

News and Prayer Update for 8th November (Remembrance Sunday)

Rostherne with Bollington, St John High Legh and St Paul Over Tabley

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Do You Need to Talk To Someone? Call any of the above, we have other people who are also experienced in listening who are willing to help, so **please do call, we are here for you.** All conversations are in strict confidence.



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SERVICES IN OUR CHURCHES:

Please be aware that no services (with a congregation) are able to be held during the present lockdown.

We will continue to stream a service each Sunday.

Link for this week's Service: <https://youtu.be/b74s0OxD7eU>

HYMN: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of Light
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render, O help us to see:
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

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Confession:

**All: Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be that we may do justly,
love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

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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.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25: 1 – 13

¹ 'Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.

² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.

³ When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them;

⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.

⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept.

⁶ But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him."

⁷ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps.

⁸ The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out."

⁹ 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."

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us."

¹² But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you."

¹³ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

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REFLECTION ON THE READING Revd Philip

If we needed a reminder that we are living in unprecedented times, today should leave us in no doubt. This will be the first time since Remembrance Sunday as distinct from Armistice Day, was first observed in 1945 that there are no services in churches or other places of worship. Commemorations around cenotaphs and other memorials that first began on the 11th November 1919 will also be severely curtailed. Normal life in this country is once again slowing down as the new lockdown takes effect. Such has been the impact of the Covid 19 epidemic on the freedoms that we usually enjoy, freedoms safeguarded by those who gave their lives in two world wars so that we can enjoy them today.

I believe that the nation will come together to remember, on a reduced scale, just as it did for the 75th anniversary of VE Day during the first lockdown. Wreaths will still be laid today, in this online service, locally in our four churches, at the memorial by the Mere crossroads and at the Airborne Forces Memorial in Tatton Park. Next year,

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God willing, we will be able to hold our usual commemorations.

When I was at secondary school the Cold War was at its height. We all lived under the shadow of the bomb with only the guarantee of mutually assured destruction as a deterrent. One of my friends was a member of the Royal Observer Corps. Formed in 1925, during the Second World War its volunteers worked to give our fighter squadrons advanced notice of German air raids. In the 50's and 60's it was deployed to monitor radioactive fallout in the aftermath of a nuclear attack. My friend spent many hours training in an underground bunker in the middle of what by then had become the allotments of a local housing estate. I used to think it was a fun way to spend ones spare time, although having seen pictures of the inside of such bunkers I now know it was claustrophobic and, with a chemical toilet, not exactly salubrious. What it would have been like for those inside if an actual nuclear strike had taken place does not bear thinking about. The motto of the Royal Observer Corps was, 'Forewarned is Forearmed', and the cap badge has an image of an Elizabethan soldier holding a flaming torch in one hand and shading his eyes with the other as he peers into the distance. Perhaps looking for the arrival of the Spanish Armada. It is a reminder that over the centuries this island has always had people, whether volunteers or conscripts, ready to defend it against enemies. In our service today we remember them with gratitude, particularly those who made the supreme sacrifice in two world wars and subsequent conflicts and whose names are inscribed on memorials such as those in our United Benefice which were shown at the beginning of this service. We also remember the millions of civilians who died in this and other countries because of two world wars, as well as those who were injured physically and mentally.

In our Gospel reading, Jesus told a parable about ten bridesmaids who were looking forward to meeting the bridegroom and going into his home to join the wedding celebrations. However, only five of them were prepared with extra lamp oil in case the bridegroom was delayed. Although they were not 'Forewarned' that he might be late, they were, 'Forearmed' for that eventuality. It was they who Jesus describes as wise, and when the bridegroom arrived, they were the ones who went in with him to the wedding banquet. Those who were not there when the bridegroom arrived, turning up later when they had purchased fresh supplies of oil, were shut out. Jesus told this parable to remind his hearers that one day in the future he will return, although 'we neither know the day or the hour'. So we are 'Forewarned', and in our liturgies made aware, as a minimum on a weekly basis, of the need to be 'Forearmed', prepared to welcome him when he returns whenever that may be. Woe betide us if our lamps have run dry.

