

St James News: Thought for the day – Monday 24th August 2020

Oxford prayers 1 – Rev John Marshall

One of my favourite book of prayers is the Oxford book of prayers compiled by George Appleton.

I have used it irregularly and have found some interesting prayers. They catch my eye for different reasons. Jo has been to the retreat house at Pleshey and our Vicar from Kings acre Church went there as Warden. I thought the prayer for a Christian hospital could apply in many situations.

- At the door of a Christian hospital

O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship, and a heavenly Father's care, and narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and hate.

Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged enough to turn back the tempter's power.

Make it a gateway to thine eternal Kingdom.

- Bishop Thomas Ken

Father, we pray thee to fill this house with thy Spirit. Here may the strong renew their strength and seek for their working lives a noble consecration. Here may the poor find succour and the friendless friendship. Here may the tempted find power, the sorrowing comfort and the bereaved find the truth that death hath no dominion over them beloved. Here let the fearing find a new courage and the doubting have their faith and hope confirmed. Here may the careless be awakened and all that are oppressed be freed. Hither may many be drawn by thy love and go hence, their doubts resolved and faith renewed, their sins forgiven and their hearts aflame with thy love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- From the chapel porch Pleshey Retreat House.