

St. John the Evangelist,
Walton



Open Door



April & May 2024



Details of information in this magazine and more can be found at
www.stjohnschurchwalton.org.uk and www.facebook.com/stjohnswalton/



Sunday and Regular Services

Sunday Morning Service 10.00 am

Morning Worship — 1st and 3rd Sundays

Holy Communion — 2nd and 4th Sundays

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5th Sunday Holy Communion Service 10.00am

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These services will be live streamed at

<https://www.youtube.com/@stjohnschurchwalton1705/streams>

and

<https://stjohnschurchwalton.org.uk/>

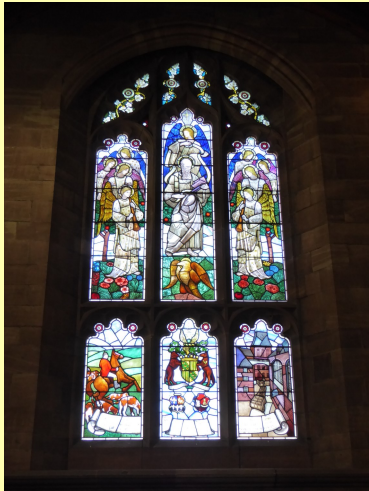
Holy Communion

Sunday Service 8.30 am

1st & 3rd Sundays only

Wednesday Morning

Service 10.00 am



Contact Details

We are now in a Vacancy
For any church enquiries please make contact via

Tel: 01925 262 939

or through our website at
www.stjohnschurchwalton.org.uk

Lay Reader

Mr. I. Jerrard-Dinn — 01925 265 557

Lay Reader

Mr. K. Fletcher — 07377 408 910

Pastoral Worker + Safeguarding Officer

Mrs. G. Povey-Robins — 07970 983 308

Church Warden

Mr. T. Robins — 01925 261 922

Church Warden

Mr. C. Lloyd — 01925 212 644

Treasurer

Mrs. M. Highmore — 01925 473 904

P.C.C. Secretary

Mrs. N. Chadwick — 01925 263 449

A letter to the Parish

Dear Friends,

As we begin the month of April and we see the trees bursting into bud, the days getting longer and the sun becoming warmer, our hearts are lifted, as we look forward to warmer weather.

Our gardens are on the move too. So out come the lawn mowers, gardening gloves and tools. The church Prayer Garden is starting to look a little tired, so watch out, all those involved in grow@stjohns, we will be chasing our gardening team to start tidying that area!

We have celebrated the joyous resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and feel strengthened and encouraged to embark on the rest of 2024.

As we look forward to the month of May, we are reminded of Pentecost, which marks a vital event in Christian history. It is celebrated 50 days after Easter.

After Jesus was crucified, the remnant of His followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. But on the day of Passover, they had an amazing collective experience. They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy, which was the coming of the Holy Spirit to us. Afraid no longer, they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival, led by Peter they began to tell them about Jesus and His resurrection. As a result, 3,000 people believed and were baptised in the name of Jesus. They were the nucleus of what in 100 years would be a Church that would turn history upside down.

For Christians, Pentecost is in effect the birthday of the Church.

Today, at St John's, we continue to ask God to help us find a new vicar to lead our Church. The services are continuing as normal and God is helping us as we take on new responsibilities in this time of vacancy.

We have a lovely pastoral team at St John's, who will visit, chat or even bring communion to your home. So, if you would like a visit, a chat or just a phone chat please contact us and we would love to talk with you

On Wednesday mornings at 10.00am we enjoy meeting together for either Celtic Morning Prayer or Celtic Communion. This is a lovely, informal and relaxed time when we learn together and enjoy a cuppa with cake/biscuits afterwards. If you're at a loose end on a Wednesday morning, please come and join us – we're a very welcoming bunch!

Thank you for taking time to read this letter. I hope and pray that you will enjoy our magazine and maybe even pop into church, to one of our services.