The Royal Observer Corps was stood down in 1995, the government considering that it was no longer necessary following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Many of its bunkers, including the one my friend spent so many hours in, were decommissioned and destroyed. By a strange quirk of fate, those that survive can now fetch a lot of money on the open market. Some have been restored as museums. The need for vigilance, however, has not gone away. Terrorism is an ever present threat, the Covid-19 pandemic requires every person in this country to co-operate to reduce the risk to the most vulnerable in our society and ensure that the NHS has capacity to treat those who need it. Once again our armed forces have been mobilised to play a vital part in our defence, overseeing the creation of the

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Nightingale Hospitals, manning testing stations and standing ready to ensure that, in the event of a worst case scenario, our infrastructure operates smoothly. They accept the risks that this involves as they always have, although the enemy this time is invisible to the naked eye.

Despite all the distractions of the unprecedented times in which we live, it is still important to pause on this most poignant of days. We remember and give thanks to almighty God for those who paid the ultimate price. We owe a debt of gratitude to our servicemen and women, past and present.

Act of Remembrance

Hymn: **Make Me A Channel of Your Peace**

(Words and Music Sebastian Temple;
Tune: St Francis; arr. Betty Pulkinham)

Make me a channel of Your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring Your love;
where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord;
and where there's doubt, true faith in You.

*Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of Your peace.
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek....

Make me a channel of Your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all men that we receive;
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

The Apostles' Creed

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

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**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Intercessions:

Response: May God give peace

All: God give peace

HYMN: Lord, For The Years (Timothy Dudley-Smith)

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
Urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
Sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
Speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
Teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

Lord, for our land in this our generation,
Spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
For young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, of our world where men disown and doubt you,
Loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
Hungry and helpless, lost indeed without you;
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord, of ourselves, in living power remake us
Self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
Past put behind us, for the future take us;
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

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THE NATIONAL ANTHEM:

God save our gracious Queen,
long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen!
Send her victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us;
God save the Queen.

Thy choicest gifts in store
on her be pleased to pour,
long may she reign;
May she defend our laws,
and ever give us cause
to sing with heart and voice,
God save the Queen.

PRAYER in the coming week. A Month of Prayer

The Bishop of Chester has joined the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and other senior church leaders in inviting Christians across the nation to participate in the month of prayer as the second lockdown in England comes into force.

Throughout the month, Christians will be encouraged to pray daily for a specific area of national concern, wherever they are, culminating into **a collective moment of prayer at 6pm each evening**, with cathedrals and churches across the country invited to ring a bell at this time.

Christians will be encouraged to follow a simple seven-day prayer cycle, praying for a specific area each day including the NHS and frontline workers, the bereaved, and those struggling with physical and mental ill-health, and for children and young people.

Prayers and other resources will be shared on social media with the hashtag #PrayerForTheNation.

Bishop Mark says: "Prayer is both a duty and a joy. I love that insight. What greater privilege could we have than to bring the world before Christ and seek his blessing? And what higher responsibility do we have than to pray for our neighbours, communities, and nation.

"The thing about prayer is that you don't have to be good at it, fired up for it, or go on about it... you just have to give it a go and God does the rest. Prayer makes a massive difference, and it is our privileged calling. Join me in #PrayerForTheNation this month if you can."

We have included the prayers for each day this week below along with the special prayer for the week:

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Sunday – Family, Friends and Loved Ones

We lift to God those we hold in our hearts - praying for their health, their well-being and their sense of hope.

We pray that even when loved ones cannot physically be together they would not feel apart.

We pray for God's help in our communicating, our connecting and our caring.

Monday - Schools and Colleges, Children and Young People

We pray for those involved in the shaping of young lives.

