

A few words from the Vicar

"When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today." (The Kohima Epitaph)

First, my heartfelt thanks go to those of you who, in response to our Stewardship campaign, have pledged to increase your financial and / or time commitment to the mission of the Church.

It is, of course, too early to assess the outcome of the campaign. However, if you have volunteered to take on something extra, we shall be in touch. Also, if you have not responded yet, do not worry; we are still happy to receive responses even though the deadline has passed.

So, what does November have in store for us?

Well, as always, on Remembrance Sunday (12th November) we have two special services.

At 6.30pm we have our annual service of remembrance for those who have lost loved ones. Invitations have been sent already to the next of kin of those for whom we have conducted funerals over the past 12 months. However, the service is not just for the recently bereaved. Everyone is invited, no matter how long ago their loved one (or loved ones) died.

During the service, the names of the dead will be read out and those present will be invited to light a candle in their memory.

If you would like the name of you loved one listed and read out at the service, please contact Gwen White (01204 595378) or leave a note of their name in the special box at the back of church.

At 10.30am we have our Remembrance Sunday service, during which we will remember those who have died in war and conflict, place poppy wreaths in front of the Lord's Table and observe two minutes silence.

This year marks the centenary of the Battle of Passchendaele. This took place on the Western Front from July to November 1917 in the most appalling conditions. Historians argue about the exact number of casualties. Nonetheless, it is safe to say, losses were horrendous on both sides, in the region of 500,000.

Sadly, with the terrorist attacks in the UK and elsewhere, 2017 has not been without loss either.

Sadly, my first engagement as Borough Dean was to attend the Bury vigil following the Manchester bombing. I, for one, will never forget being present on that occasion: the raw emotions; the shock of it all; struggling to understand how someone could deliberately target youngsters and their families leaving a concert; admiration for the emergency service; sadness and sympathy for the injured and the bereaved; and a determination not to allow the atrocity to drive a wedge between people.

For once, words failed me; all I could do was be there in silence.

So, together with those lost in two world wars and all the wars and conflicts since, on this Remembrance Sunday it is surely appropriate for us to remember the victims of this year's atrocities too.

'They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old: age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.'

Every Blessing

Dave