

St. John the Evangelist,
Walton



Open Door



February & March 2025



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 through our website:

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



Holy Communion Sunday Service 8.30 am

1st & 3rd Sundays only

Wednesday Morning Service 10.00 am

Special Services

Ash Wednesday

Holy Communion Service

5th February @ 10.00 am

Holy Communion with Bishop Mark

9th February @ 10.00 am

Choral Evensong

9th February @ 6.30 pm

Mothering Sunday Service

30th March @ 10.00 am

Reminder

5th Sunday

Holy Communion Service

30th March @ 10.00 am

Please do come along

If you would like to give to the work and ministry of St. John's you can use the QR code below, click on this link bit.ly/give-st-johns, or type it into your browser, to take you to our online giving website.

With many thanks.



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 — 07359 445564

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,

The hustle and bustle of the Christmas season is over, and the harsh realities of Winter are now upon us – both in terms of the weather, and indeed in terms of the cost-of-living crisis and levels of need within our communities. We are also receiving dreadful reports and images of conflict areas around the world, which can sometimes feel like darkness is starting to overwhelm us.

However, the Christmas season was one that celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ, who came as a light in the darkness. Right at the beginning of John's Gospel it says *"In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* (John 1: 4–5)

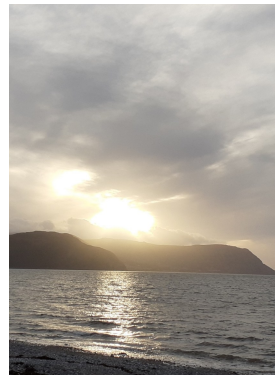
That was true then, and it is true now. No matter how filled with darkness our world appears, Jesus, as *'the light of the world'*, will never be overcome by the darkness. As with all sources of light, if we can hold Jesus before us, then all the shadows and darkness automatically falls behind us.

This does not mean that believing in Jesus will make our lives happy and trouble free. Jesus never promised us this. But he did promise never to leave our side, so that we have someone who loves us alongside us in our woes, never leaving us alone and isolated. Later in John's Gospel he says *"I go and prepare a place for you."* (John 14: 2) In Jesus, we have someone who: loves us unconditionally; promises to *"be with you always, to the very end of the age"* (Matthew 28: 20); and who has already booked us a place in heaven.

With all God's blessings,

Keith

Keith Fletcher, Reader, St John's, Walton



Bishop Mark coming to St. John's

We look forward to Bishop Mark, the Bishop of Chester, taking our morning service of Holy Communion on 9th February at 10 am. It would be wonderful if you could join us in person for the occasion, so that we may give him a really warm St John's welcome.



Dates for your diary

Prayer Groups

1st Tuesday of each month
Lady Chapel of St. John's
6.30pm

February

Tuesday 4th

March

Tuesday 4th

∞∞∞∞

3rd Tuesday of each month

Church Community Hall
6.30pm

February

Tuesday 18th

March

Tuesday 18th

If you would like to join us it would be great to see you

Tuesday Group

7.15 – 9.00 pm

Church

Community Hall
March

4th

11th

18th

25th

Knit and Natter

1.30pm—3.30pm

February

Tuesday 4th

Tuesday 18th

March

Tuesday 4th

Tuesday 18th



St. John's Ensemble

Spring Concert

Music for Passiontide

Saturday 29th March

7.30pm



Lent 2025

Our **Lent Course** this year, run under the auspices of **Tuesday Group**, is still to be confirmed but will begin on **4th March**.

Please check our website, Facebook page (addresses on front cover) and March notice sheet closer to the time.

When Tuesdays 7.15 pm — 9.00 pm

Venue St. John's Church Community Hall



Tuesday Group is a getting together of people who want to learn more about God and the Christian faith outside the formal setting of Church.

If you would like further details about it please speak to Noelle or contact her via noelle_briggs@hotmail.co.uk

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



Did you know?

St John's Church Community Hall is available for hire

Situated in the heart of Walton village

Suitable for

parties societies and clubs fitness classes a rehearsal space
local community meetings

- ◆ Grade 2 listed building
- ◆ 2 rooms available for hire:
The Walton Room (capacity 49) and the Daresbury Room (capacity 27)
- ◆ Kitchen
- ◆ Disabled toilet and baby change facilities

Bookings are available for local groups or private hire.

