

November 2024

Once again, we come to November – traditionally the month of remembering. Memories and remembering are central to us and in many ways make up part of who we are.

At the beginning of the month, we celebrate All Saints and All Souls which give us a chance to remember with thankfulness all those who we love but see no longer. We move swiftly onto ‘Remember, remember, the fifth of November’ with its reminder of the gunpowder plot. Then, of course, we have our national act of Remembrance on Remembrance Sunday which this year falls on the 10th. There will be Acts of Remembrance in churches and at war memorials across the benefice as we remember those who died fighting to protect us and bring peace and justice to our world, and we pray for those serving in our Armed Forces today. Both bonfire night and Remembrance Sunday can serve to remind us of the importance of not dismissing or burying history, but rather learning from it.

For Christians, of course, the most significant act of remembering is when we come together to remember in bread and wine the death and resurrection of Jesus, obeying his command to “Do this in remembrance of me.” (Luke 22:19). Jesus’ willing sacrifice of himself on the cross for the sake of others is, for Christian believers, the ultimate expression of the self-giving love at the heart of God, when Christ’s hands were marked by the nails of the cross.

So, in this season of Remembrance, as we remember with candles, fireworks, poppies, or bread and wine, may we all take time to pause, reflect, and be thankful.

God bless

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