

Facebook Posts – November 2021

1st November



2nd November – Deacon Jen Woodfin

Let me paint you picture. It is a cold frosty Autumn morning, standing on heathland with the bracken a beautiful russet brown, the sky a deep blue that you only get at this time of year, and, in the distance, someone riding a white horse across the horizon. For me this is a picture in my mind that I hold dear. I was with my mother in Sussex many years ago and we both commented that this was a scene to remember. It was a special moment to share with my Mum.

On Sunday, at Watton, we had a memorial service where people came to remember their loved ones. As I read out the names there was a deep sense of holding these names in a sacred space both in the church and in that moment of time. Then people came up to light candles and as each one was added so the special memories were added together in an act of thanksgiving and prayer. It felt both intimate and at the same time a privilege to be sharing together.

What are your special memories? On this All Souls' Day my prayer for everyone is that we hold onto special memories that we shared with loved ones. That we give thanks for those memories and we give thanks for all the special people in our lives.



5th November

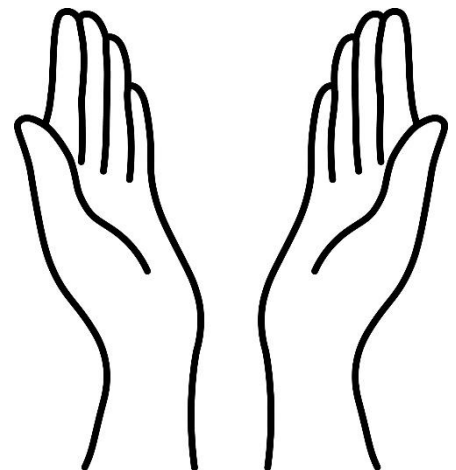


8th November



9th November – Rev Jacqui Horton

Seventeen people from our Circuit prayed on zoom yesterday morning about the Climate Crisis. That is more than we usually get for morning prayers but, still, it left me thinking: do our prayers make any difference? That reminded me of the question that often comes up around changing our lifestyles: do small changes from individuals make any difference? I can think of at least 3 answers about making a difference: 1. if everybody does something, that would add up to something huge 2. trying to live as God wants us to is a must for the Christian regardless of the difference we think it might make 3. we have no idea of the impact that our actions might have. The extremely poor widow in Mark's Gospel that put 2 small coins into the Temple collection might not have thought her gift would make any difference but we are still talking about it 2,000 years later! So, let us continue to take action in our own lifestyles and let us continue to pray - for the planet, for justice, and for peace.



11th November – Prayer for Remembrance Day, Rev Cliff Shanganya

Lest We Forget

Today is Remembrance Day

To remember with thanks

those who have given their lives in service of others.

To remember with sadness

the suffering, destruction

and pain caused by human conflict.

We come also to commit ourselves

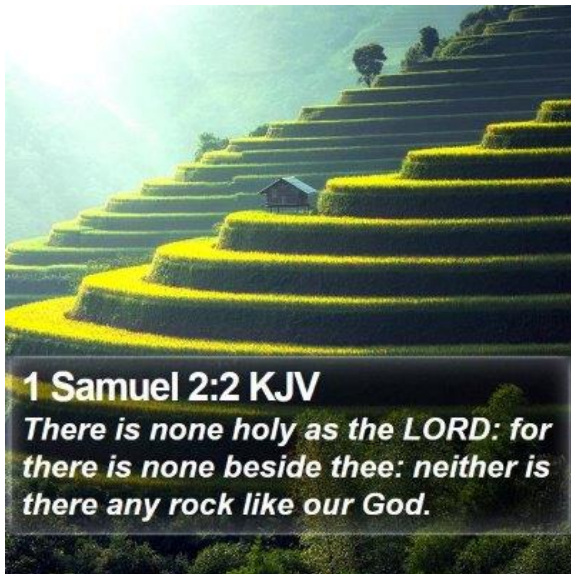
to be peacemakers

and peacekeepers wherever we can.

In Jesus' name. Amen.



12th November



1 Samuel 2:2 KJV

There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.

15th November



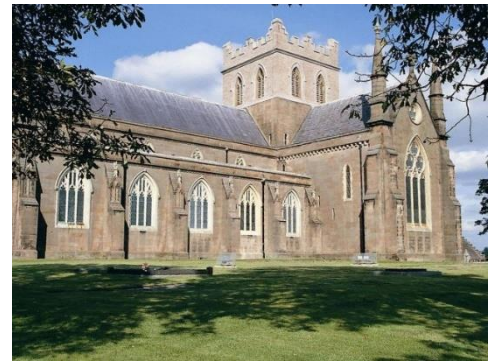
Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

ROMANS 12:12



16th November – Deacon Jen Woodfin

On the 21st October there was service of 'Reflection and Hope' at St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh. It was a Service of Reflection and Hope to mark the centenaries of the partition of Ireland. It was very moving to watch and listen to and some particular phrases have stayed with me since then. It was an ecumenical service with all the clergy sharing personal stories of how the partition affected their families. The sermon was given by the President of the Methodist Church of Ireland, Rev. Dr Sahr Yambasu. Towards the end of the sermon, he said that for true Peace to be sustained we need to prioritise relationships over the need to be right.