Please contact Nina Chadwick on 07840119659 or

Christine Hughes on 01925 210 792.





Prayer pages

Respect for all life

God our Father,
inspire us with a great respect for all human life
from the time of the child growing in
the womb to the point of death.
May that respect lead us
to grow in a sense of responsibility
for all our brothers and sisters
throughout the world,
knowing that, where one person suffers and is degraded,
all of humanity is belittled and abused.
May we grow in a sense of love and care
for those less fortunate than ourselves,
and lead us to do something about the troubles in our world.
Amen.



Living simply

Lord, may we who
have plenty live simply
so that others may
simply live.

Amen

A prayer of St Thomas More

The things that we pray for, good Lord,
give us your grace to work for.

Amen

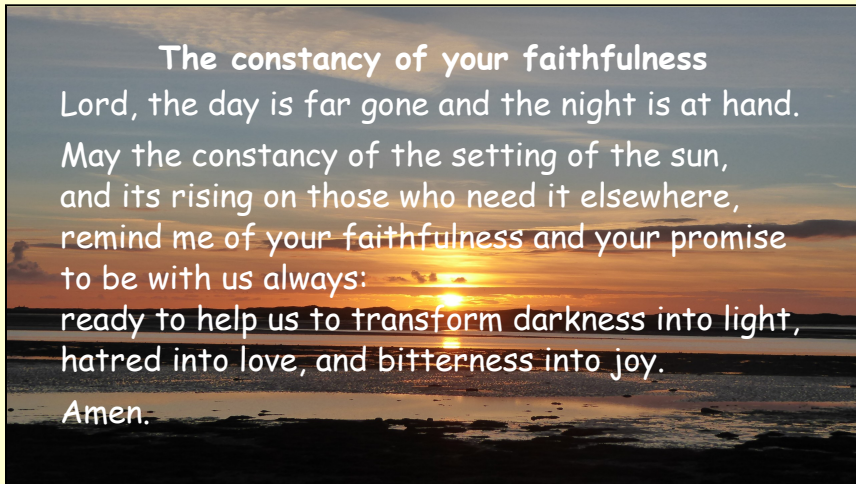
We know, Lord,
that throughout our lives
each of us will experience problems and difficulties.
Give us courage and strength at those times
and prevent us then from looking only at ourselves.
Keep our vision wide so that, even in times of difficulty,
we may still be of help to others

Amen



A prayer of William Penn

Lord,
help me not to despise or oppose
what I do not understand.



The constancy of your faithfulness

Lord, the day is far gone and the night is at hand.

May the constancy of the setting of the sun,
and its rising on those who need it elsewhere,
remind me of your faithfulness and your promise
to be with us always:

ready to help us to transform darkness into light,
hatred into love, and bitterness into joy.

Amen.



Lord Jesus,
we ask you to bring your healing touch
to those whom we know to be sick, afraid, or worried.
Bring them your peace and healing. Amen.

Most of these prayers appear in *'Walk In My Presence'*;
a book of prayer services of themed readings and prayers, by Nicholas Hutchinson FSC
— Matthew James Publishing (Autumn 2000): <http://www.matthew-james.co.uk/>

Local Community leadership

Just and compassionate God

Thank you for individuals who feel called to serve their communities as local Councillors, especially during times which continue to be challenging in many ways. We pray for Walton Parish Council and Warrington Borough Council and those elected to them. Grant them wisdom and guidance so that decisions made and actions taken are done with integrity, fairness, justice and compassion.

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 either of the following:

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

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

Review

St John's Ensemble Christmas Concert 2024



7.30pm Saturday 7th December saw the church comfortably full in anticipation of being entertained by St John's Ensemble with their Christmas Concert.

They were not disappointed, as we were given a varied programme of Christmas music, carols - including both well known favourites which the audience could join in and some rarely heard items - some seasonal readings and instrumental solos.

Alan Thornecroft conducted the choir and gave an organ solo 'Prelude to 'God rest to you merry gentlemen'. Organ music accompaniment to the choir was by Cathy Leung, who also gave Harp accompaniment and solo of a medley of Christmas carols.

Alan and Theresa Thornecroft have coached the Ensemble with weekly rehearsals which showed in the professional approach to their performance and our enjoyment.

