentibe Car; The Lines are Orto although the Bulger's Cid, Likebile it is as true as e'er was told. When James the Sirtt in England Brigneb Bling,

At length, their wietebeb Romens alf agereb dalbieh wag m make the King and Marion bleed, Hy Powber, all agreed with joint Confent, To Blow up both the King and Parliament. Sot to keep freter this their Gliffen?

A NEW RESOURCE FOR BAPTISM FAMILIES

In October, a new project was launched in the Diocese, designed to help churches better connect with families who come to them for baptism and help keep their promise to baptism parents, to 'welcome baptised children and uphold them in their new lives in Christ'.

Baptism Books takes the form of a monthly resource, which is designed to be fun and interactive for families on their faith journey. Each month, a different secular book is suggested by email to the baptism families, along with an attachment which explores how the book reflects something of God as well as activities for the family to try and a prayer.

The resource was trialled by families earlier in the year and had very positive feedback. Laura from All Saints' Church in Sedgley took part in the trial with her two-and-a-half-year-old son, Thomas. She said:



"We tried the Baptism Books resource over three months. We would read the suggested book with Thomas during his normal story time after tea and use the sheet with the different activities over the following days. Thomas was a bit young for the prayers, but my husband and I used them to pray for our family."

"It was really nice to have a different topic each month and enough time to do the activities and talk about the theme together. The resource was very simply written and was easy to pick up and use. Although some of the

activities were more suitable for slightly older children, there was still plenty for us to do with Thomas and we were able to adapt some of the other bits. For example, we enjoyed going out and looking at different flowers, or just looking at Thomas' various trains when we were exploring the theme that everyone is different."

"It's great that the books are all ones that this age group really enjoy, like Elmer and Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs. We were able to find them quite easily in the library if we didn't already have them. It was a good way of being able to talk about God and Jesus with Thomas more actively and as a part of our daily life. I think it will definitely help children to get used to exploring and talking about the Christian faith. It also encourages a love of books!"

If you would like more information and guidance in using the Baptism Books resources, please contact John or Alex. Full details are with one of the diocesan Calling Young Disciples Mission Enablers, Helen Laird.

Please make a note in your diary for our:-



Christmas Market

PARTO PARTO



in the Church Hall

Saturday, 30th November from 10.00 am - 12.00 Noon

This has always proved to be a great occasion and with your support this year's Christmas Market will be equally enjoyable and successful. Many of the usual stalls will be available so there will be cakes, books, Christmas Hamper, gifts, various games as well as coffee and mince pies available throughout the morning.

As always any contributions to the market are always welcome (but do remember they are to be sold or given as prizes). As the church is open most days it is probably best for items to be brought in at service times so they may be put away safely. Alternatively you can give me a call so we can arrange something. Gifts of all sorts of bottles for the bottle stall will encourage even more people to 'have a go' on the day. Cakes and mince pies, please bring to the Church Hall on Friday evening or early Saturday morning. This is a fine opportunity to DECLUTTER for Christmas by letting us have those bits and pieces which are now looking for a new home.

There will be a final meeting for all those helping with stalls on the day on Wednesday 20 November at 7.30 pm in the Narthex. Please do your best to attend or let me know that everything is arranged for your stall.

Many thanks,

Katey Fletcher

01384 378182 or by email at kateyfletcher@btinternet.com

.......When the gray **November** weather came, and hung its soft dark clouds low and unbroken over the brown of the ploughed fields and the vivid emerald of the stretches of winter corn, the heavy stillness weighed my heart down to a forlorn yearning after the pleasant things of childhood, the petting, the comforting, the warming faith in the unfailing wisdom of elders.

Elizabeth Von Arnim - Elizabeth and her German Garden

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