

I'm writing this on the evening before Cudham and Downe, as part of Bromley, move into the Level 2/High Risk Covid19 band. No one knows how long this will last, and whether things will change over the coming weeks – we can only pray that it does, and act sensibly to help stop the spread of the virus. One question that's been asked is whether Remembrance Sunday events can go ahead. The answer is yes, as long as people do not socialise, and maintain social distance. The same applies to church services which will continue and to which you are warmly invited to attend – especially as we plan for Christmas!

Returning to Remembrance Sunday, which this year is November 8th, I'm more aware than ever of the words 'we will remember them' – often we focus on 'remembering' but this year I'm drawn to 'we will' – why wouldn't we? The sacrifices of long ago and more recently are still to be remembered, so that we can honour the memory of those who served, and especially those who died, by working for peace, and in these troubled times, to remind ourselves of the important of seeking the good of the other (protecting the vulnerable by wearing face coverings and keeping social distance, for example), and keeping contact with each other and speaking words of reassurance and peace even when face to face conversations are difficult.

You are, therefore, invited to our Remembrance Sunday Services. These will be slightly longer than the brief time we've spent outside before, as they will not be followed by services in our church buildings. Please come along to share in our acts of remembrance when names of the war dead will be read, the two minute silence kept, and prayers said for the living and the departed – at 9.50am outside St Mary's Downe and 10.50am outside Cudham church by the war graves near the recreation ground (best to park there and walk to the service). If you're planning to come, please book in for track and trace purposes at admin@pcd.org.uk. If anyone would like to lay a wreath, please let me know by emailing me at vicar@pcd.org.uk.

Poet Czeslaw Milosz said "The living owe it to those who no longer can speak to tell their story for them." Covid19 is restricting our lives, and rightly so to save lives and protect the NHS, yet as long as we remain in groups less than 6 (or in family groups/bubbles), and keep appropriate social distance, on Remembrance Sunday 2020 we, the living, can continue to tell those stories in honour of the dead.

Rev John Musson