Watch out for their early Spring concert.

George Clark

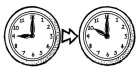
No place to park



It is often hard to find a parking space. So, a lot of us are taking chances – and getting caught.

As a nation we were handed six million penalty charge notices in 2023 alone, according to recent research by Confused.com, the insurance comparison website.

DON'T FORGET!!!!



Clocks move forward

March 30th

British summertime begins

With 42.3 million driving licences on issue, according to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), this suggests that one in seven drivers received a fine for parking offences in 2023.

Rhydian Jones, a spokesman for Confused.com, said: "If you're unsure whether you can park in a space or not, don't take the risk, even if it's only for a few minutes."

Parking charge notices handed out by local councils can cost up to £100 for parking infringements, although according to Confused.com the average parking fine is £47.

National Nest Box Week - 14th to 21st February

Where can family-minded birds raise their young these days? As our gardens and parklands become smaller and tidier, too many natural nest sites - such as holes in trees, old buildings and unkempt hedgerows - are rapidly disappearing.

No wonder that our sparrows, greenfinches and swifts are in precipitous decline, and that one in four of our UK bird species are now under serious threat.

This makes it more important than ever to care for our remaining birds. By feeding, providing water and putting up nest boxes we can give them a safe space to raise their chicks.

The National Nest Box Week initiative encourages bird conservation across the UK, and it's easy to get involved, whether you're a teacher, part of a local wildlife group, or just wanting to boost the bird numbers in your own garden.

Visit: <https://www.countryfile.com/wildlife/birds/national-nest-box-week-how-to-help-birds-in-your-garden>



Have you heard?
... just a few quotes to ponder ...



A few observations on Love ...

"Marriage is more than finding the right person; it is being the right person." *Anon*

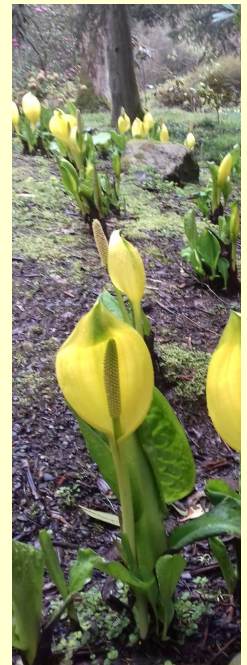
"Even if it's a little, do something for which there is no pay, but the privilege of doing it." *Albert Schweitzer*

"The purpose of this world is not to have and to hold, but to forgive and to serve." *Wilfred Grenfell*

... and a couple on the Christian life ...

"The self-sufficient do not pray, the self-satisfied will not pray, the self-righteous cannot pray." *L Ravenhill*

"God made man to be somebody - not just to have things." *Anon*





Funerals

January 2025

Joyce Doyle

Anne Sheelagh Johnson



In praise of the humble egg

We love eggs. On average, we eat at least two of them each week, which makes eggs one of Britain's most popular foods.

Eggs are exceptionally good for you – high in protein, containing all the essential amino acids, rich in the B vitamins, vitamin D and A, and choline, and a source of healthy fats.

Eggs are also filling, and with 7.5g of protein in less than 80 calories per egg, there are few other foods that can match them for so much protein per gram. They are also inexpensive and easy to cook.

Experts recommend eating one or two eggs a day, and choosing a low-fat way of cooking them, by boiling or poaching. Cooking them in butter is a bit lower in fat than frying them in olive oil. Free-range eggs generally contain more vitamin D.

Waking the Women - Faith, Menopause, and the Meaning of Midlife

By Jayne Manfredi, Canterbury Press, £10.39

Women over the age of 40 are by far the biggest and the most active demographic in the Church of England.

But while a huge proportion of any given congregation will likely have experienced menopause, it still remains largely unacknowledged, unspoken and unaddressed. It is almost entirely taboo as a topic of conversation in churches.

Writing with refreshing frankness, popular blogger and broadcaster Jayne Manfredi uses biblical reflection, prophetic storytelling and prayer to journey with those experiencing "the dreaded m word". Facing the menopause head-on, and by turns hilarious and moving, *Waking the Women* offers a challenge to destigmatize women's experiences by opening up the conversation around midlife and ageing in the church.



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.

Please contact Christine Hughes on 01925 210 792 to discuss a donation.



