

# St Mary Magdalen Church, Knighton

**Sunday 8th November 2020**

Remembrance Sunday

**Join us in prayer and worship this Sunday  
and through the week**

## *Collect*

Almighty Father,  
whose will is to restore all things  
in your beloved Son, the King of all:  
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,  
and bring the families of the nations,  
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,  
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen



## **Fresh Challenges and Eternal Hope**

The news last weekend about a new national lockdown for England was not a great surprise to many of us, but I'm sure we all still felt disappointment and a weariness about facing these challenges afresh.

On the plus side, our experience has given us ideas for staying positive and connected to each other during the lockdown. Can I urge you to remember how important it was back in the spring to keep in touch through phone calls, and to offer and accept help when needed, with practical things like shopping but also with listening and encouragement?

We also discovered that a pattern of daily exercise, doing something creative, and also making time for prayer and some Bible reading, all helped to keep us feeling more balanced. Limiting the amount of news programmes we watched also helped many people not to be overwhelmed.

Although we won't be able to meet for worship in our church buildings we *can* still meet online. Our weekly Compline on Wednesday evenings will continue, and we will produce Virtual Worship for each Sunday, which you can find on our websites, Facebook pages and through the You Tube link that will be emailed to you and in the newsletter. The Diocese will continue to produce 'Sunday at 10' every week too.

Do join in with Christian worship regularly in some way – it will help your faith and keep you looking outwards to other, as well as upwards to God.

Christians across the world and across the centuries have often faced severe challenges – to their safety, their communities and to their traditional worship and beliefs. We now follow in their footsteps. But we can be encouraged, as they were, by the words of the Bible.

Consider these verses from the Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 10:

“Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings ... Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds...”

Our hope in the face of so many challenges is grounded in the faithfulness of God. We may feel weak and weary, we may have little confidence in our leaders and scientists, and we may despair when we see the stress put on our doctors and nurses but we can live as hopeful people, if we develop the habit of remembering the faithfulness of God. He walks with his people through all our tests and trials; in Jesus he knows what it is like to be human and weighed down by earthly life; and in Jesus he has acted to defeat suffering and death for ever. Truly, we can have hope that we are safe, when we put ourselves in his care.

“We have put our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, and especially of those who believe.” (1 Timothy 4.10)

Yours in friendship and Christ’s service,

*Adrian*



## **Weekly Worship during the lockdown**

During the new lockdown our church buildings must remain closed for worship together, but that doesn't mean that our worship must stop! As you can read elsewhere, our online Virtual Worship and Compline will continue through the lockdown, and we are also able to open the church for private prayer, each Sunday morning from 9.45am to 11.15am.

As before we will need to wear masks and keep to social distancing guidelines in church, and of course we can't have any structured or shared worship – but God will still be present and will still meet us there. Do drop in at any point to pray, and leave when you are ready.

*Adrian*

## **Remembrance Sunday 2020**

There are several ways in which you can mark Remembrance Sunday (8th November) , and indeed Armistice Day itself (11th November) this year, despite the fact that we cannot gather in church.

Firstly, do have a look at our Virtual Worship for the week, which has a Remembrance theme and will be available at anytime from Sunday on our websites, Facebook pages and with the You Tube link that will be emailed out to our contact list.

Secondly, together with this newsletter is a simple booklet called 'An Act of Remembrance' and which contains some prayers and reflections for you to use at home if you would like to do so.

Thirdly, you can watch various programmes on the BBC, including:

- The Festival Of Remembrance (Saturday 7 November, 9.10pm-10.30pm);
- Remembrance Sunday at The Cenotaph (Sunday 8 November, 10.15am-11.45am with highlights on BBC Two at 7pm-8.10pm); and
- 'Unknown Warrior 100', including the national two minutes silence at 11am (Wednesday 11 November 10.30am-11.45am and highlights on BBC Two at 7pm-7.30pm).

Do take some time to share in our national remembering – and remember that God is faithful to us through all trials and tests, past, present and future.

*Adrian*

# Listening to God's Word

Our Bible readings for Sunday 8th November are:

## **Judges 7.2-22**

<sup>2</sup> The LORD said to Gideon, 'You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, "My own strength has saved me." <sup>3</sup> Now announce to the army, "Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.'" So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

<sup>4</sup> But the LORD said to Gideon, 'There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will thin them out for you there. If I say, "This one shall go with you," he shall go; but if I say, "This one shall not go with you," he shall not go.'

<sup>5</sup> So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the LORD told him, 'Separate those who lap the water with their tongues as a dog laps from those who kneel down to drink.' <sup>6</sup> Three hundred of them drank from cupped hands, lapping like dogs. All the rest got down on their knees to drink.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD said to Gideon, 'With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home.' <sup>8</sup> So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites home but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others.

