

St. David's Church Exeter and S. Michael's and All Angels, Mount Dinham, Exeter.

Newsletter for 8 November 2020 – Remembrance Sunday.

Dear Friends,

The new restrictions feel rather like a 'body blow', in the words of Bishop Robert. But hopefully they will be effective and relatively short lived. We hope that many of us will be back in church to celebrate the coming of the Light of Christ into the world as we journey through Advent to Christmas. This week we observe Remembrance Sunday and our recorded service on Youtube includes an Act of Remembrance as well as an address by Bill Pattinson. You are welcome to join us today for virtual coffee time on Zoom at 10.30am and the code can be found in the notices below.

Public Worship

Public Worship has been suspended until 2nd December but we will be offering online worship on Sundays on Youtube. These services will be linked to both of our Facebook pages too. The link for this Sunday's service is:

<https://youtu.be/ktoEv1IUL94>

Opening for Private Prayer

At the moment we are allowed to open for private prayers only and I will publish the times each week when our churches will be open. These are the times for the current week:

St Michael and All Angels

Wednesday 10 November: 9.30 - 10.30am with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 10.15am

Sunday 15 November: 11am – 12noon

St David

Thursday 12 November: 10 - 11am

Sunday 15 November: 9.30 – 10.30am

No public prayers are allowed during this time and please observe the usual

Covid-19 Safe practices:

Hand sanitizer must be used on entering and leaving church.

Your name must be recorded on the sheet when you enter church.

Face coverings should be worn in church. There are important exemptions that can be found at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-08/COVID%2019%20advice%20on%20face%20coverings%20v3.0.pdf>

and which include those with a hearing impairment.

Please keep at least 2 metres away from others and leave an 'I sat here' notice on the pew or chair to warn others not to sit there in the same session.

Toilet facilities will be available and please follow the instructions for use.

Please do not come to Private Prayer if you are feeling ill or are shielding. Although we will do all we can to make the church safe you attend at your own risk.

Zoom Coffee on Sundays

Nigel will be hosting a virtual 'coffee time' on Zoom on Sundays from 10.30am during the current regime of restrictions. Anyone is welcome to join in for conversation and fellowship. If there are enough people we will split into groups for chat. This Sunday we will pause for two minutes together at 11am and share a prayer for Remembrance Sunday. We will finish by 11.10 at the latest. Here is the link if you would like to join:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6602261392?pwd=VzdOaU1XUFBjWk9jV0xvMDZWajZBQT09>

Meeting ID: 660 226 1392

Passcode: 196651

Food for vulnerable community housed at the Great Western Hotel

A huge thank you for the help and donations that have already been offered towards making our Tuesday packed suppers. The scheme is running well and if you would be willing to provide small bags of crisps or individually wrapped chocolate bars towards this outreach work then please leave them in church at Private Prayer times or in the Vicarage porch.

Live Daily Prayers

Please join us, if you can, for our streamed prayer services during the week on our Facebook pages:

On 'St David's Church Exeter' page: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 9am.
Compline on Monday 9th and Thursday 12th November at 9pm.

On 'St Michael and all Angels, Mount Dinham, Exeter' page: Wednesday Angelus and Mattins at 9am.

Knit and Natter

Unfortunately Knit and Natter is suspended under current restrictions.

Psalms Bible Study by Zoom

Our Psalms Bible Study on Zoom concludes with a final session this week looking at Psalm 130 with Nigel Walsh. If you would like to join the session on Tuesday 10 November at 2pm please use this link:

I've set up the following meeting for Psalms by Zoom next week:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77125265055?pwd=NW50SGwxT2FkTU94SC9IS1lqYkVaUT09>

Meeting ID: 771 2526 5055

Passcode: r3kTqq

Proposed Advent Fair

Unfortunately we have had to abandon plans for a Fair due to the new Covid-19 restrictions but we hope to revive a plan in the new year.

Shoeboxes for Moldova

We are supporting CREE (Christian Response to Eastern Europe) again this year by sending Christmas Shoe Boxes to Moldova. Our boxes need to be in church by the morning of Sunday November 29th for transport to Moldova. For further information about box preparation can be found at:

www.cr2ee.org.uk

Please ring Ann Watts 01392 276948 for further information and look out for stories in the November magazine! Boxes can be left in St David's Church during times of Private Prayer or in the Vicarage porch.

Work on St David's

The work on the vestry roof is now underway and the heating control system has been mended.

Traidcraft Stall

If you have ordered a REAL advent calendar it will be possible to pick it up from the Vicarage porch. Richard Featherstone will take orders for Traidcraft goods via his my email address r.w.featherstone@gmail.com until Wednesday 11th November. Many thanks for supporting Fair Trade producers.

Magazine

The magazines for November are now available through our websites with a few copies available in church to pick up. Thank you to our contributors and to our editorial team.

Phone Networks

Many of you have appreciated phone calls from other members of the church community. If would like to be phoned by someone and haven't had any contact please let me know at nigel.guthrie1@gmail.com

or by ringing me on 01392 660226 or Ash on 07855305519.

Your Prayers are asked for...

