

Sunday 10th November 2024: Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time.
For use by the Central Norfolk Circuit at 10.30 am or some other suitable time.



Theme for today is “They shall not grow old”

Our call to worship: We come to worship the Lord who surrounds us, does good to us, invites us to trust and reminds us to follow scripture to lead the life destined for us.

Hymn: StF 94 To God be the Glory, great things he has done

Prayers of adoration and confession

Think of the past week and say both ‘thank you’ and ‘sorry’ to our loving God.

Hymn: StF 720 We turn to you, O God of every nation

Readings: Micah 4: 1-8 and Matthew 5: 43-48

To think about

Please stop for a moment as near 11am as you can and be silent for a while, then reflect on the words of the familiar armistice day prayer:

***They shall grow not 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.***

Message from a Circuit Friend

When I was young, I can remember watching the British Legion Festival from the Royal Albert Hall and seeing the last survivors who had fought in the Boer War. Since then as I have got older, a generation from WW1 has now departed and we are left with a handful of survivors from WW2. Soon it will be the turn of Korea, then the Falklands, the Gulf Wars and Afghanistan. Despite all the years of loss and suffering, every generation brings new conflicts. Ukraine, Gaza, Lebanon and Sudan sadly all come alive nightly on our TV screens.

When I see the loss of life and possessions, often of totally innocent people, I can only cry with tears of compassion, frustration and anger. Human nature does not seem to have changed or learnt anything since the days of Cain and Abel in Genesis. We truly live in a fallen world where in every generation there is a constant fight against the powers of evil.

As Christians however we believe in Jesus, God incarnate, who has given us a hope and direction as we try to follow him in our lives today. To me the only ultimate solution to the world’s problems lies not with people or governments, but with the final establishment of God’s Kingdom that both Jesus and the book of Revelation describe and for which we pray.

In the meantime, we remember those who have died, and continue to die, in conflicts worldwide. Joshua 4 describes how the Israelites crossed over the Jordan into the promised land. The people were then told to build a pile of 12 stones taken from the river. Why? v24 explains “When your children ask their fathers in times to come what do these stones mean? Then you will let your children know.....” In other words, a memorial to help them remember God’s help in the past.

War memorials and the extensive National Memorial Arboretum near our home in Staffordshire share the same purpose. To help us remember, as we do this weekend, and remind those to come, of the consequences of war and the sacrifice made by others on our behalf.

Form Glyn Constantine, one of our Local Preachers

Hymn: StF 132 O God, our help in ages past

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for our world... for the church... for our communities... for our families & friends...

Offer to God your offertory for the week, and say the Lord’s Prayer...

Hymn: StF 693 Beauty for brokenness

Closing blessing - We say together the Grace.