

# Parish of St. Thomas, Apostle & Martyr, Ipswich

## Remembrance Sunday - 8 November 2020

### Collect:

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

**Amen.**



### Psalm 70

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. O Lord, make haste to help me!  
2 Let those be put to shame and confusion who seek my life. Let those be turned back and brought to dishonour who desire to hurt me.  
3 Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!" turn back because of their shame.

4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"  
5 But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay!

### A reading from the first letter to the Thessalonians (4.13-end)

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 forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

### Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to 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.' 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.

**This is the gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, o Christ.**

## Reflection:

Remembering is such an integral part of who we are as people, that we often don't think about it until it is taken away, or we discover a lack of it. None-remembering. Forgetting. Have a think for a moment about what it is that makes you who you are. Is it not, to a large part, the sum of all the experiences you have ever had, that add up to create you as the individual you are now? Remembering facts, people, places, directions, skills, emotions... We are creatures of remembering, and without it, we wouldn't be us.

If you have known anyone with Alzheimers or memory loss, you will know how terrible and debilitating it is to not remember. To forget is to lose a connection, the snapping of a thread that binds us one to another. And at our core, we are people of relationships, we are who we are because of who else we have known and encountered. So our memories act a bit like a spiderweb through time, linking generations together through the years, and offering a story of how we might look forwards into the future.

Today, Remembrance Sunday, we explore and affirm the need to remember our past. We remember all the many people who died in the World Wars and other armed conflicts throughout the years, especially the more recent ones such as the conflict in Afghanistan. We remember all those who gave themselves, who suffered, were injured, and died. We remember the tragedy and pain of war, the enormous cost, the destruction that humanity is able to bring upon itself. We mourn, and we give thanks, and we carry within us this story of our history.

Remembering is part of our identity. We are a remembering people. All of us have a story of how we grew up, of who raised us, how we did in school, what moments we cherished and which experiences shaped us. And maybe you find that looking back can help you decide how to move ahead and look forwards. We learn from our mistakes (or we try anyway!), so we can build on them to make better choices going forwards.

But what has it got to do with faith and church? Why do we have a Remembrance Sunday, and preach about it year after year? Over the years that's something I've often wondered, especially as someone young enough that my grandparents were only babies during the 1940s. My own connection with the World Wars is very indirect. Yet we keep remembering. So why?

Part of the answer is what I've touched on already, that remembering makes us who we are. But there's another big part for us, for those who are Christians, because remembrance and faith are intertwined together. In fact, remembering is the foundation of faith! We do it every Sunday when we celebrate the Eucharist, because Jesus invited his friends to remember him every time they ate bread or drank wine - something simple they did every day as part of life. And in our remembering, we also remember and celebrate the resurrection, and the hope we have through faith of joining God ourselves after we die. So when Jesus asks us to remember him every day, every time we eat, in this way, Jesus is always present with us. The past is linked with the now, and our now is linked to the future as we look forward. This means that our faith is always alive, always relevant, always shaping us as we move through our own journeys. So our remembering of Jesus gives us purpose, it gives us hope, and an awareness of the transforming power of Jesus' death and resurrection.

I think one further way in which remembering is important is that it prompts us to prepare for the future. Preparation was the theme of our gospel reading today, as we heard about the bridesmaids who weren't well prepared, and who missed out on the wedding party as a result. If we can learn to hold the lessons of the past in our awareness, we can be better prepared for what the future might hold. The first World War was idealistically called the War to end all Wars, because people couldn't imagine that we would NOT learn from the experience. Of course, sadly that wasn't the case, and wars across the globe continue to this day. But perhaps, if we keep on remembering, we will be better prepared to live peacefully in the future. And if we keep remembering Jesus, we can be transformed to become more Christ-like, and thus we become people of peace and hope.

So today, we carry the memory forwards. We remember the darkness of loss and destruction, and we pray for the continuation of peace and forgiveness. We remember the gifts that past generations gave in serving, and we give thanks for them as we commend them to God. We remember that Jesus broke bread, drank wine, gave himself willingly as a sacrifice, and prayed with his disciples, whose footsteps we tread in.

In our remembering we are held together by these threads of memory running through time. In our remembering we are alive, full of faith, full of hope. For what are we, if not creatures of remembering, of holding onto our past so that we can weave a brighter story into the future, as we prepare to be with the Lord forever. Amen.

-Rev Cat

**God is love. Those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.**

**The peace of the Lord be always with you.**

**This week's hymn:**

O thou, who at thy Eucharist didst pray  
that all thy Church might be for ever one,  
grant us at every Eucharist to say  
with longing heart and soul,  
"thy will be done."

O may we all one Bread, one Body be,  
through this blest Sacrament of unity.

For all thy Church, O Lord, we intercede;  
make thou our sad divisions soon to cease;  
draw us the nearer each to each, we plead,  
by drawing all to thee,  
O Prince of Peace;  
thus may we all one Bread, one Body be,  
through this blest Sacrament of unity.

We pray thee too  
for wanderers from thy fold;  
O bring them back,  
good Shepherd of the sheep,  
back to the faith which saints believed of  
old,  
back to the Church which still  
that faith doth keep;  
soon may we all one Bread, one Body be,  
through this blest Sacrament of unity.

