

Moravian Women's Association

With a little help from my friends

Devotional Paper

September 2013

As you all start to read this first Devotional Paper with our new theme "With a little help from my friends", I know my sisters on the Executive Committee will be having a wry smile. For several years Lower Wyke has submitted this theme for the devotional notes and it has not been chosen. Now as Devotional Secretary I get to choose! I will have to back up my suggestion and make it work. So here goes!

It is inspired, of course, by the famous pop song from the 1960s sung by the legendary "Beatles". Growing up in my teens in the 1960s John, George, Paul and Ringo's music is deeply embedded in my memory. They sang "I get by with a little help from my friends" and I'm sure most of us could sing those words today in 2013. In fact we could probably say "how could I get by **without** a little help from my friends?"

I am sure we all put great value on friendship.

As I think back over the years my friends seem to have multiplied as the different stages of life have evolved. I have friends from schools days, from college and from work. I have neighbours who have become friends as we have moved location (not very much I hasten to add) and friends, of course, from church – friends made in the past and friends made now in my retirement years. How we have laughed and cried together, how we have supported and helped each other and enjoyed work, celebrations and leisure time in each other's company. No, I certainly could not have got by without a little help from my friends. I would also like to think that Jesus has been my friend throughout all this time.

In our Devotional Papers this year we are going to examine in more detail friendships found in the Bible – friendships between individuals and friendships with Jesus. We are also going to think about our friendships with each other and most of all **our** friendship with Jesus.

Please read John Ch 15v 11-17

All Jesus' words and actions had special significance none more so than these very familiar words which talk about loving each other as he loves us. He calls his disciples friends and tries to prepare them for his forthcoming death. He is giving his life for his friends – his disciples then and his disciples now – you and me. Yes we are his friends if we do his will – if we do and live as he wants us to. Through the generations his word has been passed down and we know, or can find out, everything Jesus learned from God his father. Today we are his friends, chosen to do his work wherever we live. That is a great honour.

For discussion

1. How would you define a friend?
2. How do you feel about being a friend of Jesus? Do you feel humbled, frightened, excited or more?
3. You may like to make your own prayer list for your personal friends through the coming 12 months.

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