God bless

Gill Povey-Robins
Pastoral Worker at St. John's

Dates for your diary

Prayer Group

2nd Wednesday of each month
in Church vestry
11am

April

Wednesday 10th

May

Wednesday 8th

If you would like to join us please do come along

Knit and Natter

1.30pm—3.30pm

April

Tuesday 2nd

Tuesday 16th

May

Tuesday 7th

Tuesday 21st



Tuesday Group

7.15-9.00pm

Church Community Hall

May

21st

28th



3rd Friday of month
In
Church Community Hall
at
2.30 pm

April

Friday 19th

***The Unlikely Pilgrimage of
Harold Fry***

May

Friday 17th

Keeping Mum

Admission by donation to

Church funds

Refreshments at interval

For details or to reserve your seat
please contact Nina Chadwick on
07840 119 659

APCM

(Annual Parochial Church Meeting)

12th May

11.15am

in

St. John's Church



ST. JOHN'S ENSEMBLE

St. John's Church, Old Chester Road, Higher Walton, Warrington, WA4 6TJ

Spring Concert



SATURDAY 27 APRIL 2024

7:30pm

£6.00 Entry, Including Light Refreshments

Social goings on

St. John's Knit and Natter

1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month

Church Community Hall

1.30pm — 3.30pm



Guaranteed a warm welcome

For more details please contact
Mrs. D. Armitage on 01925 268540

OR

Mrs. G. Hatch on 01925 262315

St. John's Ensemble

meets In **Church**
on

Thursday from 7.30 pm



Enjoy singing?

Why not come
along and join us?

Ability to read music a
help but not essential.

Tuesday Group



*Want to learn more about God and the Christian faith outside the formal setting of Church?
Friendly, ordinary folk getting to grips with what living in the 21st Century means for their
personal faith.*

If you are interested, please speak to Noelle or make contact via noelle_briggs@hotmail.co.uk

Thy Kingdom Come 2024

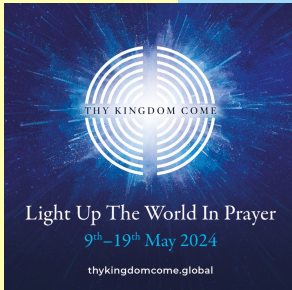
9th May - 19th May

Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities."

Archbishop Justin Welby

For more information please visit www.thykingdomcome.global



Remembering your loved ones at St John's

Have you thought about celebrating or remembering a special event or person by sponsoring the flowers at St. John's?

We would love to hear from you.

Sign your name on the calendar at the back of Church or please contact Christine Hughes on 01925 210 792 to discuss a donation.



Prayer pages



Father, hear us, we are praying,
Hear the words our hearts are saying
We are praying for our children.
Keep them from the powers of evil,
From the secret, hidden peril,
From the whirlpool that would suck them,
From the treacherous quicksand pluck them.
Through life's troubled waters steer them,
Through life's bitter battle cheer them,
Father, Father be thou near them.
*And wherever they may bide,
Lead them home at eventide.*

Amy Carmichael

Lord of light,
we thank you that you are always near to us.
Help us to look up to you.
When we grumble and moan,
help us to look up to you.
May we be thankful for all the good things in
our lives.
Help us to look up to you.

Lord of light,
help us to look to you in the coming week.
Guide us when the way ahead seems dark
and full of obstacles.
May we always give thanks, even in the
darkest times,
and enable us to shine as lights in the world.
Amen

www.rootsontheweb.com

I offer thee every flower that ever
grew,
Every bird that ever flew,
Every wind that ever blew.

Every thunder rolling,
Every church bell tolling,
Every leaf and sod.

I offer thee
Every wave that ever moved,
Every heart that ever loved,
Thee, they Father's well-beloved.

Every river dashing,
every lightning flashing
Like an angel's sword.

I offer thee
Every cloud that ever swept,
O'er the skies, and broke and wept
In rain, and with the flowerets slept.

Every communicant praying,
Every angel staying,
Before thy throne to sing.

O Lord! And all thy glorious
Self o'er death victorious,
Throned in heaven above.

Glorificamus(Ancient Irish prayer)

I thank you for my friends,
For those who understand me better than I understand myself,
For those who know me at my worst and still like me,
For those who have forgiven me when I had no right to expect to be forgiven.
Help me to be as true to my friends as I would wish them to be to me.

