



Heacham Parish Church



PLEASE NOTE: Due to current Covid-19 restrictions there will not be a service in church this Sunday; nor an Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial.

Sunday 8th November 2020 Sunday Service – Heacham Parish Church

Adrian plays 'O valiant heart' as we gather

Grace mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you; **and also with you.**

As we gather in our homes, together yet apart, we meet in the presence of God; the God who is the same today, yesterday and tomorrow; the God who is with us on Remembrance Sunday, during this pandemic and always; the God who loves us.

We remember with thanks those who have given their lives in the service of others.

We remember with sadness the suffering, destruction and pain caused by human conflict.

We commit ourselves to be peacemakers and peacekeepers wherever we can. In Jesus' name. **Amen**

We worship Almighty God whose purposes are good, whose power sustains the world He has made; who loves us, though we have failed in His service; who gave Jesus Christ for the life of the world; who by His spirit leads us in His way.

As we give thanks for His great works, we remember those who have lived and died in His service and in the service of others; we pray for all

who suffer through wars or conflicts and are in need; we ask for His help and blessing that we may do His will, and that the whole world may acknowledge Him as Lord and King.

Act of Penitence:

Let us confess to God the sins and shortcomings of the world;
its pride, its selfishness, its greed;
its evil divisions and hatreds.

Let us confess our share in what is wrong, and our failure to seek and establish that peace which God wills for His children.

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us all in goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Song: 'O God our help in ages past'

sung & played by Adrian with the choir

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Your throne
Your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Your arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting You are God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Your sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be our defence while life shall last,
And our eternal home.

Bible Reading: **Matthew 25: 1-13** read by Fran Goodwin

A Reflection from Pip Lawrence

We are all going to remember 2020's Remembrance Sunday. It will be remembered as the Sunday when the village was not able to gather in its church to remember our dead. It makes the words 'lest we forget' even more poignant. These words are chiselled in memorials, we can read them there; and said in services up and down our nation. Possibly the original source of these words is found in Kipling's poem 'Recessional' where we also read these words: "Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet, lest we forget, lest we forget."

Remembrance Sunday is important because it reminds us that we are, by nature, inclined to be forgetful. Time can erase events and happenings as new events and happenings crowd old ones out. Believe it or not one day coronavirus will be as waters that have gone by. As we make space today to remember those who have gone before us, either in the difficult theatre of war, or more recently in different circumstances, we consciously make space 'lest we forget'.

So how is the parable reading in Matthew's gospel today relevant to remembrance. To find out we have to look beyond the story of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Jesus tells this parable just after he has been speaking about the signs of the end of the age. A time when all will be

laid bare. He also speaks of a master who leaves his household in the charge of a servant. The servant falls into bad habits as he awaits his master's return. In a sense the parable of the bridesmaids is a similar story. The wise are prepared, and if you will, the foolish have forgotten to be ready and prepared, a little like the servant. When the bridegroom arrives for them the boat has set sail without them.

We learn from this parable, for a start, that we are all free to choose our own path, to be ready or not. On a day when we remember those who fought for freedom we can also recognise that we are free to choose our own way when it comes to our relationship with Jesus. We also learn that the wise bridesmaids are a picture of a life of belief and faith that sees its reward in welcome from the bridegroom. The foolish bridesmaids are denied welcome, and we all know that no one really wants to be left out.

So where are we on our faith journey today. Are we wise - our lamps with flames fed by prayer, worship, knowledge of the word and expectancy of the Lord's return? Or are we foolish - carrying lamps that have run dry either through negligence, unbelief, or plain forgetfulness? If our lamps are dry, now is the time to remember that, like those who have gone before us, our lives will conclude. None of us want to be found wanting at heaven's gate. So, we need to act now, remembering that we serve a God whose desire is to welcome us all. There is always a welcome for all who turn to Christ, no matter who we are, what we have done, said, or been. In II Peter there is a passage that starts with the words "But do not forget this one thing..." and ends with the words "He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance".