We give God thanks for the sacrifice and commitment of teachers and all those involved in serving children and young people in education.

We pray that all may be nurtured and cared for and that every needful resource would be made available – that all lives can flourish even in these difficult times and that no-one would be overlooked.

Tuesday - Elderly, Isolated and Vulnerable

We echo God's commitment to those most at risk of this virus by praying today for those who are particularly vulnerable and isolated: praying for their deliverance, protection and comfort. We hold before God those who care for them – that they would be strengthened and encouraged in this work.

Wednesday - Businesses, The Workplace and Economic Wellbeing

In this time of great challenge, we pray for the economic wellbeing of the country.

We remember before God those who face great uncertainty in their work.

We lift before God those who have lost their jobs and face an uncertain and difficult future. We pray for a renewed commitment to our common life together.

Thursday - The NHS and Other Keyworkers

Our God is the great healer – and the agent used more than any other is the NHS.

Today we voice our gratitude for those who serve this country in the National Health Service and pray for that God would prosper the work of their hands – that they would all be encouraged in their continued work of sacrifice and care amongst us.

Friday - National and Local Government

We pray for those who are in positions of authority with responsibility for decision making at national and local level at this difficult time. We ask that God would give great wisdom, deep commitment to all and right judgment.

Saturday -

All Who Are Grieving and all Suffering with Physical or Mental Ill-Health

'Lord the one you love is ill....' John 11 v 3.

We bring to God all those who suffer in body, mind, spirit or with grief. We ask that in God's great loving kindness they might know God's sustaining presence amidst their pain.

We pray for those who are stretched beyond their own capacity to cope and remain hopeful – that in the roar of these waterfalls God would bring a sense of coherence, comfort and strength.

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Prayer for the Week

Loving God, at this time of crisis when so many are suffering, we pray for our nation and our world.

Give our leaders wisdom, our Health Service strength, our people hope.

Lead us through these parched and difficult days to the fresh springs of joy and comfort that we find in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Family Prayer

Loving God, you know us and all that we are facing.

We thank you that we can come to you as we are - with all our fears and concerns, our difficulties and challenges.

Please draw close to each of us and those we remember before you now.

Bring to us your peace and comfort.

And fill us with your Spirit that we may be bearers of your grace and hope to others.

As a country protect us, encourage us and keep us, in the name of your Son Jesus, we pray. Amen.

NOTICES

❖ **Remembrance Sunday Services – 8th November:**
These cannot go ahead in the usual way this year.



The online service is a Remembrance Sunday Service
(See link at top of page 2)

Wreaths will be laid in each of the four Churches.

❖ **Coffee and Chat Wednesday 11th November** -Please wait until **11.02** to join today
We are having a Zoom Coffee and Chat meeting every Wednesday morning from 11.00 am to 12.00 noon. Just click on the link below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83275839861?pwd=NIpjampXNXVpT1REaGIUS0NobWRxdz09>

If you need the meeting ID and Password for this meeting please contact Patricia.

Email: pmrobinson51@gmail.com or Tel: 01565 830 595

❖ **Christingle Services in the United Benefice:**



These are planned for the following dates:
Sunday 13 December at St Mary Rostherne
Sunday 20 December at St John High Legh
Sunday 24 January at St Paul Over Tabley.

Details of Christingle Service on 13 December 2020 at St Mary Rostherne:

Because of the present lockdown we have changed the date for this service, but you need to reserve your place(s).

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The last date for reservations for this service is Wednesday 9 December.

However, we advise booking as soon as possible as places will be limited because of the "Covid-safe" measures in place.

Contact: Rev'd Patricia: 01565 830 595; 07854 418 488; pmrobinson51@gmail.com

An online Christingle Service will be available (date to be confirmed) to members in all our churches and we will supply the service sheets, and can supply the kit(s) you need to make up your own Christingles for this if you would like them.

Please book as soon as possible as we will need to distribute collecting candles/envelopes as well as the Christingle kits for those joining the online service. Please let Revd Patricia know if you would like to join this service.