So, Lord, at length  
when sacraments shall cease,  
may we be one with all thy Church above,  
one with thy saints in one unbroken peace,  
one with thy saints in one  
unbounded love;  
more blessed still, in peace and love to be  
one with the Trinity in Unity.

**For Our Prayers:**

The Bishops are calling on every parish to join them using this prayer at home and at every act of worship for our church, that we grow in trust in God's providence and deepen our own generosity giving of ourselves and of our gifts.

**Loving God,  
you are always with us,  
and give us all we need to be your church  
in Suffolk.**

**Help us, we pray, to give as we have received:  
abundantly, generously, and joyfully,  
that our worship and our service  
may bear witness to your Kingdom of  
unfailing love.**

**In the name of your Son  
who gave himself for us,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Please pray for:**

**Those with chronic or long-term illness:** Eric Dickerson, Rosemary, Jenny, Andrew Barfield, Kathy Steele, Frank D., Andrew, Peggy, Natacha, Christine, Stephen, Samantha, Rex & Jill, Margaret Christian

**Those undergoing treatment or currently ill:** Emily, Gloria Elmer, Helen Harlow, Jean Dominy, Leslie Bloomfield, Katie (cancer), Jim, Alice (Joan's grandson's wife), Vincent Lightbody, Trish, Roger Dickerson, Vicky & Matt, Neil Pratt

**All who are affected by the Coronavirus** in the UK and around the world: *For all who have lost their jobs due to Covid19; all who are despairing. For all who have lost their lives & livelihoods, the injured, the bereaved. For hospital and health care workers*

**For our government & MPs', and local councillors: for honesty in politics, for wisdom and justice for all. For refuges** across the world & diplomates and peace makers, working to end conflicts

**Those who have recently died, and their families mourning their loss:** Rachel Fry, Eric Gilson

*Call this number —> for free.*

It's a lovely way to worship from home!



## Notices:

**Admission of church wardens:** Last Sunday, we admitted Roger Elmer and Stephen Marginsons as church wardens at the end of the service ( it's on the service livestream on facebook). We are very grateful to them for taking on the role. And a huge Thank You to Sylvia Dickerson, and to Russell, for being our church warden for the last two years. They are continuing as assistant church wardens.

**A huge Thank you to Everyone who supported our Gift Appeal:** We have raised an extra **£5725** in October, which will be a huge help given we are losing £13,000 because of COVID. **We are VERY grateful for your generosity.** Please, continue to say the Bishops' prayer on the previous page everyday!

**Christmas cards on sale in the church car park:** Another huge **THANK YOU** in store: Canon Chris raised £287.50 for church funds through the sale of Christmas cards and thanks all who bought cards from him.

**Christmas Mini-Market goes ahead as 'mail order' market—see St Thomas news letter**

**We need: shoeboxes!** Children's Christmas wrapping paper. Volunteers to make the 4-5 crafts to go in the boxes. Christmas cards. To volunteer or find out more, speak to Emma (emma.knight1@hotmail.co.uk; 07900 378930)

**Prayer for the Nation: every day at 6pm –please join in. Leaflet attached. Thank you.**

### **This Week:**

**8th November: Remembrance Day**

**10am: ZOOM Church & Video**—do let us know if you would like to join ZOOM Church on the phone

**6pm—Youth Group online**

**Tuesday 10th November**

**6 pm Meditation Group livestream on Facebook/StThomasPilgrimCommunity**

**Wednesday, 11 November**

**10am Eucharist livestream on**

**Facebook/StThomasIpswich**

**7.00pm Faith Pictures on ZOOM** (contact: Malcolm Gibbs)

**Bible from Scratch:**

**Thursday, 19 Nov, 4pm –on ZOOM**  
Contact Rev Cat for details

**Pray for members of the St Thomas Congregation**  
(each week we will include a dozen names)

*Peggy Blyth, Carol Brown, Lyanne & Aaron Brendt, Keith Brisland & family, June Browes, Mary Bullass, Canon Chris, Phyllis Chevous, Margaret Christian, Simon Clark & Chris, Ian, Helen, Freddie & Frankie Davey, Val Derrett &*



**Birthdays this week:**

Nov: **8th** -Sophie Higgins; **10th** –Pearl Bird, Daniel; **13th** Julie Purnell, **14th** Kate Harvey

### **Contacts:**

Priest in charge: Revd Jutta Brueck m: 07958 360564

Email: jutta.brueck@cofesuffolk.org

*Jutta's days off are: Fridays & Saturdays*

Assistant Curate: Revd Cat Connolly m: 07530 412988

Email: revcatconnolly@gmail.com

*Cat's day off: Mondays*

Lay Evangelist: Malcolm Gibbs m:07906 665530

Director of Music: Simon Clark BA (Hons) FLCM ARCO

m: 07961 859344 Email: sussexsi@aol.com

Church wardens: Roger Elmer m:07810 274586

Stephen Marginson 01473 258791

***If you would like to chat, you could also ring:***

Mary Bullass 625135 Gloria Elmer 745590

Rev Jackie 07962 172639 Revd Pat 464748

### **Church website:**

<http://stthomasipswich.org.uk/>

**Sunday Worship & other Worship resources on the Church Facebook page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/stthomasipswich/>