

The Smestow Vale Team Ministry

St Benedict Biscop and the Venerable Bede

Keeping in Touch with our Church Family

Sunday 8th November 2020

Remembrance Sunday



The Prophet looks forward to a time of peace.

In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war any more. Every man will sit under his own vine and under his own fig-tree, and no-one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken. All the nations may walk in the name of their gods; we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.

Micah 4:1-5

Jesus reminds his friends that love can involve sacrifice.

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you

God our refuge and strength,
bring near the day when wars shall cease
and poverty and pain shall end,
that the earth may know the peace of heaven.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

John 15 :9-17

A reflection for Remembrance Tide from the Revd Preb Paul Brown

Two minutes is such a short time when you are busy. But stand still, stop what you are doing, when the rest of the community stops as well and it seems the longest two minutes of the year.

On Sunday and on Armistice Day we stop, and remember in silence. But what will think about in those two minutes?: Will it be memories of two world wars or more recent conflicts? Will you remember one of names on our village war memorials? Or will you wonder about the future in a world where Covid 19 reaps so much destruction. ? Or will the silence just oppress you as you give way to the distractions of everyday life? The noise of a car in the distance, the complexities of your next task, aching limbs. Or even the more mundanely what is for lunch?

Be honest and it is probably a combination of several of them It's a mistake to think that to remember you have to have memories of the two world wars.

The Churches of the Smestow Vale Team Ministry Bobbington Himley, Swindon, Trysull and Wombourne

Of course we start with those who gave up so much in war. Those who lost their lives, those who lost members of their families, those who were disabled. Those who served, and those who supported them in a myriad of different ways. Then it is time to look to the future,... to dream of the time that Micah looked forward to when there is peace and justice in, and between all nations, and when swords can be beaten into plough shares and spears into pruning hooks. Or to use a more modern idiom when the mind of the scientist and the power of the atom can be used solely for medicine and enhancing the quality of very ones lives.

As Christians we all believe that war is evil because it falls short of God's loving purpose for his world but we cannot ignore the horrors, oppression and tyranny that war seeks to redress. After all there is so much truth in the saying that I used to have emblazoned on a poster "The way for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing".

Today we remember with gratitude the cost of peace and we pray for the strength to play our part in keeping that peace In our own lives, In our homes, In our places of work and leisure In our community, In our nation and In our world.

Paul

Please remember those who have asked for our prayers"

Lisa, Morgan, Margaret Ward, Joy Waistell, Monika, Dot Inskip, Michael Concannon, Sarah Aldridge, Jane, Delma Scriven and Carl Baker.

Those who have died

Kath Humpheson, Jean Porter, Ruth Hall, Ronald Gamston and Brian Wheway

Prayers for Remembrance Tide

Sunday

Pray that we may always be alert to the will of God. (Matthew 25:13)

Monday

Pray that the new lockdown may be effective in curbing the virus.

Tuesday

Pray for all who are once more in fear of losing their livelihood.

Wednesday

Pray, on Armistice Day, for all who have lost loved ones in conflicts.

Thursday

Pray for students of schools and universities continuing to study during the lockdown.

Friday

Pray for the victims of the recent terrorist attacks in France.

Saturday

Pray that we may continue to trust in Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

National Lockdown

St Benedict's will be open for private prayer through out the lockdown. Sadly there will be no services in church (except funerals) until the 6th of December (St Nicholas' Day).

Pew

We still have one pew for sale £80, please contact Paul if you are interested.

All Saints Tide Activity Bags

Sarah was able to distribute the activity bags to around 40 children.

Field of Remembrance.

Remembrance crosses supplied by the RBL are available at the back of church. They can be placed in front of the War Memorial between the four crosses. Please make a donation for the work of the RBL, donations can be placed the grey wall safe by the door.

A very short service will be streamed on Facebook.