Charles Argall; Charles Speed-Andrews; Charlotte, Paul and Grace; Maggs Bedford; Nicky Jarman and her husband Tim and their family; Jacqueline and her family; Joy and her family; Claude and Gillian Harbord; Elizabeth Hewitt; Mike Newman; Anne Smith; Grace Tointon; Pam Smith and her family; James and Katy Tyler; Andrew Wakley; Rosemary Willcox; Hannah; David and Beryl.

Please remember Janine, Pam Stephens and Maurice Wright who have died recently. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

In the Parish Cycle of Prayer we pray for Funeral Directors in Exeter; those bereaved or injured in armed conflict; our serving armed forces personnel.

Please also pray for:

the people of USA as their election process concludes – and those elected to office;

all peoples suffering violence and conflict and all victims of terrorism;

those areas and countries suffering most from Covid-19, and those who are feeling anxious or afraid;

our Government, local and national, in the difficult decisions they have to make and implement, our police service

those working in care homes and hospitals

those who are facing unemployment or economic hardship;

A Prayer for use during the Covid outbreak

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour,

and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you.

In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful,

to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love,

for your name's sake. Amen.

May God keep you in peace and good health, Nigel Guthrie

Service for Remembrance Sunday 8th November available on Youtube with links to our Facebook pages

The Act of Remembrance.

Blessed are the peacemakers; they shall be called children of God.

We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those, whose lives, in world wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away.

We pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.

We commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between the nations, that all people may, together, live in freedom, justice and peace.

**They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old;
age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
we will remember them. We will remember them.**

A wreath is laid

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life:

Hear our prayers and thanksgiving for all whom we remember this day; fulfil in them the purpose of thy love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading – Thessalonians 4:13-18

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 25: 1-13

'Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise

took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

An Address by Bill Pattinson, 8 November 2020, Remembrance Sunday

On Grief, Fear and Hope

I've just finished reading a most remarkable book called "The Breath of Sadness" by Ian Ridley. It's a very honest portrayal of Ian's journey of grief following the death of his wife, Vicky Orvice, of cancer in February 2018 at the age of 56. Vicky was a well known sports journalist who worked for the Sun, covering all Olympic Games since Sydney, but best known as the leading pioneering woman football journalist, who fought and exposed male chauvinism wherever she found it. All life is here - you cry and sob, laugh and smile while following the pain and madness of a grief born of great loving. I was unusually attracted to such a book because as well as love and grief, watching cricket was a refuge Ian found as a context where he could "grieve in solitude with humanity close at hand." He also makes reference to CS Lewis' book "A Grief Observed" which begins, "No one ever told me that grief felt so like fear."

Grief and fear have been frequent, yet very unwelcome, visitors in our lives this year. This is always the case when death calls or when a national, indeed global, pandemic or crisis strikes. Today, on Remembrance Sunday, we remember especially those who died, so that others might live, during the two twentieth century World Wars and all other areas of conflict between and since then, unfortunately too many to name. The war against the Covid 19 virus in this year of 2020 has been referred to as the 3rd World War. Many have died; there is much grief and no little fear as to what will happen next.

But just as Paul in our first reading writing to the Thessalonians says, "we need not grieve as others do who have no hope.". So our belief, our faith that Jesus died and rose again gives us hope, even in our ignorance, that we all shall feast with those who have gone before us in His eternal kingdom. We may grieve over what we have missed this year; physical contact with those we love; our friends around the table; opportunities to visit our favourite places, the theatre perhaps; even an enforced absence from a close friend's funeral. But we do so with hope and with prayer for we live with Jesus present with us, serving Him and making

Him known to others. We may grieve for the thousands who have died, but we do so with hope and prayer as we feast on God's word, sharing it with others, as we focus our lives on how we personally and corporately respond to this pandemic, to this Remembrance Sunday.

We may fear what might happen as autumn turns to winter; as a second national lockdown begins; as seasonal illnesses and Covid 19 patients threaten to overcome our hospitals and front line workers; as the death toll rises; as terrorists attacks continue in lockdown Europe; as migrants and refugees perish in desperate attempts to seek safe harbours. But we do so with hope and prayer, for like the five wise bridesmaids we are prepared, or perhaps I should use the in word "alert", through God's loving for us, through the example of our Lord Jesus Christ to love and care for all. What energy, what strength we possess in our faith in God's Son, in our love for others, in our hope... and the knowledge that God will forgive us when we fall short. Turning the second person plural into the first person, I shall finish with Teresa of Avila's famous prayer:

"Christ has no body now but ours. No hands, no feet on earth but ours. We are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Ours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Ours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Ours are the hands, ours are the feet, ours are the eyes, we are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but ours."

I have written a full review of "The Breath of Sadness" by Ian Ridley in November's edition of "New Leaves" which can be found on our websites

www.stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk or www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk

Closing Prayers

**Teach us good Lord to serve you as you deserve
to give and not to count the cost;
to fight and not to heed the wounds;
to toil and not to seek for rest;
to labour and not to seek for any reward,
save that of knowing that we do your will. Amen**

**God grant to the living grace;
to the departed rest;**

to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth and all people, peace and concord;

and to us and all his servants, life everlasting:

and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Do join us next week for our services in church or on Facebook!

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