William Barclay

*Give us, Lord, a bit o' sun,
A bit o' work and a bit o' fun;
Give us all in the struggle and splutter
Our daily bread and a bit o' butter;
Give us health, our keep to make,
An' a bit to spare for others' sake;
Give us sense, for we're some of us duffers,
An' a heart to feel for all that suffers;
Give us, too, a bit of a song
And a tale, and a book to help us along.
An' give us our share o' sorrow's lesson
That we may prove how grief's a blessin'.
Give us, lord, a chance to be
Our goodly best, brave, wise, and free,
Our goodly best for ourself, and others,
Till all men learn to live as brothers.*

From the wall of an old inn, Lancaster



Faith Communities/Working together

God of All,
Cultures, faiths, denominations may vary, but You love **all**.
Thoughts, understanding, paths may vary, but You love **all**.
Thank You.

Help us, despite our differences, to respect each other and work together to serve our surrounding community. We ask Your blessing on all faith communities in Warrington and in particular we pray for everyone within Bridgewater Churches Together. Amen



St. John's Prayer Chain

As part of our Pastoral Ministry at St. John's some church members make up our Prayer Chain. They pray daily for those in need, with requests normally being included for two weeks.

If you would like prayers to be offered on behalf of yourself or someone for whom you have a particular concern at this time, then we would be pleased to do so.

To make a request please contact any of the following:

Ian Jerrard-Dinn (Lay Reader) on 01925 265 557

Gill Povey-Robins (Pastoral Worker) on 07970 983 308

Christian Aid Week 2024

May 12-18

Seven days, so many ways to make a difference

Every Christian Aid Week, people across Britain and Ireland raise funds, act and pray for their global neighbours in a celebration of hope for a fairer world.

This year's appeal ... is focussing on the organisation's work in Burundi, one of the most densely populated and poorest countries in Africa. Heavily reliant on agriculture, it's also one of the least prepared to combat the effects of climate change, including droughts, floods and landslides. The global cost of living crisis has intensified the challenges: more than 70 per cent of the population live in poverty and more than half of children are chronically malnourished.

Christian Aid has been working in Burundi since 1995 when it first offered humanitarian assistance to people surviving the civil conflict. Now, alongside local partners, the organisation helps establish Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs). These community-led groups mean people can save and borrow money, making small businesses possible, offering reliable and diverse incomes so families can eat regularly, get medicine when they need it, and build safer homes.



Thirty-five-year-old Aline Nibogora is the chairperson of a VSLA which supports some 25 families in a remote village, in Makamba Province. Aline escaped an abusive marriage only to find herself on the streets begging for a place

Photo Credit: Armstrong Too

Her life changed when she went to a three-day, Christian Aid-funded community workshop. With a small start-up loan, Aline began trading avocados and peanuts locally. She's now a grocery wholesaler and living on her own plot of land where she's building a home for her family. In the next five years she hopes to expand, so one day she can buy a mill. This will provide a source of income without the need to transport heavy goods over long distances.

"I don't want my children to have a painful life like mine, remembering it makes me weep. I could never have dreamed I would one day have a brick house and be a successful businesswoman, able to feed and clothe my children. This is a plan and I will do it; I am a woman who is an achiever."

Aline poses with her three sons (from left to right) Vyukesenge Aubi, Fisto Niyoyandemye and Irumva Devis.

Photo Credit: Armstrong Too





Photos Credit: Armstrong Too

This Christian Aid Week ... supporters are once more stepping up, knowing that every prayer, every gift, every action helps transform lives.

There are **seven days and so many ways** to make a difference ... For those who like a physical challenge there's a new option for 2024 with the chance to take part in 70k in May. You can cover the distance in any way you like, take part by yourself or with a group, and share your progress on a dedicated Facebook page.

Find out all the ways you can support Christian Aid Week by visiting the Christian Aid website at www.christianaid.org.uk

What could your donations buy?

£5 could buy a savings book for a member of a VSLA, setting them up to start their own small business and become financially independent.

£30 would help a family buy two Jerrycans to collect water from the river to carry back to their farm. Jerrycans provide irrigation to crops, especially during the dry season, maintaining food production for the family.

