

## REFLECTIONS

“Then they that feared the Lord spake often to one another; and the Lord harkened, and heard it and a book of remembrance was written before him” *Malachi 3.16*

On this day we look back on two world wars and other costly conflicts and remember with pride the men and women of the services and the civilians who put duty first, who did not turn aside from sacrifice, who served faithfully and who died serving. With our times now so out of joint as the result of Covi-19 and with so much to make us feel dejected, let us proudly and lovingly lift up our book of remembrance to the Lord. All is not sordid calculation and dissipated selfishness, all is not cruelty and brutality in a world which held such men and women as those who we remember. So our book of remembrance should be kept and should be read for its honoured names.

But if our remembrance today is of men and women, events and wars ONLY, we might better forget, lest we be led to the pride and vengefulness which breed war. If our remembrance is of God, we cannot help but recall that He who revealed God to us asked to be remembered not by victory but by defeat, by broken bread and wine outpoured, and by a cross. It is as we seek to imitate that sacrifice that we shall be closest in spirit to those who have died in war and will do as much as lies in us to ensure that their sacrifice shall not have been in vain.

The community in its need lies about us. It is as we dedicate ourselves afresh to meet those needs that we shall best remember those who sacrificed their lives and shall most faithfully serve him who died that we, and they, might live.

Michael Lovegrove

## THIS WEEK'S SERVICES ONLINE

**There are no services in any of our churches this week due to the latest government restrictions. The following services are available across the team - full details on the website and the email bulletin.**

### SUNDAY

St Marys, Saffron Walden  
10.30am Remembrance Service Leader: Andy Colebrooke  
(on Zoom and Youtube)  
4.00pm Music/Readings/Compline Leader: Marisa Baltrock  
(Podcast)

### TUESDAY

5.00pm Evening Prayer (Zoom) Leader: Sue Walker

### WEDNESDAY

9.30am Holy Communion (Zoom) President: Paula Griffiths

### AMENDED PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Administrator is available by phone or email on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 9.30am - 12noon, but no longer on a Tuesday. The office is not currently open to personal callers.



See St Mary's Church, SW, website at [www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org](http://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org) to find out more.

Please 'Like' our Facebook page so we reach more people! Click on the link on our website, or go to: [www.facebook.com/saintmaryschurchsaffronwalden](http://www.facebook.com/saintmaryschurchsaffronwalden)

# The Grapevine

COVERING THE PARISHES OF SAFFRON WALDEN,  
WIMBISH, DEBDEN, ASHDON AND HADSTOCK.

**Remembrance Sunday**  
**8<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

### 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.

### First Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

### Gospel: Matthew 25.1-13

Jesus spoke this parable to the disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'

### Post Communion

God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom and restored the broken to wholeness of life: look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your healing power make whole both people and nations; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Churches Together Prayer Cycle: In November please pray for: **All Saints, Ashdon, Wimbish and Debden Schools**  
The family and friends of those who have died recently:  
**Revd. Tim Hardingham** As a church and as a team we are heartbroken at the news of Tim's death. He was a wonderful priest, teacher, father, friend and colleague. Tim was a true gentleman or gentle man, who was wise beyond words. He was often quietly spoken but when he spoke you knew you had to listen, because wisdom was on the way. He will be missed greatly. *Alex*  
The family and friends of those who have died recently:  
**Mavis Bowler**

## MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

Our Remembrance Day observance will be different this year. There will be no traditional march past at the Cenotaph, no large gatherings and parades and no military bands. But we will be quiet for two minutes, which is not much time to give for those who gave their whole lives. How shall we fill that time?

For some, two minutes will be too short. Those who served during the Second World War are now a rapidly diminishing band but those still with us will remember their contemporaries and the friends and family who died in war. We will, with them, recall with thanksgiving their courage and their sacrifice.

But most of us are too young to remember the world wars. How can we fill those two minutes? As well as giving thanks for those who gave their lives in the two world wars we can remember those who have fought and died in subsequent conflicts and pray for those who are sad today, for those who were blinded or made invalids by war's cruelty.