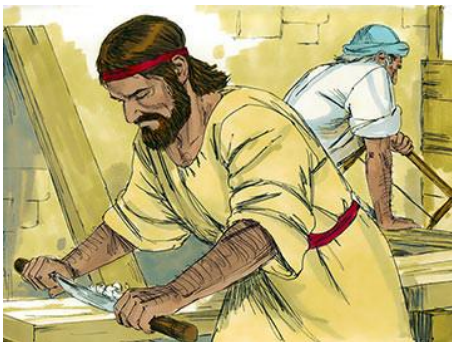
Whether on a large scale, between countries, or on an individual scale, how true that is. It is so easy to think we need to show we are right rather than thinking-how is this going to affect our relationship and what is more important? This thought has certainly challenged me and it is one I have tried, and will continue to try, to hold in the forefront of my mind.

17th November – Rev Rosemary Wakelin

Christ the King!

There are many hymns where we sing of Christ as King and lots of royal references in the Old Testament - but does Jesus go along with this?

We have a monarchy, it used to be about Power and Control, but now is more about service and maybe influence, but it is still about wealth, privilege and separation. The Gospels are quite clear, Jesus was born into a working family, Joseph and Sons, Carpenters and Builders, who would have worked hard and doubtless made a reasonable living. There is no evidence that Jesus was brought up in poverty. However, once his ministry began he quite definitely concentrated on the sick, the outcast, the unacceptable, the lonely, children etc and had his worst criticism for the people who thought they were superior - the wealthy, the self righteous etc. When he spelt out to his disciples that his 3 year ministry was going to have a violent end, James and John, who obviously hadn't taken it in, asked for top positions when he is King, and Jesus spells it out that in his Kingdom position is about service. When the Freedom fighters try to make him their King (after he had fed them) he rejects them, and when he enters the Capital it's on a donkey, even the



Romans weren't alarmed. He reassures Pilate that his Kingdom is "not of this world" and when he is crowned it is with thorns and criminals on his right and left. And yet he is our King - he re-defined Kingship, so we need to remember that when we sing to the King of glory. Maybe Studdert Kennedy got it right when he wrote about the Second Coming:

"Then will he come with meekness for his glory, God in a workman's jacket as before, Living again the eternal Gospel story, sweeping the shavings from the workshop floor."

18th November – Rev Anne Richardson

Some days, my mind is so fully occupied with the tasks at hand, that I struggle to remember what happened a few days ago. Are you ever like that?

Most of us are usually better at remembering the significant events in our own or our families lives than remembering national or world events. Occasionally I look on websites that give you an historical snapshot, to see all the events of national or sporting significance that happened on a particular day. For example, today in 1964, J. Edgar Hoover, the first director of the FBI, described Martin Luther King as "most notorious liar". Wow!

How does history remember these two men?



Of course, every remembrance is tinged with bias from our own beliefs, upbringing and culture and if we are wise, we will try to look back honestly and fairly, seeing the whole picture. Times of reflection are important. Time to step outside the everyday – just for a few moments – can give us an enlightened perspective on the present. Winston Churchill wrote that those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

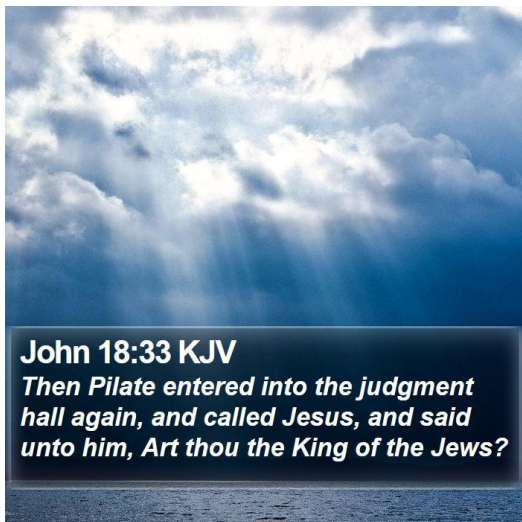
Let's also remember: [Romans 15:4](#)

“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.”

19th November



22nd November



23rd November – Sam Parfitt

If you've seen me out and about lately I'll probably have been walking with my rollator (or bag on wheels as we call it in the Parfitt house!!) It is an enabling bit of equipment and helps me work towards living life well with pain. It has also opened my eyes to experiencing church from a different perspective. I recently went to a church to see an exhibition to find the entrance was two sets of steps which I couldn't get down with my rollator. There were four stewards by the door but, try as I might, I couldn't attract their attention. So, I ended up trying to peer down the stairs, through the open door. A lady who was coming out happened to ask if I would like to go in and explained that there was an accessible entrance round the back (which wasn't signposted) So, I got in !! But the experience got me thinking about people who are waiting outside our churches (physically and spiritually), how are we inviting them into our community, and are we attentive to the things that are holding them back? Not solely folk who are disabled, but the unchurched, the church damaged, folk who are curious but weary?