Now the camp of Midian lay below him in the valley. <sup>9</sup> During that night the LORD said to Gideon, 'Get up, go down against the camp, because I am going to give it into your hands. <sup>10</sup> If you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah <sup>11</sup> and listen to what they are saying. Afterwards, you will be encouraged to attack the camp.' So he and Purah his servant went down to the outposts of the camp. <sup>12</sup> The Midianites, the Amalekites and all the other eastern peoples had settled in the valley, thick as locusts. Their camels could no more be counted than the sand on the seashore.

<sup>13</sup> Gideon arrived just as a man was telling a friend his dream. 'I had a

dream,' he was saying. 'A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed.'

<sup>14</sup> His friend responded, 'This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands.'

<sup>15</sup> When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he bowed down and worshipped. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, 'Get up! The LORD has given the Midianite camp into your hands.'<sup>16</sup> Dividing the three hundred men into three companies, he placed trumpets and empty jars in the hands of all of them, with torches inside.

<sup>17</sup> 'Watch me,' he told them. 'Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do.'<sup>18</sup> When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all round the camp blow yours and shout, "For the LORD and for Gideon."

<sup>19</sup> Gideon and the hundred men with him reached the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just after they had changed the guard. They blew their trumpets and broke the jars that were in their hands.<sup>20</sup> The three companies blew the trumpets and smashed the jars. Grasping the torches in their left hands and holding in their right hands the trumpets they were to blow, they shouted, 'A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!'<sup>21</sup> While each man held his position round the camp, all the Midianites ran, crying out as they fled.

<sup>22</sup> When the three hundred trumpets sounded, the LORD caused the men throughout the camp to turn on each other with their swords. The army fled to Beth Shittah towards Zererah as far as the border of Abel Meholah near Tabbath.

### **John 15.9-17**

<sup>9</sup> 'As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.<sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.<sup>11</sup> I have told

you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.<sup>12</sup> My command is this: love each other as I have loved you.<sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.<sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command.<sup>15</sup> I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.<sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.<sup>17</sup> This is my command: love each other.

### **What are we remembering?**

*- a Remembrance reflection by Bishop Peter Price,  
retired Bishop of Bath and Wells.*

The season of Remembrance will soon be upon us. On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month increasing numbers of people will stop what they are doing for the two minute Act of Remembrance.

What are they remembering?

There is a sense in which this is an unanswerable question. Who can look into the millions of minds and see what those two moments of stillness mean to each individual? The Act of Remembrance followed the armistice at the end of the First World War when the European battlefields finally fell silent over the slaughtered, missing and maimed of nearly five years of unremitting warfare. Today, of course, such space marks remembrances of other conflicts too numerous to mention, but include the Second World War, Korea, Northern Ireland, the Falklands, Iraq and Afghanistan.

'All war is sin' remarked a senior military officer to me recently. Few would deny that the taking of human life, with its consequences of loss, bereavement, and the hidden realities of physical and psychological injury, hurts human kind in a way that is incalculable.

Someone described sin to me recently as 'love deficit.' Certainly that describes the conditions that both make for war. Whenever we are unable to see in our fellow human beings the image of God, or refuse in some way to acknowledge that truth, we are in deficit of love to both neighbour and enemy.

The first Act of Remembrance was necessary for combatants of all sides to remember those whom they had lost. For comrades, friends, companions who had accompanied them in the travail of war. People who had shared with them in the questioning, the fear, the loneliness, as well as the ferocity of fighting. 'Love deficit' certainly is present in war. But so too is love that lays down its life, not only in acts of heroism, but in that mysterious, almost mystical 'love of country'.

'Remembering', at least in part, is about acknowledging both our worst and best as human beings. It is to express remorse, repentance for our 'love deficit.' It is to express gratitude for courage, generosity, and the love that lays down life for friends, fellow citizens, or simply 'others.' It is to re-commit to the task of making peace with all, and to find that grace which God gives us to forgive, reconcile, and be healed. It is to 'remember' that our calling as human beings is to reflect God because it is in his image we are made. And his path is compassion, forgiveness, equanimity and justice for all humankind.

*+Peter Price*

## **We're looking...!**

It's great that we have a new Church Warden (thanks Sian), and another volunteer to join a 'Warden team' that shares some of the responsibilities between them. Now we'd really like a few more people to join this team. If you're feeling a 'pull' or 'push' from God to do a bit more in our life together as a church then please do talk to Adrian, Matthew or Sian – this could be for you!





# Reading the Stories

On Saturday 14 November everyone is invited to take part in the Shaped By God Together process, reading and discussing the stories that have been shared and seeking insights from them.

This is an open invitation - book into the hour long online slot that most interests you and come ready to listen and learn together. The insights you gather from hearing these stories will be used to help form proposals for re-shaping how we work as a diocese which we will all be discuss in the spring 2021.

Find out more about the different slots and how to book your place on the "Events & Training" section of the diocesan website.



## **Important Notice:-**

### **St Mary's Church Path & Churchyard, Temporary Closure**

After careful planning and preparation, the essential repairs to the church tower and spire have now commenced, with completion expected in April 2021.