All of us can pray for those still in danger in the war zones of the world; for children in many lands who are homeless and hungry because of war. And all of us can pray for peace and dedicate ourselves anew to working for justice for all members of God's family from which alone true peace will come. Then we should listen for God to speak.

With love and prayers  
Michael Lovegrove

## PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Father of all mercies and God of all comfort, whose Son ministered to those in need; remember for good all who suffer through war, by loss of home or faculties, by loss of friends or loved ones, by loss of security or freedom. Look upon our world, still torn apart by violence and fighting and grant success to those who work for peace; through him who reconciled us with God, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Christopher Idle)

## BIBLE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

<b>Mon 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Psalm 20 & Revelation 5 Evening Psalm 34
<b>Tue 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Psalm 21 & Revelation 6 Evening Psalm 40 & Matthew 5:13-20
<b>Wed 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Psalm 23 & Revelation 7:1-4, 9-end Evening Psalm 37
<b>Thurs 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Psalm 26 & Revelation 8 Evening Psalm 43
<b>Fri 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Psalm 32 & Revelation 9:1-12 Evening Psalm 35
<b>Sat 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Psalm 33 & Revelation 9:13-end Evening Psalm 86

## NEWS

**There will be NO SERVICES IN CHURCH during the period of lockdown - however we will continue to provide services online and accessible by telephone.**

**ONLINE SERVICES** are listed on the back page. Full joining details are available on the weekly email bulletin and on the website. Please email Dawn if you would like to be added to the bulletin distribution list.

**LIVE WORSHIP** by phone - you don't need a computer or tablet to join our services from home. If you would like to know more please contact Judith Hasler on 525041 or John Saxon on 541619.

**PRIVATE PRAYER** During this period of lockdown, St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden, is open on Wednesdays and Sundays between 2pm and 4pm. All Saints, Ashdon, is open every day. St Botolph's, Hadstock is open on Wednesdays between 1pm and 3pm.

**PCC MEETING** A meeting of the PCC will be held on Zoom on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November** at 7:45pm. *Lisa Brook (PCC Secretary)*

**ANNUAL MEETINGS 2020** At the first Annual Meetings at St Mary's to be held on Zoom on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October, Denis Tindley and Gill Caswell were elected as churchwardens and Bill Rose, Pamela Jenner and Jan Siewertsen were elected as Assistant Churchwardens. Judith Hasler and Clifford Want were elected to the Deanery Synod for a three-year term. David Birchall, Steve Hasler, Rufus Barnes, Robin O'Neill, Matt Williamson and Lisa Brook were elected to the PCC also for a three-year term. *Lisa Brook, PCC Secretary*

**AN ADVENT STUDY COURSE/DISCUSSION GROUP** on zoom is being planned for anyone who would be interested. This would be for one hour a week over a four week period. To help planning, please could you contact Caroline (preferably by e-mail at [c.currer@btinternet.com](mailto:c.currer@btinternet.com) by 10<sup>th</sup> November) if you would be interested in taking part, and including any constraints you may have in relation to timing. Once we have some idea of potential numbers, she will be in touch with details of the topic and proposed date or dates.

**BRIGHTEN YOUR CHRISTMAS!** In order to support St Mary's as there's no church fair this year, I'm taking orders for a limited number of Crackers at £2 each (as last year). Please email me with your order - [dd.hoy@ntlworld.com](mailto:dd.hoy@ntlworld.com) - telling me how many crackers and numbers for male/female you need. Orders by the end of November please. *Diana Hoy*

**IT'S TOO IMPORTANT NOT TO SEND A SHOEBOX.** This year due to COVID-19 restrictions it has been difficult to collect filled shoeboxes for vulnerable children across the world. However, you can still send a shoebox by going online and choosing what gifts you would like Operation Christmas child to put in the box for you! Have fun! Go to [shoeboxonline.samaritans-purse.org.uk](http://shoeboxonline.samaritans-purse.org.uk) or for help to do this, phone Mike and Judith Felgate 01799 524747.

**A Date for your diaries;** The Prayer team are preparing **A QUIET MORNING ON ZOOM FOR SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER** between 10 - 12 noon. More details will follow but do put it in your diary. *Sue Walker*

## MINISTRY TEAM

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