

**All Saints Church, Kempston
St James's Church, Biddenham**

Virtual Church News

14 November 2021

2nd Sunday before Advent

2nd Sunday

Remembrance Sunday

Welcome to Virtual Church News. Hard copies will be circulated to those without access to email/social media. If you know of anyone without email who you think would benefit from a hard copy, please call Jacqui on 0778 6886 710 or email her at stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com

Our Sunday Services

1st Sunday of the month

- 8.00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at All Saints
9.30am All Age Service (followed by said Holy Communion) at St James's

2nd Sunday of the month

- 9.30am **Morning Worship at St James's**
10.00am **Holy Communion Service at All Saints**
6.00pm **Service of Evening Prayer at St James's**

3rd Sunday of the month

- 8.00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at All Saints
9.30am Holy Communion Service at St James's
7.00pm Revive: Coffee/Bible/Fellowship

4th Sunday of the month

- 9.30am Morning Worship at St James's
10.00am Holy Communion Service at All Saints

5th Sunday of the month (when there is one)

- 9.30am Service at St James's
6.30pm Sung Evensong at St James's

We also hold online services during the week via Zoom at 9.00am on Monday and 6.00pm on Wednesday. To join these Zoom services, simply go to Zoom and enter meeting ID 998 074 6039.

We hope you will join us at our services as we explore a mixture of both traditional and new ways of worship.

Revive - 3rd Sundays

A short act of worship over a coffee, then unfolding the scriptures together. 7.00pm in St James's Church Barn. Everyone invited.



Services for Remembrance Sunday

At St James's the 9.30am lay led service will be slightly shorter than usual in order to allow people to go to the Biddenham War Memorial for an Act of Remembrance at 10.50am. There will be no coffee in the Barn after the service.

At All Saints, the 10.00am service will end with a short Act of Remembrance.

Don't forget to come and see the poppies, which have been knitted and crocheted by the community, in the Biddenham Churchyard.

A Reading for the Week

Isaiah 2:3-4

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths."

The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many peoples.

They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.

Calling all children!

Our joint nativity for both All Saints and St James's will be during the 9.30am service on 5 December at St James's.

As usual, it will be a very relaxed and stress free nativity based on the children who want to take part and what costumes etc people already have. There will be just one rehearsal on Saturday 4 December at 11am in church.

If your child(ren) would like to take part, please do let us know before 28 November by emailing stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com.

Please include in your email your child(ren)'s name(s) and age(s) and any costumes they already have.

Message from Rev Eric Lomax

In our house we have a ceramic poppy that was placed alongside 888,245 more that were used in Paul Cummins and Tom Piper's installation "Blood swept lands and Seas of Red" at the Tower of London in 2014, on the 100th anniversary of the start of the Great War (1914-18). Liz was able to buy this poppy because her grandfather, Thomas Joseph Harrison was a casualty of the Great War. He was a member of the Army Veterinary Corp. Her Great Uncle was killed in Mesopotamia, and her dad's cousin trained in Grantham and died fighting for the Australian Army.

The first world war took the lives of 8 million combatants and 13 million civilians and was known as the war that ends all wars. Liz would have loved that to have been the case, but unfortunately, we know that twenty-one years later there was another 'war to end all wars.'

The Second World War produced upwards of 50,000,000 casualties, but there are no precise figures because there are no reliable ways of calculating the precise figures. One of the reasons for the lack of precision is because of people like her dad.

Liz's father, Major John Harrison went to Sandhurst at the outbreak of the second world war, and then spent some time in Northern Ireland, shot at for the first time by members of the Irish Republican Army. He then experienced, first hand, the conflict against the Germans in North Africa, as part of Sir Kenneth Anderson's First Army. John was then transported to Sicily, and then onto Italy, where he took part in the extended battle of Monte Cassino, in which the combined German and Allied casualties amounted to approximately 75,000 young men whose very last experience of this world was the consequence of human hatred and fear.

Although John was demobbed after the end of WW2 (January 1946), he re-joined the army in 1952, and retained his rank as Major. Liz, my wife, was therefore born in 1957 in Dusseldorf in Germany, to spend the first nine months of her life on a British Army Base (BAR). John never recovered from the war and suffered the consequences of the frequent bouts of malaria he suffered from during his time in North Africa. He died when Liz was 25, though it was recognised that his constant illness and ultimate death was as a direct consequence of his experience as a combatant and a botched up operation by military surgeons. 37 years after the end of the second world war, Major John Harrison, the father-in-law I never met became a casualty of the second world war.

Thankyou!

A big thank you to all those who made poppies and an even bigger thank you to Val, Jan and Pauline who helped put together the display.



There has been no war in human history that has literally been the war to end all wars. Wars continue; Bosnia, Rwanda, The Falklands, Iraq 1 and Iraq 2, Afghanistan and the Syrian civil war, are just a few of the wars that have taken place in my lifetime. Just a few weeks ago we watched on our TV screens as the Taliban reclaimed the cities of Afghanistan, and as I write this, a new refugee crisis unfolds on the borders of Belarus and Poland.

Three years ago, on a conference on digitalisation in Berlin, I was horrified to see a Jewish café guarded by armed police. Long after the genocide of Nazism, the old prejudices in Europe rear their heads. Not only this but the resurgence of nationalism in England, should remind us that peace is a rare and fragile commodity, one that is so easily lost if we do not tread carefully.

