

St Mary's Monthly Message

November 2021



Remembrance at St Mary's:
photo by Tony Kerwood



A Note From David

Newsletter editor: Louise Fell

BY THE RECTOR

Dear Church Family,

Welcome to the Remembrance edition of the newsletter.

On Remembrance Sunday, we acknowledge the courage and sacrifice of those who served their country and acknowledge our responsibility to work for the peace they fought hard to achieve. During times of war, individual acts of heroism occur frequently; only a few are ever recorded and receive official recognition. Our role at St Mary's is to ensure that members of our community are given that recognition, both in our services and in the Act of Remembrance that takes place in our market square.

It will be wonderful this year to be able to return to our traditional service and Act of Remembrance, after the break we had last year, in response to the Pandemic. I am particularly grateful for this tradition to be passed on to the children in our community, so that they, too, may understand its importance and, in their turn, work for the peace that those who went before fought to achieve.

November is also the month of COP26. I invite each of you to pray for the success of this all-important climate change conference, taking place in Glasgow. There will be a special focus on COP26 in our services at St Mary's on 7 November and I invite you all to come along to pray so that we may show our support together.

Blessings, David.

IN THE NOVEMBER ISSUE

A Note from David

*An RAF Chaplain
shares his thoughts
on Remembrance*

*Reflections on
Remembrance with
Alan Turner*

In Other News...

Dates for your Diary

Prayers for November

The Interview: Kevin Capelin Jones

Kevin Capelin-Jones is a Royal Air Force Chaplain, currently serving at RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire. He's married to Roz, a paediatrician, and they have 3 children. Kevin previously worked at RAF Air Command, and it was whilst there that they settled in Princes Risborough.

Q. Kevin, what does your role as a RAF Chaplain involve?

A. It's a varied role, the largest part is pastoral work – from baptisms, weddings & funerals to supporting personnel in their relationships, housing, work issues; teaching on a variety of subjects such as addictions, bereavement & loss. Then we do 'incarnational ministry': everything from playing sports, flying abroad with crews, visiting tea bars & crewrooms (and bars!).

Q. So have you deployed abroad?

A. Yes, I've undertaken deployments in Afghanistan and the wider Middle East, including ministering in the hospital in Camp Bastion in Afghanistan to the multinational troops coming in, and the amazing staff looking after them.

Q. As a military chaplain what does Remembrance mean to you?

A. I spent 2011-14 at RAF Brize Norton, where we undertook Repatriations, at times on a weekly basis. I find Remembrance a poignant time, remembering the individuals and their families who have been affected by the sacrifice they've given. As we try to comprehend the millions who've paid the ultimate sacrifice, we can lose sight of the personal losses.

Q. How does your faith support you in your role?

A. There are 2 things I hold close daily: the first is that just as Jesus spent much time with the lost, lonely, and sick, so it is important for us to meet people where they are at, with love & compassion. The second is that we are the purveyors of Hope. Whilst anyone can show kindness, what we represent is the Hope we have to eternal life offered through the sacrifice of Jesus.

Alan Turner: Reflections on Remembrance

Alan Turner is a well-known figure in Risborough for whom "service" is paramount: many will know him from his years on the town and district councils, or his role in the annual remembrance ceremony or from his other work including as a trustee of the Princes Centre.

I asked Alan, whose father and grandfather suffered injuries in the two world wars, about his role in helping us remember the sacrifice of those who never returned home and of those who returned physically and/or mentally scarred by the terrible consequences of war. Alan sees remembrance as a community event: "The church service on Remembrance Sunday, followed by the Act of Remembrance in the Market Square, not only allows us to commemorate those from our town who made the ultimate sacrifice, but also to reinforce the bonds of community - standing shoulder to shoulder in remembrance."

Alan also told me that he feels immensely privileged to have played a supporting role in the annual Act of Remembrance for a number of years: "Organisations such as the Royal British Legion, Help for Heroes and others provide vital services in support of our Service personnel, but no single organisation has sole responsibility to care for those dedicated men and women who protect our freedom - that responsibility is shared by us all."

As usual, Alan will be helping to organise and coordinate the Act of Remembrance in our Market Square on Remembrance Sunday this year.

*Greater love
has no one
than this, that
he lay down
his life for his
friends.*

JOHN 15:13



In other news...

Congratulations to the **Messy Church Team**! The event was well attended by lots of families who don't usually come to church and they said: "We had a great time making the lovely crafts at each table and meeting the friendly helpers". They also commented that it was "a really special family day out".

This year **Malcolm Clouett**, almost 101, will be taking on a tough challenge for Royal British Legion again. He will be walking every day from 1-12 November from Woollerton Court to Crew Cafe on Wades Field where £1 will be donated for every tea and cake ordered. And if Malcolm needs a rest, Carleen Acres will be replacing him. www.justgiving.com/fundraising/malcolms-centenary-challenge.