❖ **Join the Prayer Chain:**

Our Reader, Chris Stanisstreet has organised a **Prayer Chain** which is done by email and telephone. The idea behind this, is that when a specific prayer request is made, it is passed on by group e-mail to the people on the list who then pray for the particular situation.

If you would like to receive prayer requests or would like to make a prayer request, please let Chris Stanisstreet know:

Tel: 01925 755559; Mob 07918 981 723; stanbess2003@yahoo.co.uk

❖ **Offering and Fund Raising – Please continue to give if you can**

The best and safest way to give is by monthly Standing Order or direct payment into the bank account and to do this please contact the Treasurer of the Church you attend for the account details. You may also send a cheque – please contact the relevant Treasurer.

St Mary's Treasurer: Mr Christopher Tetlow Tel: 0161 928 2137

St John's Treasurer: Nick Whimpany Tel: 07905 741969

Holy Trinity Treasurer: Mrs Hilary Girardier: Tel: 01925 754 717

St Paul's Treasurer: Judy Hancock Tel: 01565 733246

If your income has been adversely affected by the current situation, please do not worry about giving to the Church just now.

❖ **Homemade Jams For Sale:**

There are various Jams and Marmalade available at prices between £2.00 / £3.00 per jar depending on size, either from St Mary's or by telephoning the Vicarage- we will deliver them to you.

St Paul's are offering: Strawberry, Gooseberry, Damson or Strawberry, Greengage and Gooseberry jams.

St Mary's are offering: Strawberry, Rhubarb & Ginger, Rhubarb Jelly, Redcurrant Jelly, Marmalade and Yellow Raspberry.

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❖ Morning and Night Prayer

If anyone does not yet have access to the "Worship at Home" booklet containing the Order of Service for Morning Prayer or Night Prayer, please contact the Vicarage, as there are large print copies and ordinary size ones that can be posted out or versions that can be e-mailed.

Bible Readings and Psalms for the Coming Week from the Lectionary.

Here are some suggestions for more Psalms and Bible readings to use with Morning and Night Prayer:

Readings for Morning Prayer: These readings usually follow on from each other so you get a bit more of the story each day (except on special Saints Days).

Monday 9th Nov – Psalm 20; Daniel 4: 19 -end; Revelation Chapter 5
Tuesday 10th Nov – Psalm 21; Daniel 5: 1 – 12; Revelation Chapter 6
Wed 11th Nov – Psalm 23; Daniel 5: 13 – end; Revelation 7:1-4,9- end
Thursday 12th Nov – Psalm 26; Daniel Chapter 6; Revelation Chapter 8
Friday 13th Nov – Psalm 32; Daniel 7: 1 – 14; Revelation 9: 1 - 12
Saturday 14th Nov – Psalm 33; Daniel 7: 15 – end; Revelation 9: 13 - end

Readings for Night Prayer (From All Saints Day to 27th November)

Short Bible Reading:

The one who endures to the end will be saved. And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations.

Matthew 24: 13, 14a.

You may also like to continue using the readings in the Worship at Home Booklet.

Psalms:

Sunday: Psalm 104: 1, 21-33; 134

Monday: Psalm 4

Tuesday: Psalm 143

Wednesday: Psalm 31: 1-5 [19-end]

Thursday: Psalm 16

Friday: Psalm 139: 1-18

Saturday: Psalm 91 (this is the one in the Worship at Home Booklet)

Collect:

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
brings us to the dwelling which your Son is preparing for all who love you;
give us the will each day to live in life eternal;
let our citizenship be in heaven with the blessed,
with the whole company of the redeemed
and with countless angels,
praising, worshipping and adoring your Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ,
who sits upon the throne for ever and ever.

Blessing:

May the light of Christ, the King of all,

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shine ever brighter in our hearts,
that with all the saints in light
we may shine forth as lights in the world.