

Thoughts from the Prayer Corner No 8



About a month after the Garden Centres re-opened, we ventured out to find some planting to give the garden a little bit of colour during the summer months. Unfortunately for the Garden Centres a lot of stock had been lost because of lockdown, but they were selling seeds cheaply and so I thought, why not have a go at growing plants from seed. Something I have not done for several years. Of course, I was a little late!

Seeds duly planted, placed in the coolest part of the greenhouse to protect them from the fierce summer sun and dependent on me remembering to water them, slowly they began to grow.

When they became a reasonable size, they were then planted on, giving them plenty of space to spread. Two packets continue to grow well but have no flowers on them, belatedly I realised they were perennials, so I look forward to

seeing them in all their splendour next year. The third packet contained Mesembryanthemums or as they are more commonly known, Livingstone Daisies (pictured above). When they are sown at the right time of year, they should look something like the common daisy but full of vibrant colour.

Like the daisy, they open up to the sun in the morning and close at night.

Because I was late sowing the seeds, mine never quite filled their full potential, even though I have tried chasing the sun throughout the day, alas, it is not strong enough at this time of year to coax them out, hence there is just a hint of what they might have been, but.....

It made me think!

My timing was far from perfect and inadvertently I had prevented the daisies from reaching their full potential. Do we do the same to people?

How many times do we stunt the growth of another because we have not quite got the words or the timing right to help them?

We all need encouragement in so many ways, in our faith, in our lives, in our work and in our leisure time.

God has given us all physical and spiritual gifts to use to glorify Him and to build our lives together as part of His family and we all need the space and opportunity to develop them.

Sowing seeds to be successful depends on timing, the perfect time. Getting them to grow depends on the right conditions and the correct nutrients and care, knowledge, and wisdom to know when to plant them on, and when they are hardy enough to withstand the outside conditions. In time they will produce the fruit which we enjoy.

A bit like our journey with God except that He knows the perfect time for everything. We just need to put our trust in Him. Amen.

³¹ "As for God, his way is perfect:

The LORD's word is flawless;

he shields all who take refuge in him.

³² For who is God besides the LORD?

And who is the Rock except our God?

2 Samuel 22:31-32