There will be a **time of prayer** before the Live at St. Mary's service each Sunday from 10.45 to 11 am in the Upper Room of the Chapter House to pray for the service. The prayer will begin with a time of silent waiting on God for "pictures"/ words/ insights to pass on to the service leader for inclusion in the service or not as they decide. Any member of the Congregation is most welcome to take part in the Upper Room prayer.

Congratulations to all those who were involved in the **Banjovi concert** last month and raised £450 for **Tearfund** to help alleviate the effects of the climate crisis on the poorest people of the world. Thank you to the musicians, refreshments team, and other volunteers who made such a difference and brightened everyone's day.

St Andrew's Bookshop has been **Bookshop of the Year** by Christian Resources Together. They will be providing a range of Advent resources (cards, books & gifts) for us to buy in church towards the end of November, but to view their full Christmas range, please visit their shop in Great Missenden.

A **Christmas Tree Festival at St Dunstan's** will take place over the weekend of 27th and 28th November. If you would like to represent St Mary's by creating a tree for the festival, speak to the office for more information.

A Princes Risborough **Food Cupboard Co-ordinator** is required to support the key volunteers (Referrer, Volunteer Coordinator, Team Leaders and OneCan themselves) and help keep the operation running smoothly. The role takes only an hour per week, exceptionally up to two hours. Could this be you? Contact the Parish Office for more details.

Project Possible Vacancy - Operations Administrator (25 hours per week, £23,500 pa pro rata) for an experienced administrator to support a small team. Some hours can be worked from home as well as at the Amersham office. Please see the application pack on the website:
www.projectpossible.org.uk/connect/job-opportunities

Any comments or suggestions about the newsletter would be very welcome to mrslouisefell@icloud.com. **Photos for the Christmas edition**, please.

*Could you
help
coordinate
the Princes
Risborough
Food
Cupboard?
Contact the
Parish
Office
01844
273300*

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 3 November Monthly Lunch club in church 10am to 3pm. Please book.

Saturday 6 November Leaf Sweep in Churchyard - do come and help make the churchyard look respectable again. Bring your rake and join in the fun!

7 November a service to join together to pray for COP26 and then Time to Remember Service at 3:00pm for all those who have lost a loved one.

Saturday 13 November 09:00am for a breakfast bap, and a hot drink in St Mary's. Please feel free to bring your rake and join us afterwards for a leaf sweep.

Saturday 13 November 7:30pm Handel's "Saul" by Aylesbury Opera at Holy Trinity Church, Bledlow. Tickets www.aylesburyopera.org.uk or 07725 868092.

Sunday 14 November 10:00am Remembrance Sunday Service in St Mary's and all-age version in the Church Hall, followed by Act of Remembrance at 11:00am in the Market Square.

Sunday 21 November Children's Society services with Rachel Brockie then Reconnect at 4:00pm.

Wednesday 24 November 7:30pm Living in Love and Faith group meeting in the Chapter House

Friday 26 November 10:30am Jingers Seasonal Entertainment with coffee in St Mary's. Come along for a lovely treat.

Sunday 28 November 4:00pm Tree of Light Service at the green near Tesco roundabout and 6:00pm CTR Advent Service at St Mary's.

Services at St Mary's and St Peter's

Parish Communion continues at 9.30 on Sundays in church and live streamed to your home. See the St Mary's website for the link to our YouTube channel. At present there is no singing at this service.

Live@St Mary's all age service continues at 11.15 both in church and live streamed to your home. A zone is set aside in church for those who wish to wear a mask & social distance.

Mid week Holy Communion is on Thursdays at 10.30.

Third Sunday in the month, **Evensong at St Peter's Church, Ilmer** at 3pm (check website for variations).

For your Prayers in November

A prayer of Remembrance

Ever-living God
we remember those whom you have
gathered
from the storm of war into the peace
of your presence;
may that same peace
calm our fears,
bring justice to all peoples
and establish harmony among the
nations, through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.

7 November baptism of Harrison West.

And, as usual, let's share the love of Christ with all this week.

And a prayer for COP26

Creator of our common home
Hear the cry of the earth
Our world stands in great peril
Many are suffering
We have put at risk our present and our future
through the rapid warming of the earth and
the careless destruction of it's beauty
Give to the leaders of the world fresh hope and
courage
As they gather for COP 26
Unite us all in a common mission to heal and
cherish our environment
And steward the resources of our world for
future generations
May this conference be a turning point in
human history
For the sake of all the peoples of the earth.
Amen.

Copies of this newsletter are available in Church for you to collect and pass on to friends and neighbours.

Sharing the love of Christ with All

There is a weekly prayer meeting on zoom every Wednesday at 9am - please contact the Parish Office for your zoom invite. Prayer requests can be made via the Prayer section on the website homepage or via the Parish Office