So, let's make sure, on this strange Remembrance Sunday, that our lamps are filled to the brim with the measure of knowing Jesus as Saviour and Lord and the custodian of all those who have died in the faith.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession, led by Terry and Judith Clay

Heavenly Father - we come before you now, aware of all our failings during the past week and in need of your mercy. Forgive us the times we have not done your will and prepare us now for the coming week ahead.

This we ask in your precious name, Amen.

Lord - on this Remembrance Sunday we remember and honour those who gave their lives for freedom; for the sacrifice they made we shall always be truly thankful.

We think now of the men and women fighting against oppression throughout the world; and of those suffering the physical and mental scars of battle to whom we owed, and owe, so much.

Lord - you know our feelings, our fears and our worries; you know of all our concerns and troubles and so we bring before you now the anxieties we all have over the coronavirus and the commencement of further restrictions across the whole country.

Lord - take away the fear, the anxiety, and feeling of isolation from those receiving treatment or under quarantine; help us all to correctly adhere to what is required, for our own protection and the protection of others. Give wisdom to the policy makers, skill to the healthcare professionals and researchers, comfort to those in distress and a calm to us all in these days, weeks, and months ahead.

Lord - we pray for those who are suffering at the moment with illness and for those suffering with anxiety or loneliness; we name them in our hearts before you. Lord - be close to them, be their hope, be their light and be their comfort.

We pray for those who have been bereaved. Strengthen them and fill the emptiness with your love.

We pray for doctors and hospital staff and all those looking after the sick. Give them wisdom, strength, skill, and resilience. We thank them for all they are doing.

Lord - your world seems strange at the moment with a pandemic, hunger, terrorist attacks and uncertainty. You made the world and care for all Lord. Help us to trust you; to look to help others and bring your love and peace into the hurt we see around us. We thank you for all the kindness and care we see.

Remind us Lord each time we wash our hands that in our baptism you call us to let go of our fears and live in joy, peace, and hope.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

We pray together the Lord's Prayer, led by Alison Hoyle

Song: 'Lord for the years'

sung & played by Adrian with the choir

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive Your people's praise.

Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world where we disown and doubt you,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without you:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us -
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Blessing

As we come to the end of this service today let us be thankful to those who have given up their lives for us in wars; and let us be determined to live a life of love.

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

Final Prayer

Plant seeds of peace wherever your journey takes you and bless others as you have been blessed. Speak no words that would wound. Withhold nothing that can be shared and pray always for peace.

May God the Father be your strength, Jesus the Son be your inspiration and the Holy Spirit be your guide this Remembrance Sunday and always.
Amen.

Adrian plays 'Nimrod' (from Enigma Variations by Elgar) as we finish

Zoom Church Tea and Chat will be on Sunday morning at 10am this week.

Come and join for virtual '**Church, Coffee and Chat - on Sunday at 10am** this is the zoom link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9960936343?pwd=TIerVHp3UHBzZHNTSm16QzdCNUY0Zz09> Meeting ID: 996 093 6343 Passcode: 150936

Contact Veronica at heacham.vicar@gmail.com to invite you.

Church Open for private prayer

Saturday afternoons 2-4pm and Wednesday mornings 10-12noon. Please use this time for quiet reflective prayer. Thank you to our welcomers who allow this to take place.

HEACHAM PARISH CHURCH online service will be on YouTube from 8am on Sunday morning. Watch out for the email link.

Morning Prayer continues Monday-Friday via Zoom.

Please ask Veronica if you want to join, tel. 01485 570697

Contacts:

Rev. Veronica Wilson tel: 01485 570697

or email: heacham.vicar@gmail.com

Church Office email: heacham.church@gmail.com

Podcast: 'Sunday Hope'

The Diocese of Norwich has a weekly audio podcast called 'Sunday Hope'.



It is available on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Overcast](#), and more.

The podcast can also be listened to from any landline telephone: call **01603 537577** (local rate) to hear the latest edition.

Daily Hope offers music, prayers, and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set-up particularly to help those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions.



Please see separate page for:

The Act of Remembrance

and The Archbishops' Letter of Encouragement