



Something Different

A word of explanation for people who have only recently started getting these emails.

Something Different has become the readable version of the occasional St Stephen's evening service called, Something Different.

They may be made up of all sorts of things.

Prayers and poetry.

Songs and Scripture.

Stories and pictures.

Quotes from world famous writers and pieces written by ourselves.

(Who deserve to be world famous writers!)

Sometimes lots of people contribute and sometimes one person puts it together.

All different, but all things which have helped someone at sometime.

All pointing to Jesus.

If you would like to contribute in any way please do!

Just email to Andy.

This week we have the words of three well known hymns.

Two by Charles Wesley and one by John Newton.

The problem with well known hymns is ... we can know them too well!

It's easy to sing them from memory without really thinking about them.

This week ... if you would like a bit of spiritual exercise ... why not take time to read through the words of one of the hymns. Or all of them.

Read it slowly, thoughtfully.

Take time to untangle the odd grammar and abbreviations.

Pray it as a prayer.

Look at the images it conjures up in your mind.

Dungeons and chains. Shields and crowns.

Toils and snares and joy and peace.

Where are you in the words of the hymn?

What is God offering you?

Thank God for what He gives us, does for us, how He feels about us.

What do you need from the hymn today?

Ask God!

One way to appreciate the words of a hymn is to listen to a different version of it. On the last page is a list of links to some traditional versions of the hymns and some different ones which you could investigate. There are many others!

One of the useful things about a hymn being well known is that we can know it well!

Why not have a go at learning the words of one of these hymns by heart?

If you are ever alone on a desert island it could come in very useful.

Or just when you are lying awake at night wondering where the world is going ...

And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me?

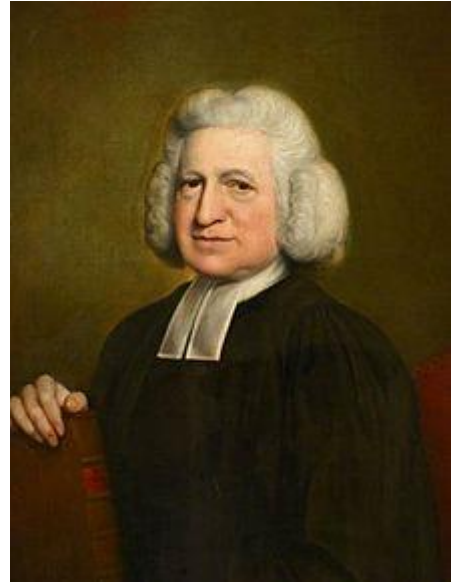
'Tis mystery all! Th'Immortal dies!
Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine!
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.

He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

Charles Wesley



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Wesley

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n to earth come down:
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit,
let us find the promised rest:
take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its Beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be:
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
'til in heav'n we take our place,
'til we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Charles Wesley

Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease:
I shall possess, within the veil,
a life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
the sun forbear to shine;
but God, who called me here below,
will be forever mine.

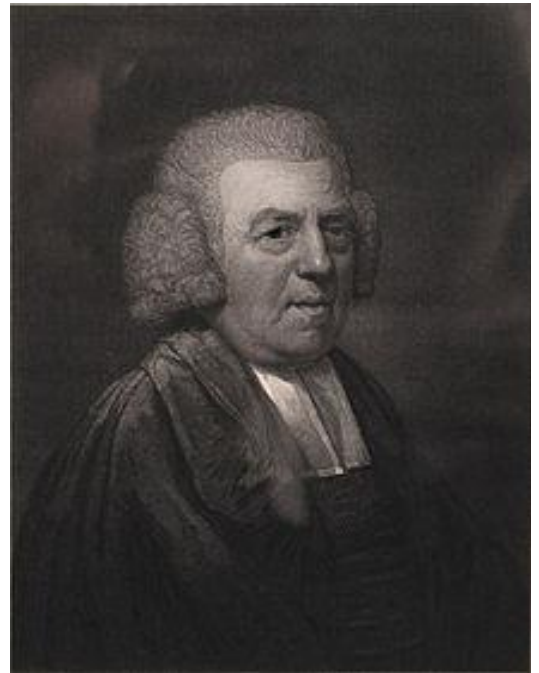
When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise,
Than when we first begun.

John Newton

Last verse traditional African American ... https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amazing_Grace

All other lyrics ... <https://hymnary.org/search?qu=%20in%3Atexts>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Newton



And can it be

Songs of Praise ... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQeIGbKqiw8>

PHATFISH and Lou Fellingham - And Can It Be ...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oc3y07FWEAE>



Love Divine

All Souls Orchestra - Love Divine All Loves Excelling (PROM PRAISE OFFICIAL)

... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=igs3mNsppsl>

Rend Collective Experiment - Love Divine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EvHD2d5Uix0>



Amazing Grace

Songs of Praise Andrea Bocelli ... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sv8UDkwQVrc>

Chris Tomlin ... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jbe7OruLk8I>

50 Countries Affected By COVID-19 Sing Amazing Grace ...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BA7pdABvpnc>

Pictures ... ASH