

# *In & around the Benefice....*

*8th November | Remembrance Sunday*

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It is with a heavy heart that I write, as we move into a second national lockdown. If you are anything like me, you will have a range of emotions relating to this - it is hard to be physically distanced from our neighbours and friends. The cooler weather and nights drawing in makes it a little more difficult for us to reach out to one another. My tortoise is preparing to hibernate; a very natural reaction to the change in environment for her! For us though, let's focus on the means through which we are able to be community, to share fellowship, and to encourage one another - keep in touch on the phone, video call one another, or invite someone to walk with you. Together, we are the body of Christ - let's look out for one another!

*Every Blessing, Morna*

## **Worship Services in our churches:**

In line with national guidelines we have suspended all worship taking place in our buildings. Please note that St Andrew's, Yardley Hastings is open for private prayer during daylight hours on Sundays and Wednesdays, and St Mary's Grendon is open for private prayer between 10am and 2pm, also on Sundays and Wednesdays.

## **Worship Services on Zoom:**

8 Nov 10.00am Remembrance

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83098681639>  
Meeting ID: 830 9868 1639 Passcode: 316444

Due to the government guidelines which came into force on Thursday the churches have taken a decision to move all aspects of Remembrance online, to keep all of us safe. As normal we will be gathering on Zoom from 10am and Rev'd Janet will lead us through a Remembrance Service to remember all those from our villages who gave their lives for our freedoms. This online service will finish in time for us to share the two minute silence on our doorsteps in each of our villages, so that we can maintain social distancing. The time of silence will begin when the church clock strikes 11am

## **Morning Prayer on Zoom**

Would anyone like to begin the day in prayer together? Rev'd Morna will be offering Morning Prayer on Zoom from Monday 9th November, usually Sunday to Thursday from 7:30am. The service lasts no more than 30 minutes. If you are interested in joining her, please use these joining instructions:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6838782280?pwd=aGZISnJLZU91blg2cXhpcnk1aHFOQT09>  
Meeting ID: 683 878 2280 Passcode: 661196

You will need either the Daily Prayer app or Common Worship Daily Prayer book - do be in touch with Morna to let her know that you are planning to join, or if you need help finding the app, or prayer book. She will also send you a song sheet which will be used in the service.

## **Please hold in your prayers this week:**

- ◇ All in our villages as we face a second national lockdown
- ◇ The schools in our Benefice, the headteachers John Wayland and Louise Brown and the staff as they endeavour to make school a welcoming and safe environment for all the children
- ◇ The young people from our Benefice who are living away from home, that they keep safe in these uncertain times.
- ◇ The health and well-being of our nation, that all who are fearful and anxious may be at peace and free from worry.
- ◇ Those suffering from, affected by or working to prevent the spread of Coronavirus
- ◇ NHS staff caring for Covid-19 patients, that they may have strength and resilience for their task, and be kept safe
- ◇ Persecuted Christians across the world, especially in North Korea
- ◇ Those in residential care and the housebound, among them: Audrey Desborough, Ruth Williams, Gwen York, Ann and Colin Dix
- ◇ Those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, among them: Tom Stock, Nicholas Vaughan, Freddie Hogan, Mandy Bates, Muriel Coulson, Thelma Denton, Malc Wright
- ◇ The recently departed, amongst them Margaret Rigby-Smith and Chris Wordsworth, and all who grieve at this time

### **The Collect**

God, our refuge and strength,  
bring near the day when wars shall cease  
and poverty and pain shall end,  
that earth may know the peace of heaven  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

### **First Reading**

*Wisdom of Solomon 6: 12-16*

Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily  
discerned by those who love her, and is found by  
those who seek her.

She hastens to make herself known to those who  
desire her.

One who rises early to seek her will have no  
difficulty, for she will be found sitting at the gate.

To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,  
and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be  
free from care, because she goes about seeking  
those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to  
them in their paths, and meets them in every  
thought.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Reading**

*1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18*

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Reading**

*Matthew 25: 1-13*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according  
to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord**

Jesus spoke this parable to the disciples:

'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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

God of peace,

whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom  
and restored the broken to wholeness of life:

look with compassion on the anguish of the world,  
and by your healing power make whole both people  
and nations;

through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Amen**



This line – which is available 24 hours a day on  
**0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly  
with those unable to join online church services  
during the period of restrictions in mind.