I am grateful that the churches are typically involved in our national acts of remembrance. As much as we are responsible for calling to mind the names of those who have given their lives for the cause of justice and freedom, we are also here to speak of the future that God intends for his people.

His plan is not for glory and conflict, but rather for peace and reconciliation. His plan is not for building walls and divisions, but rather the construction of bridges that reconcile those tormented by a lack of forgiveness. It is time that we stood against the falsehood that nationalism is somehow the solution to the human condition. The answer lies in reaching out to and working with our neighbours. That is always a sign of God's Kingdom.

God Bless
Eric

Let us pray...

O Almighty God,
the Father of all humanity,
turn, we pray, the hearts of all peoples
and their rulers,
that by the power of your Holy Spirit
peace may be established among the nations
on the foundation of justice,
righteousness and truth;
through him who was lifted up on the cross
to draw all people to himself,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen



The All Age Bit

This week we commemorate Remembrance Day. Remembrance Day is always the 11th day of the 11th month (November) as that is the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice which was an agreement to end the fighting of the First World War. We also have acts of remembrance on the Sunday nearest that day and this is known as Remembrance Sunday.

The poppy flower is the symbol of Remembrance because wild poppies grew on the battlefields of Belgium and Northern France after the fierce fighting in World War One (from 1914 to 1918). We wear a poppy to remember those who have died as a result of war, and also to raise money for injured service men and women.

Despite people giving so much in both world wars, we still have war today. This isn't what God wants for the world. God's vision is for peace. When a poppy finishes flowering it produces lots of little black seeds that, just like Jesus, bring hope and the promise of new life.

Activity

Can you make a poppy? You can draw one, print a template from the internet and colour it in, make one from tissue paper (petals) and a pipe cleaner (stalk). You could make biscuits or cup cakes and decorate them as poppies. Alternatively, why not go to St James's Church and see the poppies that have been knitted and crocheted by people in our community.

Song

May the peace of God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQIFHIRFGGU>

Prayer

God of all times, thank you for all those people who have given so much for us. Thank you for all those people who have been hurt to keep us safe. Thank you for those who have died to make life better for us. Thank you for those who go on loving, giving and caring for us. Amen.

Volunteers Needed!

St James's are in need of additional volunteers to help out with the sound system during the Sunday services. If you can help (training will be given), please let us know!

Prayer/Bible Study Groups

Join our prayer group at 8pm on the 1st/3rd Thursdays of the month via Zoom. Everyone welcome. We also have Bible study groups which are open to everyone.

Contact John Lambert for further details, or with any prayer requests. john.c.lambert@gmail.com



Christmas

with **St James** and **All Saints** Churches

Sunday 5 December

9.30am Joint All Age Service with Nativity (St James)

Sunday 12 December

4.00pm Christingle Service (Church of the Transfiguration, Kempston – Joint with All Saints)

Saturday 18 December

9.00am Breakfast and Play Christingle (All Saints Hall)

Sunday 19 December

9.30am Christingle Service (St James)

4.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols (All Saints)

6.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols (St James)

Christmas Eve

4.00pm Carols in the Churchyard (St James)

11.30pm Midnight Communion (both churches)

Christmas Day

10.00am Joint All Age Service followed by Communion (St James)

St James's Church Christmas Sale

St James's Church Barn
Church End, Biddenham

5 December

10.30am – 12.00pm

Free entry



Christmas Cards

Biddenham Village Gifts

Cakes & Produce

Decorations & Bulbs

Coffee & Mince Pies

Raffle

Scenes of Biddenham Christmas Cards



Raising funds for St James's Church
Mixed packs of 5 cards,
£3 per pack or £5 for two packs

Call Sue (342373) or Jacqui (356993)
for further details

Limited stock so buy early!



St Paul's Church, Bedford MK40 1SQ

**Wednesday 1st to
Saturday 4th December**

10.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday 5th December

12noon - 4.00pm



Admission: £3
Children under 16 free entry

**Daily Concerts by
Community Groups**

Sponsored by



More information ... **01234 340163**

Tag us on ... Bedford Christmas Tree Festival

Bedford Foodbank

Please continue to support this valuable charity and help them prevent hunger in our community.

The Foodbank is once again asking people to consider doing a Reverse Advent Calendar this Christmas. Contribute something each day of December and deliver your contributions from 4 January in order to replenish the Foodbank's stocks following Christmas.

For details of current requirements and the Reverse Advent Calendar go to www.bedford.foodbank.org.uk

Suggested Music for this week

They shall not grow old
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UILxSDsU_wM

In Flanders Fields
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6BIOkpdkg8>

Peace, perfect peace
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8Kqw0eVlCE>

Be still my soul
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mq59iE3MhXM>

The Armed Man, a mass for peace
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ezFNllyGT2o>

Christmas Gifts

In addition to the Scenes of Biddenham Christmas cards (see below), we also have various Biddenham Village gifts which would make great Christmas presents. Call Jane George on 359014 for more details.

Help Required for Christmas Sale

St James's Church Christmas Sale is on 5 December in the Church Barn (see left).

Would you be able to help on the day? Can you bake some cakes or make some jam/chutney etc. for the produce stall?

Please contact Sue Squire on 342373 if you are able to help in any way! Thankyou.

All Saints' Table Top Sale

The next Missions Table Top Sale will be on Sunday 21 November. All donations of home grown and home made produce would be welcome.

The cash proceeds from the sale of the produce will go to the PCC's chosen Charities.



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