

Dear Grayshott,

November 2020

For most of us, the predominant theme of November is Remembrance, while also preparing for the cold months and winter. This year we are all just trying our best. The impact of Covid is dragging on and growing, the optimism that some may have had, that it would be over by now (with echoes of the 1st World War, “it will all be over by Christmas!”) Is fading. And the reality is biting that we have to navigate the circumstances as safely and wisely as possible, for our selves and loved ones. The economic impact is looking scary for a lot of people.

The point of telling the stories of previous generations especially on Remembrance Day is to appreciate the sacrifice, duty and bravery of those who have gone before, not to glorify it, but to be grateful for the freedom we have. Remembering helps to give us a perspective on our present circumstances, and hopefully reminds us of the cost and horrendous realities of war.. The purpose of all Saints day on 1st November, is similar. Our Bereavement Service is intended to create space to process our memories of loved ones lost, a little bit more.

Many veterans play down their achievements. Captain Tom is very humble about his own life, and his achievements. Humility is a quality that is not valued by some notable leaders today, some top management instruction has rediscovered that the qualities Jesus taught are the road to great leadership. Love, humility, service, encouragement, etc are what nourish the human heart, and free people to achieve their potential.

With mental health so much in the news and media at the moment, I want to encourage us to remember some of these values and principles that Jesus taught, as the road to wholeness. As we remember, we may need to forgive, both ourselves, and others. As we go forward, let us give generously, look after and bless one another, and love one another.

We could say that heroes are those who inspire virtue in others. Many have forgotten Jesus as a hero, and we at St Luke’s want to help everyone to remember his sacrifice, duty and bravery. We therefore invite you to join us on line, or in person on Sundays. Keep warm

Our love,

Jeremy and Claire,

Rev. Jeremy Haswell, Vicar of St Luke’s