Unfortunately, for everyone's safety, for the whole contract period, the footpath through the churchyard, between Brinsmead Road and Church Lane will be closed. To prevent damage to the gravestones, the older part of the churchyard on the North side of the driveway, up to the lych gate, will also be temporarily fenced off.

Access into this area to visit graves and for internments will still be possible, but only by prior arrangement with James Gutteridge in the Parish Office or Revd Adrian Jones or Revd Matthew Gough.

The contractors, MSM, and the PCC, apologise for any inconvenience or upset this may cause, but hope that everyone will understand that the safety of all is of paramount importance during this complex construction project.

Thank you.

**Contact details:**

**Vicar: Adrian Jones**                      0116 270 4268 or 07584 954414

Email: [adrian.jones@zoho.com](mailto:adrian.jones@zoho.com) (day off normally Friday)

The Parish Office is now closed to the public during the lockdown.

Please feel free to phone James or to email. Thank you.

**On behalf of Ondre Parsons and family.**

I would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts, prayers, messages and cards following Gilbert's death.

We will be holding the funeral on the 9th of November at 12.30pm.

Unfortunately due to the COVID-19 pandemic only immediate family will be able to attend. This saddens the entire family as we know both Gil and Ondre had many friends that would like to pay their respects. We are able to invite you to attend the funeral via video link (the feed will be live, please follow the link at the bottom of the email to watch the ceremony). We hope that in future when it is safe to do so we can all join together again in remembrance of Gilbert.

Link to the funeral being held at 12.30pm, 9th November 2020.

<https://www.obitus.com/>

Username: Jagu8686

Password: 958195

Follow this link for the service booklet: <https://tinyurl.com/y3rmbqfx>

If you would like to make a donation to the Alzheimer's society in honour of Gil, follow the link below: <https://tinyurl.com/y5jqerfu>

Kindest regards, *Ondre and family.*

*"Gil held the churches of Knighton close to his heart. The hearse and funeral cars will therefore call briefly at St Mary's at noon on 9th as they make their way to the funeral. You are welcome to join us outside for that moment if you would like to pay respects. Please do keep to social distancing and wear a mask at all times however. Adrian"*

## **Keeping in touch and sharing worship together remotely.**

**Wednesday Compline (Night Prayer)** - Each week we are meeting virtually for Compline at 8pm on Wednesday. It has proven to be a meaningful way to have fellowship and prayer together as well as being quite good fun, especially as we find our feet with the technology and with more people joining us every week.

You can join by just phoning up and inputting the code or using 'Zoom' online. It has been democratic with several voices joining in with a line of liturgy each. If you would like to participate with a speaking part, please do contact Matthew by 4pm on Wednesday.

To join by phone only, call this number **0131 460 1196** and when prompted input Meeting ID: 746 767 4408

To join by Zoom on the internet, go to this address and click 'Open Zoom' <https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/7467674408>

## **PLANNED GIVING SCHEME**

Regular giving is an integral part of our church life supporting our day to day costs, ministry and mission. A good way to achieve this is through a weekly envelope or a monthly bank standing order as part of our Planned Giving Scheme. Scheme details can be obtained from Lorna Pollard, Planned Giving Scheme Secretary: telephone 01162704272 or email: [stmarysknighton.giving@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysknighton.giving@gmail.com). If you are a taxpayer and gift aid your giving, our church can claim an additional 25%.

**During the current Coronavirus pandemic please put aside your weekly offerings ready to bring to church when things return to something like normal. The costs of the church are largely unchanged even though we cannot meet, so your regular giving is extremely important to our collective 'health' and the mission of God here.**



*giftaid it*

**Please pray.....** *"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. "* (Ephesians 6.18)

**Praying for the World:** Please pray that God will restrain people of violence in every country across the world. Pray that hatred will be replaced by a deep desire to find peaceful solutions to our problems and disagreements. Pray for all those who have been affected by recent acts of terrorism and war.

**Praying for the Church:** please pray for our Diocese of Leicester and the 'Shaped by God Together' process of prayer, consultation and debate about the future shape of the Church of England here. Pray for Bishops Martyn and Guli, and for all those helping to review ministry, mission, buildings and finances.

**Praying for the Parish:** Please pray for the peace and well-being of all those who live on Southernhay Rd, Southernhay Close, Southern Hay Avenue, Cara Close, Estima Close, Westernhay Road.

**Praying for those in need:**

We pray for all those who are unwell at the moment, whether in body, mind or spirit, and all those with troubling investigations and diagnoses. Please do continue to pray for **Tony Sansome, Charlotte Muddimer, Anne Ibbs, Shirley and Rex Wills, Bob Newell** and their families. We pray for all those on our parish 'Continuing Prayer' list. May they know the power of God's healing love at work in their lives today.

We give thanks for those who have been healed and restored.

We remember those who have died recently and pray for their families and friends, in particularly we remember **Pat Lillicrap** and **Gil Parsons**. We also remember all those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

*Jesus said "Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11.28.*