

Thought for November 2022

By Revd. Claire Claxton

Remember, remember the fifth of November, gunpowder, treason and plot

November is definitely a month for remembering: All Saints Day (1st Nov), the many saints of the Christian Church; All Souls Day (2nd Nov), our own loved ones who have died; Remembrance Day (11th Nov), those who have given their lives to secure and protect our freedom.

The word remember is a strange one: re-member. It literally means to put back together again and so, when we remember, we keep alive an incident or person in our mind.

On 6th November, the Sunday after All Souls Day, we hold a service of remembrance and thanksgiving. Names of loved ones are read out in a special prayer and there is the opportunity to light a candle in their memory. Anyone is welcome to join us for that special service.

On Remembrance Sunday (13th Nov) we re-member, with a two-minute silence, a roll-call of names, the wearing of poppies and the laying of wreaths, the Armistice agreement that ended the 1st World war.

We may not always **want** to remember because, sometimes, remembering is painful; it brings back our loss. Sometimes the act of remembering will feel like a great wave overwhelming us and seeming to knocking us off our feet. But, at other times, the act of remembering is our greatest comfort and strength.

Every Sunday in church we re-member another event too. At the last supper Jesus took the bread and the wine and he said, “do this in remembrance of me.” And so we do – every service of Holy Communion is an opportunity to re-member Jesus and his sacrifice.

In the Bible we read how God spoke to the prophet Isaiah and said to him “Tell the people that I will not forget them. Their names are inscribed on the palms of my hand.” As we remember people who are special to us, people we will never forget, it is good to know that we and they are not forgotten by God either.

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Church Flowers in November

November 6th Nicola Hoyland Birch

November 13th Nicola Hoyland Birch - Remembrance
Sunday

November 20th Linda Archard

November 27th Linda Archard

December 4th Christmas Tree Festival. All decorators,
details to be confirmed.

Prayers for the sick and bereaved

Each Sunday in our weekly services and in Morning Prayer on Mondays and Thursdays we pray for the sick and the bereaved. There is a notebook in the church next to the Bible lectern in which the names of those we are praying for are written. If you or someone you know would like to be added to the list for regular prayer do let me know.

Claire Claxton

A prayer for those seeking strength:

May your people be strengthened, O God, by your blessing:

May you be our consolation in times of grief,
our power to endure in times of suffering,
our protection when in danger.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Advent

The last Sunday in November is Advent Sunday when we begin the four weeks leading up to Christmas. It's a time of expectancy and preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth. Many people find the weeks before Christmas very busy and stressful trying to get everything done, visitors invited,

presents bought, food thought about etc. Seeing the candles lit, one each week, helps us to pause and live in the moment. The Advent wreath is a decorated ring of four candles and another in the centre which will be lit at the Christmas services. The candles are different colours, each week reminding us of different aspects of our Christian life.

The first is the Candle of Hope which represents the Patriarchs, Abraham, the Old Testament Ancestors of Jesus. The second is the Candle of Peace. It represents the prophets who foretold the birth of Jesus.

The third is the Candle of love and represents John the Baptist and the fourth is the candle of joy which represents Mary, the mother of Jesus. The central candle is white for the birth of Jesus and is lit on Christmas Day.



A newcomer to Forest Church

As part of the effort to enhance the church surroundings we now have a beautiful new hedgehog house which is in the churchyard, tucked under the wall almost opposite the entrance to the car park. Although Guernsey is generally too warm in winter for the need to properly hibernate, the little creatures certainly need shelter from rough weather and the cold. I am sure they will appreciate the comfort, I believe there are signs of their presence nearby.

There is also a bird feeding station in the rear of the church which is a good quiet area away from the road.



Congratulations to Floral Forest...

for winning a Gold medal in this year's Britain in Bloom Competition. A small band of volunteers keep our parish clean and looking beautiful all the year round. The judges remarks were "You have continued the excellent record of island involvement."

After the competition all the entrants are given a detailed account of the judging and suggestions for improvement for the future. Forest was entered in the large village category and the overall winner was Cullybackey in County Antrim Northern Ireland. Please consider if you could join this group, it is a very social meeting for a few hours each week. Contact Sarah Plumley who would be pleased to tell you about it.

A Gardener's Evening

For interested gardeners, Forest Garden Club speaker is Malcolm Cleal on Wednesday 16 November at 7.00pm at the Forest Douzaine Room. He is going to speak about Winter Plant Maintenance and answer questions from the floor. Entry on the door £5, includes tea and cake. Plants for sale and a raffle.



November Dates and News

Knit and Natter

Wednesday 2nd November

in church 2pm-4pm come even if you only want to natter!

Sunday 6th November

All Souls Service 4pm

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 Revd Claire will read the name(s) of anyone you particularly want to remember. If you would like her to mention someone you can write their name on a list which will be by the door as you enter the church or you can call or email her before 6th November. There will also be a chance, during the service, to light a candle in their memory.

There will be refreshments after the service.

Coffee Morning

Wednesday 9th November

Our next coffee morning will take place from 10.30am to 12 noon in church. Plenty of space at the back of church now! Do come and join us for a cuppa, some cake and a chat. All are welcome!



Solace

Thursday 3rd lunch at the Longfrie - speak to Claire for more details

17th November - usual meeting

Solace is a support group for bereaved friends. (*Regular meetings are at St Martin's Community Centre from 10.30-noon.*)

Forest Floral Gardening Club

Wednesday 16th November 7pm

Speaker-Malcolm Cleal, see page 3

Welcome to Forest Parish Church Services in November 2022

Sunday 6th November

11am Family Service

Reader: tba

Prayers: Nicola Hoyland-Birch

4pm All Souls Service

A special service of thanksgiving and remembrance

Sunday 13th November Remembrance Sunday (10.50 at Lych Gate)

11am Parish Communion

Reader: Keith Bienvenu

Malachi 4 v1-2a

2 Thessalonians 3 v6-13.

Prayers: Margaret Boden Heaume

6.30pm Evensong - *a special service for Remembrance Sunday*

Reader: Margaret Boden Heaume

Sunday 20th November

9am Puppets and Praise

11am Parish Communion

Reader: Richard Heaume

Jeremiah 23 v 1-6

Colossians 1 v11-20

Prayers: Keith Bienvenu

Sunday 27th November Advent Sunday

9am Traditional Service BCP

11am Parish Communion

Reader: Nancy Smith

Isaiah 2 v 1 - 5

Romans 13 v 11 - 14

Prayers: Vivien Rees