£50 would mean a vulnerable family can purchase a water storage tank. Water can then be stored for a few days rather than travelling to the communal water point, allowing instant access to water for washing, cleaning and cooking.

£100 could help a woman set up her own small business with a starter kit; including money to purchase her first few items to sell. This means she could supply local grocery shops or restaurants with vegetables, set up a roadside shop, or buy maize to sell in bigger markets like Bujumbura.

£100 could also help buy a family a bicycle meaning easier transport to school, quicker access to medical treatment in emergencies or support carrying produce from farm to market.

A few quotes to ponder...

Man's way leads to a hopeless end - God's way leads to an endless hope. *Anon*

Do not believe in miracles...rely on them. *Anon*

What we see in others often reveals something about us. *Anon*

World Autism Acceptance Week, 2nd – 8th April 2024

Autism is on the rise. Or at least, the recognition of it is. According to the website psychcentral.com, there was a 787% exponential increase in the number of people who were diagnosed with autism between 1998 and 2018 in the UK.

The National Autistic Society says that in the UK, more than one in every 100 people are now on the autism spectrum. It reckons that around 700,000 adults and children in the UK suffer with the condition to some degree.

All of which means that you probably know of someone who has autism, to some degree. And you may know that, as it says on the NHS website:

“Autistic people may act in a different way to other people, ... and find it hard to understand how other people think or feel. They may find things like bright lights or loud noises overwhelming, stressful, or uncomfortable. They may get anxious or upset about unfamiliar situations and social events and take longer to understand information.”

To help people with autism, you may wish to support this ‘acceptance week’, by going to the National Autistic Society’s website, <https://www.autism.org.uk> and taking part in some way in their fundraising campaign.

Mental Health awareness week 2024

13th—19th May

Set up 23 years ago by the Mental Health Foundation, this annual event “where the whole of the UK comes together to focus on achieving good mental health ... aims to tackle stigma and provide people with the information and tools to understand and prioritise their own mental health.”

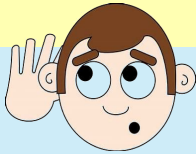
“The week has grown to become one of the most high-profile public campaigns in the UK with millions of people taking part, and is actively supported by individuals, UK and national governments, and celebrities.”

The theme this year is "[Movement: Moving more for mental health](#)".

“Being active is important for our mental health. But so many of us struggle to get enough exercise. We know there are many different reasons for this, so this Mental Health Awareness Week we want to help people to find moments for movement in their daily routines. Going for a walk in your neighbourhood, putting on your favourite music and dancing around the living room, chair exercises when you’re watching television – it all counts!”

For ideas on how to become involved please visit www.mentalhealth.org.uk from which the above information has been sourced.

Don't hesitate to use hearing aids



Here is something you didn't expect: using hearing aids if you are a bit deaf can be of great benefit to your overall health.

Crystal Rolfe, director of health at the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) said:

"Hearing aids bring enormous benefits for people with hearing loss. Research shows that wearing hearing aids may reduce the risk of cognitive decline, and it is well known that they have positive effects on physical, social, emotional, and mental wellbeing.

According to hearing loss charity RNID, 12 million adults in the UK are deaf, have hearing loss or tinnitus and an estimated seven million people could benefit from hearing aids, but only about two million use them.

The researchers hope the findings, published in *The Lancet Healthy Longevity* journal, will encourage more people to wear hearing aids. As one doctor said: "If you have hearing loss, get hearing aids. The benefits could be limitless."



St George and Hiccup and the dragon

Have you seen the film *How to Train your Dragon*? It's set in a Viking village under attack from dragons, who steal livestock and burn down houses. Hiccup, the village Chief's son, invents a machine to capture dragons. However, when he catches one of the most dangerous dragons, he cannot kill it, when he sees that the dragon is just as frightened as he is. Through this friendship, the people and dragons eventually learn to live in harmony.



