

St James News: Thought for the day – Saturday 24th October

The Word is the seed 2 George Appleton – Rev John Marshall

I thought I would find out a little bit about George Appleton. He lived from 1902 to 1993. He was ordained in 1925 and served at St Dunstan's Stepney. He went on to spend 28 years in Burma as a missionary ending up as the Archdeacon of Rangoon. He returned to England; in 1962 he was made Archdeacon of London. A year later he was Archbishop of Perth, Australia. In 1969 he was translated to be Archbishop of Jerusalem. He retired in 1974 to become an assistant curate in London.

He wrote books of prayers and about prayer, he also had a regular column in the Telegraph.

In the Word is the seed (SPCK) he writes meditations based on Scripture, here is one that isn't.

Memory

Into the computer of my memory

I insert a word, a thought, a name.

Immediately

the silent wheels whirl

and I remember

past names, past happenings,

stored ready

for the associating key,

unrecalled for years,

reviving the past,

conversing with those from the past,

resurrecting the dead

as if present.

Perhaps they are always present,

just waiting

the recalling memory,

the remembered presence.

So now I can speak

words of welcome and love

of gratitude and inquiry

words of pardon or apology

into the timeless present.

Who or what do we remember?

We can hold them before God.