

Thought for the day – Thursday 14th January 2021

Aunties and Uncles by Revd John Marshall

Many of you know about my Aunties in their late nineties and we have been grateful when you have all prayed for them and they thank you for their prayers. Today we got a late Christmas card from my cousin. Many years ago I remember playing a target game – shooting with a wire gun in Sidcup. Later we stopped with my Auntie and Uncle in Hastings and I was guarded by their Pekinese – who wouldn't let anyone touch me. (I was asleep on a camp bed)

When I was young our neighbours were all Aunties and Uncles and were looking out for us. I borrowed Auntie Peg and Uncle Ernry's step ladder to paint a lamp post or a ventilator with water.

Jesus was surrounded by families who were looking out for him. When Jesus and his family went up to Jerusalem, Mary and Joseph, "Thinking he was in their company, they travelled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends"

Of course Mary went to her cousin Elizabeth, when she was in the early stages of her pregnancy.

It is interesting to suppose that Jesus and John would have spent time together growing up.

Our families and friends are a gift from God.

I would like to share a prayer by John Wesley,

Be gracious to all that are near and dear to me, and keep us all in thy fear and love. Guide us, Good Lord, and govern us by that same Spirit, that we may be so united to Thee here as not to be divided when Thou art pleased to call us hence, but may together enter into thy glory, through Jesus Christ, and Blessed Lord and Saviour, who has taught us when we pray to say
Our Father

John Wesley 1703 – 91
From the Oxford Book of Prayers