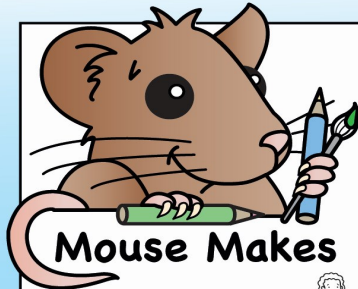
On 23rd April we celebrate St George, the patron saint of England. He is famous for slaying a dragon, a tradition which became popular in the Middle Ages. Whether he killed an actual dragon is open to question! However, we do know that the original George was a Roman soldier at the time of Emperor Diocletian. He refused to renounce his faith, as commanded by the Emperor, resulting in his death on 23 April 303 AD.

The contrast is clear: St George slayed the evil dragon, while Hiccup refused to kill one. However, they also have something important in common. Both acted according to their conscience, defying the popular understanding of those around them and not worrying about the personal cost to themselves. St George was martyred for standing up for his faith in Jesus before a pagan emperor, while Hiccup risked rejection by his father and village because of his compassion.

Today, we are still called to stand for Christ against wrongs and injustice in daily life, whatever the personal cost. However, we also need to be ready to look our enemies in the eye and meet their hostility with love and compassion. This is why we also remember this month that Jesus died and rose again, so that we might have God's power to do this in our lives.

For the children

(and young at heart!)



Mouse Makes



How many times had the risen Jesus revealed himself to the disciples before this?

Read John 21:14



How many disciples were there? Who were they?

Read John 21: 11

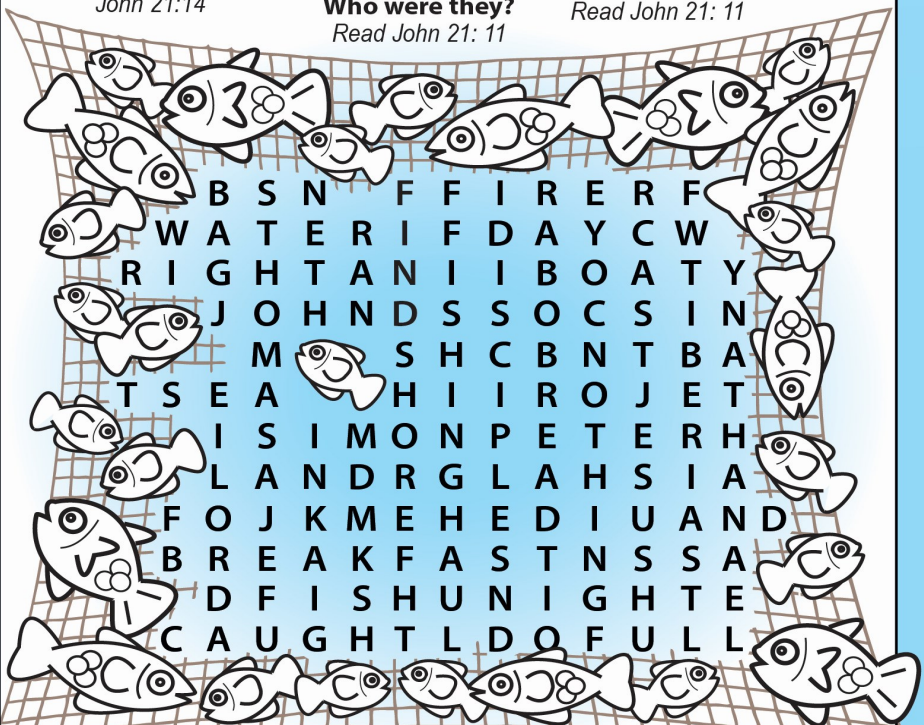
Some time after Jesus had risen a few of His disciples met together to go fishing. They fished all night but caught nothing. As the sun rose a man on the shore asked; "Have you caught anything?" "Not a thing" they answered.

He said to them "Throw your net out onto the right side of the boat and you will catch some." So they did and they and they caught so many fish they could not pull in the net.

Then John recognised the man, "It is the Lord!"



READ
the story in **John 21**



DISCIPLES • TIBERIAS • SEA • SIMON PETER • THOMAS • NATHANAEL • JOHN • DAY
FISHING • BOAT • NIGHT • CAUGHT • NOTHING • WATER • SHORE • FISH • CAST • NET
RIGHT • FIND • HAUL • LORD • FULL • LAND • FIRE • BREAD • BREAKFAST • JESUS

Colour in all the fish

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Did you know?

