Bradford North Prayer Column: December 2025

As the years slip away

For the last few years I've been writing a diary each evening. It's mainly a memory exercise – what did I actually do today? – but occasionally it comes in handy to check something further back. However, my mother was an inveterate diary writer from her schooldays onwards, and she seems to have kept them all. I have fallen heir to piles of them, all in her neat handwriting under each day (though the year is not always shown). That and letters: I have boxes of them too.

The question is, what should I do with them all? To whom might they now be of interest and value? We are told to honour our parents (Ex 20:12), but does that include cluttering up our houses with their stuff? And should I add my diaries (and Jean's) to the collection for subsequent generations? Oh, and there are photo albums too… How do we know when to call a halt and chuck such gems out?

Perhaps the Apostle John gives us a clue. At the end of his account of Jesus' life, he wrote that he hadn't included everything Jesus did. Had that been done, the whole world couldn't have contained all the books that would be written (Jn 21:5).

So, not everything. Perhaps in my case a living memory is enough, or highlights, main points, and good stories drawn from the 40 or so years I knew her. And to make sure that I treasure her good example, and live her wise lessons in the world as I find it, and the circumstances I face as the Lord leads me. For he is my God, as he was hers, and her parents before her. That is the continuity to be treasured (2 Tim 1:3-7).

Roy Lorrain-Smith

A prayer for each week

Eternal God, who created the beginning, knows the end, and gives each of us a span of years, may we live well as we follow you faithfully as Lord. Amen.

Great God of time and times, of moments and intervals, may we see the opportunities you give us to do good wherever we are, led by your Spirit. Amen.

Merciful God, who looks to future potential rather than past mistakes when we seek your face, please lead us in your ancient way that is good. Amen.

Lord God of destiny, who in wisdom created all that is, please give us true wisdom to follow you and your word wherever your chosen path leads us. Amen.

Your own prayers