

St. John the Evangelist

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Sunday, 12 November 2017

Bishop Graham considers the silence at Remembrance Services.

Between the Last Post and the Reveille on Remembrance Sunday we hold a two minute silence. This is a heavy silence. Thoughts trace back through human minds of the loss of human life. Tears roll down cheeks. Individuals remember lost loves, fallen dreams, and changed futures. Others know the cost in terms of living daily with the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual effects of war.

In the face of all of this words fail us. Holding a silence is our only answer. It's a silence full of regrets, relief, reconciliation and resolve. Regrets at past failings and relief at past victories. But also knowing that without reconciliation with those who have been our enemies there can be no peaceable future. Without a resolve to find paths to peace we just repeat the cycle of death and despair.

Turn the pages of the Bible and we find constant reminders from God about how precious human beings are in his sight. God weeps with us in all the sorrow found in the silence of Remembrance Sunday – all of the hurt and the sadness, the missed dreams and the memories that invade us, the ultimate failure of humanity to live with those values of respect and tolerance and care for neighbour and stranger.

But the silence ends with the awakening tune of the Reveille. The night is long, the conflict suffered tempts us to despair, but the promise to us is that there will be a new awakening. In God's vision the day will dawn for each of us when there will be no more mourning or crying or pain and peace will be ours.

Advent and 2017 campaign

We are only 3 weeks away from the start of Advent, much work is being done behind the scenes to get ready for additional services during this period where we will be welcoming members of our community to events in the hall and church. If you can be thinking of who you might invite ahead of the invitations being available and if you are able to help in any way with donations for the Christmas Fayre or doing a small job such as welcoming or serving drinks then please let us know.

Parish Service and lunch next Sunday

We hope as many folk as possible will be attending the service next Sunday morning 10.30am at Christ Church Ryton Close, Matchborough West B98 0EW. In order we know how many to cater for, if you are staying for the meal please ensure you sign up today . There will be no service at St Johns next Sunday morning. The evening service will continue as normal.

Christmas Fayre

It's that time again for us to think about donating items for the chocolate and bottle tombola's for the Christmas Fayre, which takes place on Saturday 2nd December. All proceeds taken on the day are used for the local community, so please give generously. Also do put the date in the diary and come and join in.

Foodbank -Admin Volunteer Required:

Redditch Foodbank are looking for an administration volunteer to work up to three hours per week, based in Winyates. These hours can be carried out any weekday except Thursday (times negotiable). Most of the tasks will involve data entry so you must be computer literate and accurate. If you are interested please contact Sarah Barcham on 07847618539 or email info@redditch.foodbank.org.uk

God With Us

With <u>#JoyToTheWorld</u>, last year's national Christmas campaign, winning gold 2 weeks ago at <u>Communicate Magazine's Digital Impact Awards</u>, this year's theme is God With Us. <u>#GodWithUs</u>campaign.Archbishop Justin Welby says in his introduction to a reflective guide produced called <u>#GodWithUs</u> – Your Christmas Journey: "The constant refrain of Christmas, in carols and readings, is that God is with us. In whatever situations you find yourself this Christmas, God is with you – you need only turn to him and ask to know his presence". Sign up and get your friends and family to join the Your Christmas Journey reflections by texting GodWithUs to 88802

Traidcraft Coffee Morning St Peters

Saturday 18 November 10.00 - 12 noon in the Huband Room.

Christmas cards, presents and Fairtrade food, craft and card stalls, refreshments and cakes available. Adult entrance £2 including a drink, children free.

Services

Proper 27

Remembrance Sunday Service with Ian Evans and 10:30am

Rosie Humphrey

6:30pm Evening Worship - Taize with Rob Quarton

Next Sunday - Proper 28

Joint service at Christ Church 10:30am

6:30pm Evening Worship with Richard Harding 'Holy Spirit'

Lectionary Readings

Week beginning 13th Nov - 19th Nov

Mon 1 Mac 1.10–15, 41–43, 54–57, 62–64 or Rev 1.1–4, 2.1–5 Ps 79.1–5 or 1: Lk 18.35-end

Tues 2 Mac 6.18-end or Rev3.1-6, 14-31; Ps 11 or 15; Lk 19.1-10

Wed 2 Mac 7.1, 20-31 or Rev 4; Ps 116.10-end or 150; Lk 19.11-28

Thurs 1 Mac 2.15-29 or Rev 5.1-10; Ps 129 or 149.1-5; Lk 19.41-44

Fri 1 Mac 4.36-37, 52-59 or Rev 10.8-11; Ps 122 or 119.65-72; Lk 19.45-48

Sat 1 Mac 6.1–13 or Rev 11.4–12; Ps 124 or 144.1–9; Lk 20.27–40

Collect for the week:

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Also remember members of St Johns prayer Healing Ministry team are available most Sunday mornings and a prayer chain is available everyday, to pray in confidence for you or someone you know. Call Ann Donovan (for prayer chain) in the first instance on 01527 527789.

Diary dates

Thurs 9:30am Holy Communion - St. John's, followed by coffee morning. Thurs (repeated following Monday) 7:30pm Giftings course - St. John's

Thurs 16th Nov - The Promise of Ministry

Thurs 23rd Nov - What should I do?

Sunday 19th Nov 10:30am Joint Parish service with lunch - Christ Church Sat 25th Nov 10 - 12pm Messy Church - Woodrow Community Centre Sat 16th Dec 11am Carols in the town centre, mezzanine level above Primark & The Works

Please pray for:

- Garth and Jenny, Richard and Wendy, Ian and Judy.
- Licensed Lay Ministers Maureen, Rosie and Vicki.
- ❖ Wardens Barry Humphrey and Sharon Forrest.
- Garth and Jenny as Garth recovers from his operation.
- The Kigezi Water and Sanitation project we are supporting.
- Graeme and Jackie Russell as he fulfils the role of Community Missioner in Christ Church.
- Parish Prayers: : Bengrove Close, Woodrow; Easenhall Close, Matchborough; Nairn Close, Winyates; Dowlers Hill Crescent, Greenlands; Ettingley Close, Woodrow;

Please keep praying for:

Nancy Borthwick

Sylvia Czink

Peggy Snellgrove

Vicki and Rob Quarton & family on the passing of Vicki's father.

The family of Isabel Stephens

The family of Sylvia Laight

Contacts

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