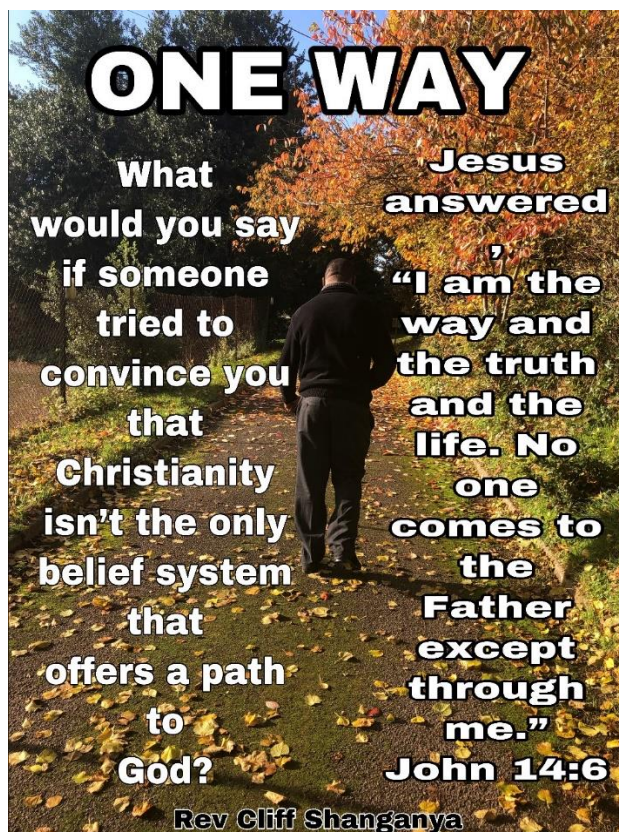
24th November – Rev Jacqui Horton

I just caught the end of the Mary Poppins film which was shown on TV on Sunday afternoon. I was just in time to hear Mary P say to the bird on the end of her umbrella “What would happen if I loved all of the children I said goodbye to?” This was strange because I had only just been thinking about the eight children with whom I currently have a special relationship and whether it was possible to love that number of children equally. I have four grandchildren, another on the way (due Christmas Eve), and three children that I sponsor through the organisation Compassion. The Compassion children are the same ages as my eldest three grandchildren (deliberately). I thought to myself – before hearing Mary

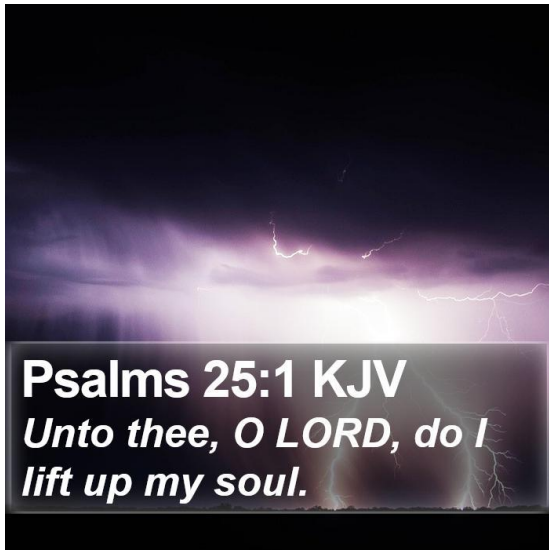
Poppins – that I love each of these children but that my relationship with each is different, even the ones that I have never met (although I receive letters and have seen photos). If you had told me 10 years ago that I would be able to hold eight children in my heart all at once, I would have found that very strange! But, I guess that gives me a very small insight into how God holds seven billion people in his heart at any one time... if you have time, and are so minded, today – please join me in saying a prayer for Henry and Teketel, for James and Cristelle, for Jessie and Isaac, for Miriam and for the unborn baby. I bet Mary Poppins did love all the children she said goodbye to!



25th November – Rev Cliff Shanganya



26th November



29th November



30th November – Deacon Jen Woodfin

On Saturday Jacqui and I went for a walk from home. We went quite early as the weather forecast was not good for later in the day. As we turned round a corner of a field, we could see a partial rainbow ahead of us. There was a lady walking towards us with her back to the rainbow and I realised she couldn't see the rainbow. So, as she got near us, I told her about it and she looked to admire the beauty. By then the rainbow had become complete which lifted our spirits. After she had passed, I reflected that we often miss seeing God by not facing the right way, by not looking towards the face of God.

It brought to my mind this passage from 1 Chronicles.

Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.

9 Sing to him, sing praise to him;
tell of all his wonderful acts.

10 Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

11 Look to the LORD and his strength;
seek his face always.

What would this mean to you if we lived by this all the time?

