

St James News: Thought for the day – Tuesday 21st July 2020

Language Students – Revd John Marshall

Language Students

Cambridge is full of students; and a lot of people to study English there. My Mum and Dad offered lodgings to some students, all of whom were memorable. The first to come were Swedish teachers. (I was instrumental in booking the second while my parents were away.) We went to a reception where nobody knew who was English or Swedish.

It built up; a Japanese journalist introduced himself as Shozo (If I were a Christian it would be my Christian name.) He was charming, with him was Nicola, a gentle and polite Italian. WE were able to host the students, encourage them and and show them something of East Anglia (I enjoyed trips with Christian a Swiss hotelier. (He liked the fact we could have coffee in Tudor hotels.)

Gustavo from Ecuador was excited by next door's guinea pig, who lived in luxury. He gave us a helpful recipe. He went on to manage the tannery in Beckenham. His sister Sonia came too; later I met their older sister Gladys when I took a student from school in Brixton to casualty at King's. It was her last day and she provided expert stitches.

Sharmard's mother was so pleased by Mum's care for her son that she gave her a beautiful turquoise ring.

Eventually I found I was sharing with students – and it was encouraging to talk with Mohammed about our faith and note what we had in common.

Mr Alexander from Yugoslavia, did a lot of heavy work in our garden. We were grateful. Hatsui a young Japanese woman liked to wash up; my Dad liked to help her.

It says in Hebrews 13.2 “Do not forget to entertain strangers for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.”

And in Romans 12. 12 -13 “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in

prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."

Prayer:

O Holy Spirit, breath of all creatures, purifier of all souls and healer of all wounds;
be fire to our heart, light to our path and friend for our journey. Amen.

Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

Song: [Jesus be the centre](#)