

Allen Writes



Lest we forget.....

November is a time when we focus our minds on Remembrance – both nationally and locally.

On 3 November we will be holding our usual memorial service in church. This gives us an opportunity to reach out in Christian love to those who have been recently bereaved, sharing with them the Good News of the Gospel. It gives each person attending an opportunity to remember their loved ones in a unique personal way, reflecting not only on their grief but also giving thanks for the good times they have shared together.

On 10 November we join with thousands of others across the world in an act of Remembrance. I will be leading the service in Broadbottom (a first for me), whilst the Rev. Gill Goodwin will lead the service at St. Michael's.

These services do not in any way glorify war, but help to show our gratitude to those who have given so much for the peace and freedom we enjoy today, but which we take so easily for granted.

Their sacrifice is not limited to wars of the past, but continues right up to today with men and women still dying, being seriously wounded or emotionally scarred as they serve this country and try to keep peace around the world. It is a sobering thought that throughout the 20th century and into the 21st century there was only one year when a man or woman was not killed in the service of this country.

These are all special times of remembrance, but we also have a weekly remembrance service – our celebration of Holy Communion where we give thanks for the sacrifice Jesus paid with His life for each one of us, a painful, lingering death on the cross followed by His glorious resurrection. That sacrifice was made willingly and freely so that we could all have the free gift of eternal life, the assurance that death is not the end but a step along the way to the eternal life Jesus promised to all who believe in Him. It is a source of comfort, peace and support through the difficult times and good times of life. God never says "get through this and I am waiting for you". He is with us every step of every day, sharing in our joys, feeling the pain of our sorrows.

So as we gather at each of these different services, each one remembering a different event and person, but equally important, each one giving thanks for the love we have shared, the freedom and peace we have been given, the eternal life we have been promised, let us remember all these things with thanks.....lest we forget.

My prayer is that you will all know God's love and peace, not only at this time of Remembrance but in all the days ahead.

Allen