St John's Church Community Hall is available for Hire

Our Grade 2 listed Church Community Hall is situated in the heart of Walton village and is suitable for parties, societies and clubs, fitness classes, rehearsal rooms and local community meetings. We have two rooms available for occasional event hire: The Walton Room (capacity 49) and the Daresbury Room (capacity 27) as well as a kitchen, disabled toilet and baby change facilities.

Bookings are now available for local groups or private hire. Please contact Nina Chadwick on 07840119659 or Christine Hughes on 01925 210 792.

A few anniversaries from April and May you may find interesting

300 years ago, on 7th April 1724, German composer Johann Sebastian Bach's 'St John Passion' was performed for the first time, at a church in Leipzig.

175 years ago, on 10th April 1849, American mechanic Walter Hunt was granted a US patent for his invention of the safety pin. He immediately sold the rights for \$400, which is about \$12,000 today. The company he sold it to made millions from it.

75 years ago, on 7th April 1949, the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical South Pacific was opened in Broadway.

200 years ago, on 10th May 1824 The National Gallery in London opens to the public.

70 years ago, on 29th May 1954, Diane Leather becomes the first woman to break the five-minute mile, at the Alexander Sports Ground in Birmingham.

10 years ago, on 23rd May 2014, a major fire damages Glasgow School of Art, one of Scotland's most iconic buildings, for the first time.

Raise a smile;
feel better...



Who is he?

A musical concert was about to be performed in a prison. The Governor was talking to a titled lady guest, explaining that the orchestra was made up of murderers, embezzlers and other hardened criminals. The lady then pointed to a man in the corner, holding a trombone. "He looks a tough customer," she whispered. "Whatever has HE done?" The Governor paused and smiled. "Ah, actually, he is the chaplain."



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Note from the editor

Every effort is made to produce a magazine which looks inviting and contains correct information, spelling, and grammar. However, no-one and nothing is perfect (especially myself), hence errors can get missed, both in production and proof-reading (done by someone else). As you peruse 'Open Door' award yourself 5 points when you find any mistakes which have escaped correction. Have fun! Hopefully you won't find too many! No need to report back.

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Magazine issues

December/January
February/March
April/May
June/July
August/September
October/November

Open Door Editorial Team

Don't be afraid of clouds

Have you ever sat and watched the clouds drift by? Some of them are vast, towering up and up into the sky.

There can be clouds of discouragement and suffering in our lives as well, circumstances that temporarily blot out the sunlight of God's love for us. You may have such a cloud hanging over your life right now. You may be in a hospital bed, or suffering discouragement, fear, despair or bereavement.

Have you ever noticed that sometimes, when you board a plane, the sky is like a thick grey ceiling? It looks impenetrable. But the plane does not hesitate - it climbs steadily onward and upward straight into the cloud. And what happens? Nothing! The cloud cannot block your progress, it must give way before you.

The simple truth is, you may not be able to *see* through clouds, but you *can go through them*. The plane uses navigational aids for guidance, and we have the Holy Spirit to guide us through the darkest times. And finally, we emerge through the cloudbank, and there before us is a sun-drenched sky of blue and golden glory, far above the dismal and disappointing things far below.

Whatever cloud is hanging over you at present, whether suffering, discouragement, fear, there IS something you can do about it NOW. Pray – pour out your heart to the Lord about it. He has promised that His grace will be sufficient for anything that we encounter in this life.

And – look up. Look towards heaven, *think beyond* those clouds, and remember His promise that the sufferings we may be undergoing *here* are nothing compared to the glory that God has prepared for us *there*.

The Bible assures us: 'The Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord Almighty, blessed is the man that trusts in you.' Psalm 84: 11-12



Our God

Our God is able – (Daniel 3:17)

able to save (Hebrews 7:25)

able to help (Hebrews 2:18)

able to provide (2 Corinthians 9:8)

able to do far more than we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20)

Some words spoken by Jesus:

“.....in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

John 16: verse 33