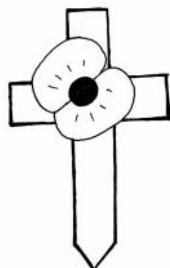


Reflection for Remembrance Sunday, 2020

2020 is a momentous year not least because of this dreadful pandemic which has turned everybody's life upside down in some way or other. It is also the 102nd anniversary of the Armistice that ended the hostilities of the First World War, but perhaps more importantly it is the 75th Anniversary of the end of the 2nd World War, the last 'milestone' year that many alive at the time will experience as the 100th Anniversary is another twenty-five years ahead. Sadly we have not been able to remember that Peace seventy-five years ago with the celebrations and parties we would normally have expected. Ironically, the world is at war again, but this time against an invisible enemy, COVID-19. As during the world wars, people pulled together and showed community spirit in this nation, we have seen great signs of that in the present crisis with the Health Service working flat out and volunteers helping the vulnerable and poor. People's generosity has shown through with contributions to food banks and such initiatives as the St Thomas Larder run by the local churches.

When we remember those who lost their lives in the various wars of the 20th Century, we need to be firm in our quest to maintain peace at all costs. The futility of the carnage of wars and the destruction of peoples lives and livelihoods is starkly highlighted when we see how easily a virus such as this can devastate our lives and way of life. War is avoidable if only humankind act towards each other with respect and love. Jesus gives us his peace. That is the peace we must spread through the world.

Philip Baker



Codes for the Zoom worship at 10.30

These are codes for Sundays from 4th October to the end of November:

Meeting ID: 865 5823 0026

Passcode: 504187

Telephone numbers: 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

NEXT SUNDAY 15.11 20 2 before Advent

SERVICES 10.30 by Zoom



READINGS

OT Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-18

NT 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11

Gospel Matthew 25.14-30

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Twitter: @sttexeter

Office Tel: 01392 437486 Thurs mornings (suspended)



St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 8th November 2020

Remembrance Sunday

10.30 by Zoom (phone-in available)

Sadly, with the new lockdown in force in England it is not possible to continue holding services in our church (or around the war memorial); so for the next few weeks our worship will have to be offered to the Lord by means of an online service (which is also accessible by phoning in, if you don't have an internet connection). The details (including the phone numbers) are unchanged from the last few weeks, and shown on this pew sheet. We hope you will be able to join with us this Sunday (when our service will conclude with an observance of the 2-minute silence in memory of the fallen, and prayers of remembrance) and on subsequent Sundays until we can physically meet again (hopefully 6th December). Remember, these difficult times *will* come to an end.

As we found during the first period of restrictions, God's Holy Spirit is not locked down, and we can be active as individuals and as a church community in prayer and action to help our neighbours. Our church building can continue to be open for private prayer and meditation, the community larder can still operate, and we can support and share God's love with each other. May our sovereign Lord bless us all at this time.

Ian Totterdell, churchwarden



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**

Wisdom of Solomon 6: 12-16

Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for she will be found sitting at the gate. To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care, because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought.

1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11

But 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.

Matthew 25: 1-13

'Then 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." ⁷Then 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. **Amen**

NOTICES

Community Larder The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays only** from 10am-12noon, and is allowed to continue operating during the period of lockdown. The collecting point will now be back in the hall. Please continue to be generous.

Knit and Natter - November 2020

Parkland House, right here in St Thomas, has been happy to accept the five colourful blankets we have made. Other things are on their way to The Salvation Army in support of the good work they do for homeless people.

Although we shall not be able to meet in person for a while, we shall continue our WhatsApp chat group and keep in touch as best we can.

The important thing is that we carry on knitting, sewing, crocheting, and doing our embroidery and cross-stitch. We shall have more time than we had expected, and we shall benefit from everything we make.

Jenny Tuckett 01392 498725

Ian Totterdell has completed the **Hospiscare Marathon in a Month**. Thanks to those who have given already; with gift aid the total is now just over £400, which is amazing! Ian is still accepting donations in person or through a just giving page.

Details below:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Ian-Totterdell1

Pat Mounce thanks everyone who gave a donation or plants for the Church garden. Very much appreciated.