22nd February - Margaret of Cortona, sad search for acceptance and love

Did you have a miserable childhood? Were your parents more absorbed in themselves than in you? Later, looking for love, did you fall for the wrong man? Perhaps you now have children of your own, and struggle to raise them. If you feel your life has been 'wrong-footed' from the start, and that there is no way of 'putting it right' now, then Margaret

She was born the daughter of a small farmer in Tuscany way back in 1247. Her mother died in her childhood, and a jealous stepmother moved in, who distanced her from her father's love. Lonely and vulnerable, Margaret was then seduced by a knight of Montepulcians. He did not offer marriage, and so she lived as his mistress for nine years, hanging on to the only affection she had ever known. She even bore him a son. Then one day her knight was murdered by persons unknown. Margaret's life was in crisis.

What happened next seems to indicate that Margaret was desperate to 'put her life right', in the only way she knew how. She gave away the riches that the knight had left her, and returned to her father and step-mother, humbly seeking forgiveness and reconciliation. They, who had let her down in the first place, slammed the door in her face. Margaret then sought out the Franciscans and became a penitent. She was desperate for kindness, forgiveness and peace in her sad life.

What happened next is a tragic example of how the church can let people down. For when Margaret turned to the Franciscans in repentance, they did not tell her the wonderful news: that indeed she could be forgiven, because Jesus had already paid the price to 'redeem' her. Instead, they told her a lie: that she would have to 'earn' forgiveness by on-going acts of abasement and severe mortifications. She was never told the simple truth: that God loved her, and lavished forgiveness on her.

And so the final tragedy of Margaret's life began: for years and years she practised severe acts of self-abasement: starvation, sleeplessness, the daily torment of hair-shirts. She was never told that all this was pointless, that her sins had been gladly forgiven her because Jesus had died for them on the cross.

There is nothing so broken in our lives that almighty God cannot fix it. At whatever point we turn to Him, He accepts us just as we are. Forgiveness is just the beginning of the good things that God wants to give us. He wants to begin a life-long work of restoration and healing in our lives.

Poor Margaret never found that out in this life. So, she must have had the most wonderful, almighty surprise when at 50 she died, and woke up in heaven.

Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day

I dare say that there are few of us who don't enjoy a pancake or two.. But have you ever wondered why this Shrove Tuesday has become synonymous with eating them?



The tradition of eating pancakes on the last day before Lent dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent the season in repentance and severe fasting.

On the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us Shrove Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, while pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she'd be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil's Palin in 1619 runs: "And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne."

Some people like to equate the ingredients of pancakes with four significant things about life and living, especially for Christians: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, while salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.

Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3rd February and 9th March. This year it is on 4th March.

Some anniversaries from **February** and **March** you may find interesting

125 years ago, on 27th February 1900, the German football club FC Bayern Munich was founded.

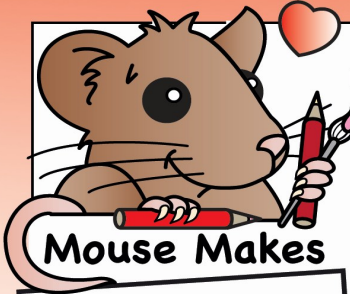
70 years ago, from 24th February 1955 to March, Britain's Big Freeze took place. Deep snow and freezing temperatures caused havoc, with many places cut off. The RAF dropped food and medical supplies to affected areas, while thousands of sheep died from exposure.

200 years ago, on 4th March 1825 John Quincy Adams was inaugurated as the 6th President of the United States. He was appointed President in a contingent election after no candidates won a majority in the 1824 presidential election.

90 years ago, on 16th March 1935 driving tests were introduced in Britain. They were voluntary until 1st June. From that date anyone who had started to drive on or after 1st April 1934 had to pass a test.

For the children

(and young at heart!)



Mouse Makes

"Love is

_____ ,
love is _____ ,
 It does not, _____ ,
 it does not _____ ,
 it is not _____ .
 it does not _____

others, it is not self - _____

it is not easily _____ ,
 it keeps no record of _____

Love delights in _____ ,
 it always _____ ,
 _____ ,
 _____ ,

from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The steadfast **love** of the Lord never _____ ;
 His _____ never come to an end;
 they are new every _____

Lamentations 3:20-23

I pray... you will understand...
 the greatness of Christ's **love**,

how _____
 and how _____
 and how _____
 that **love** is.

