

Thought for November

By Revd. Claire Claxton

What is your earliest memory? I remember starting school when I was five years old but nothing before that. Some people have memories from much earlier in their life and there are even people who claim to remember being born although most scientists dispute that!



Memories are important. Many are joyful, of experiences or occasions that are special to us. Others are difficult or painful and cause us sorrow. However, our memory forms us. It has an impact on who we are as individuals and as a society. When my sons come to visit they like to look through the family photo albums and reminisce together.

We can mull over our memories at any time but November is a month particularly designated for remembering. 1st November is All Saints Day when we honour all the saints of the Church. 2nd November is All Souls Day when we commemorate those known and loved by us who have died. On Sunday 3rd November we hold an All Souls service in Forest Church at 4 p.m. during which we remember loved ones and give thanks for them. We name them in our prayers and light a candle for them. All are welcome and if you would like someone mentioned by name you are welcome to write their name on the list inside the church or to call or email me.

The following week is Remembrance Sunday when we commemorate those in the Armed Forces who have given their lives for others. The Church will be decorated with hundreds of poppies, reminding us of the thousands of flowers that flourished in the middle of the chaos and destruction of Flanders fields – symbols of hope.

Sombre as remembrance can sometimes seem, it is also comforting to know that loved ones continue to be remembered. Khalil Gibran a Lebanese-American philosopher and writer wrote, 'Remembrance is a form of meeting.' And even if our memories start to fade and we do start to forget, we are assured that God will never forget anyone. These words from the Bible are a message from God:

"I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands....." *Isaiah 49:15-16.*

Ste Marguerite

de la Foret

November 2024



Contacts

Rector: Revd. Claire Claxton

Tel: 238815

E.mail: carillon@cwgsy.net

Licenced Lay Minister (LLM)

Mrs Margaret BodenHeaume

Tel: 265370

E.mail: m.bodenheaume@outlook.com

Peoples Warden:

Mr Keith Bienvenu

Tel:238838

E.mail: krbienvenu@cwgsy.net

Rector's Warden:

Mrs Linda Archard

Tel: 266135

E.mail: lmcc@cwgsy.net

Church flowers in November

Nov 3rd Viv Rees

Nov 10th Viv Rees

Nov 17th Nancy. Smith

Nov 24th Nancy Smith

Greeting

Nov 3rd. Sara

Nov 10th. Debbie

Nov 17th. Fiona

Nov 24th Nancy

Dec 1st Christmas Tree

Festival-all decorators

Don't forget,

Our Remembrance Sunday service on Nov. 10th starts early at 10.50 at the Lych gate war memorial. Hear the muffled bells, an eerie sound especially in foggy weather and see the invisible soldier in church who joins us every year.

FOREST PARISH

PRO PATRIA

1914 - 1918

H.C. Allez

J.E. Brehaut

T. De La Mare

E. De La Mare

J.S. Gibson

W.T. Golding

J. Jehan

S.J. Jegu

G. Langlois

F.G. Le Cheminant

E. Nicholson

H.R. Nicholson

J.W. Robinson

1939 - 1945

J. Bihan

V.A. Breban

H.G. Brehaut

J.P. Brehaut

S.P.H. Bretel

G.LeP De La Rue

E.L. Dodd

B. Fallaize

V. Holland

F.A. Ratcliffe

FRENCH ARMY

V. Belloell

V. Bamuel

Known unto God

The Somme battlefield takes you by surprise. Visitors pull into a car park in a quiet lane and wander into what looks like a leafy National Trust property. A few yards in, though, and you see the trenches. Gently undulating now, softened by time, but unmistakably the dreadful, snaking pits of our imagination. The Somme, of course, is a river: but, for the last century, a name inseparable from the battle that claimed 60,000 young British lives on its first day.

Scattered about the fields nearby are dozens of small cemeteries, of which the majority, with telling anonymity, commemorate simply 'A soldier of the Great War'. I recently had the opportunity to visit this intense landscape for the first time and the impression made was deep indeed. Most affecting, I think, was an inscription that will be familiar to many on these nameless stones: 'Known Unto God'. However war may distort the human image, those three words underscore that its dignity is a divine gift that even the most appalling tragedies cannot erase.

In this month of recollection, as we give thanks for all those gone before us, the idea that each of them – and us – is 'known unto God' is a deep consolation. May each of you find peace in this remembrance.

+Andrew Ramsbury



A Harvest Bring and Share lunch was held in church following the service on October 6th, the food and company much enjoyed by all. Thanks for the gifts for the Guernsey Welfare Food Bank.



Dates and Church News

Wednesday 6th November

Knit and Natter in church 2-4pm

Wednesday 13th November 10.30-12.00

Coffee morning in church. All welcome.

Your Personal Remembrance

The All Souls service on 3rd November at 4 p.m

The service will provide an opportunity to remember loved ones, to give thanks for them and to receive God's peace and comfort. At this service we have a special prayer in which the name(s) of anyone you particularly want to remember are read aloud. If you would like me to include someone you can write their name on a list which will be by the door as you enter the church, or you can phone or email me before 3rd November. There will also be a chance, during the service, to light a candle in their memory.

You are welcome to bring any family members and friends who might like to attend the service with you. The service will last approximately 45 minutes and refreshments will be served afterwards.

Thursday 14th & 28th November

Solace meetings

10.30-12noon. At St Martins Community Centre.

A friendly support group after bereavement

December Advent Group You are invited to join our Advent Group which will meet in the church from 12.30 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. Wednesdays 4th, 11th & 18th December.

You are welcome to attend even if you cannot make every session and to bring a packed lunch or food to share if you wish.

Welcome to Forest Parish Church November 2024

Sunday November 3rd 11am. Family service

Reader: Vivian Rees

Isaiah25 v6-9

Revelations 21 v1-6a

Prayers. Keith Bienvenu

*****4pm All Souls Service *****

Sunday November 10th. 10.45 Remembrance

Reader: Susie Mowbray

Jonah 3 v1-5,10

Hebrews 9 v24-end

Prayers: Nicola Hoyland Birch

Sunday November 17th 11am Parish Communion

Reader: Syd Bowsher

Daniel 12 v 1-3

Hebrews 10 v11-14,19-25

Prayers:Katie Blampied

Sunday November 24th 11am Parish Communion

Reader: Keith Bienvenu

Daniel 7 v9-10,13,14

Revelations 1 v4b-8

Prayers: Peter Gallienne

Sunday December 1st Advent

11am Christingle & Christmas Tree Festival