Ephesians 3:18-19

God is **love**.
 whoever _____
 in **love** _____
 in God, and God _____
 in them.

1 John 4:16

Give _____
 to the Lord, for He is _____

his steadfast **love**
 endures _____

Psalms 136:1

HOW DOES
 GOD **LOVE** ME?

God sent me a saviour:

He sent His one and only
 Son into the world so
 that we might have
 eternal life through Him.
 1 John 4:9

God gave me His spirit:

He has given you the
 Holy Spirit to fill our hearts
 with His **love**.
 Romans 5:5

God called me His child:

See what great **love** the
 Father has for us that He
 would call us His children.
 1 John 1:3

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus told us to:
LOVE the Lord your God with
 all your **heart**, all your **soul**
 and with all your **mind**.
 Matthew 22:37

LOVE your neighbour the
 same as you **love** yourself.
 Matthew 22:39

- GOD • **LOVE**
- PATIENT • KIND
- GRACIOUS • PEACE
- JUST • TRUTHFUL
- TRUSTING • LOYAL
- HOPEFUL
- PERSEVERES
- ENDURES
- HUMBLE
- SELFLESS
- PROTECTS • DEFENDS

P T Y D E B P O P T E L T
 E R D L N M A Y R F D G R A
 A U G O D J T H O P E F U L
 C S K V U U I K T S F L T O
 E T P E R S E V E R E S H Y
 K I N D E T N B C S N L F A
 M N I Y S L T W T S D M U L
 I G R A C I O U S E S K L I
 H U M B L E S E L F L E S S

Raise a smile;



Visit

The new vicar was doing the rounds to meet his parishioners. At one house where he knocked, a woman inside called out: "Is that you, Angel?"

The vicar hesitated and then called back: "No, but I'm from the same department."



Experience

"Dad," asked little Ted, "what does a man's better half mean?"

"Usually," his father said, "she means exactly what she says."

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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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www.parishpump.co.uk — for some of the articles and graphics included

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Magazine issues

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

Open Door Editorial Team

Love in Action!

'Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.'

(1 John 3:18)

The writer Gary Chapman describes how love can be expressed in 5 different 'languages': words of encouragement, quality time, gifts, acts of service and touch. Do you have a preferred language of love? As we think about St Valentine during this month, let's consider how God's love language is expressed in the word *agape*. This is exclusively found in the New Testament and is uniquely defined by Jesus: *'This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.'* (1 John 3:16). Jesus' giving of His life on the cross provides the model for how we can demonstrate God's love in our relationships with others.

It is self-giving: are we ready to put the other person first, as Jesus did when He died for us in our place. Are we generous with our time, words, money and service, whatever the cost?

It takes the initiative: are we ready to show love to those who don't deserve it or who we find hard to love? Do we have eyes of compassion to see their needs and a heart to love and serve them?

It is intentional: are we ready to get close to those in need around us, irrespective of the time we have or how we feel?

The story is told of Jesus asking a little child, *'how much do you love me?'* The child replied *'lots and lots and lots!'* Then they asked Jesus how much He loved them. Jesus stretched out His arms wide and said *'I love you this much'*, as they nailed Him to a cross.

Written by Canon Paul Hardingham as he considered 'what is true love?'

Thanking two kinds of Mother for their love to us

Mothering Sunday, the fourth Sunday in Lent, is the day for honouring our Mother Church, and has been celebrated since the Middle Ages. **Mother's Day** is an annual day to honour our mothers, and it began in America in May 1907.

In the US, Canada, Australia and Mexico, Mother's Day is still held in May. In Britain, Mothers' Day is held on Mothering Sunday, so the two days are often merged in people's minds. This year that day is March 30th.

There are many ways to say thank you to those who raised us, be that attending special services at Church, or giving gifts to mothers — biological or otherwise.

Whatever you choose to do, probably the best gift must surely be yourself: some time and some love. Remind her of the funny and touching stories of your childhood and thank her for all the things that she did for you. Give her some good company and show her some gratitude. Let her know that you love her and appreciate her.

The Commandment 'Honour thy father and mother' was the first commandment that came with a promise of blessing on you, if you obey.

A few words from the Bible:

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

1 Corinthians 13:13