



Newsletter

1 and 8 November 2026



All Saints Day 1 November

Remembrance Sunday 8 November

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Services for Sunday 1 November 2026 All Saints

St Paul's 10am **Holy Communion** preside and preach Rt Rev Matthew Porter, Bishop of Bolton

St Andrew's 11am **Holy Communion** preside and preach Rev Mike Dyson

Service for Wednesday 4 November Holy Communion for All Souls

preside and preach Rev Steve Williams

Service for Sunday 8 November 2026 Remembrance Sunday

St Paul's 10am **Joint Service of Remembrance and Parade** lead and preach Rev Mike Dyson

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Readings for Sun 1 November

Revelation 7: 9-end

(1) *The multitude from every nation*

Matthew 5: 1-12

(2) *The Beatitudes*

Readings for Sun 8 November

1 Thess 4: 13-end

(3) *The coming of the Lord*

Matt 25: 1-13

(4) *Parable of the bridesmaids*

Wed 4 November: Isaiah 43: 1-3a; Rev 21: 1-6a Wed 28 Oct: Ps 119: 89-96; John 15: 17-end

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The origin of **All Saints' Day** can be traced back to the early Christian Church when it was established as a day to remember and celebrate the martyrs and other saints who had died for their faith.



In the early days there was a strong emphasis on the veneration of martyrs who had suffered and died for their faith. The anniversary of a martyr's death often became a day for commemorating their lives and the sacrifices they had made. Over time, the feast day's focus expanded beyond just martyrs to include all Christian saints—those who were recognized for their exceptional holiness and devotion to God. Pope Gregory III (731-741) is often credited with establishing 1 November as the

date for All Saints' Day. This date was chosen to coincide with the dedication of a chapel in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome to "All the Saints." It was an attempt to unify the various local celebrations of saints' feast days and set a universal date for honouring all the saints. By the year 800 it had spread from the Celtic church in Ireland and was being celebrated by the Anglo-Saxon church in Northumbria. Sainthood isn't limited to those with 'St' in front of their names. Over time, it expanded to include all faithful Christians who had lived pious and virtuous lives. It is a day to acknowledge the witness of those faithful Christians who have gone before us and give thanks for their example to us. St Paul reminds us that sainthood is granted by God Himself to any ordinary person who simply trusts Christ (1 Corinthians 1:2).

All Souls Day, for which we are having a service on Wednesday 4 November, is a day of prayer established by Odilo, abbot of Cluny, in the 11th century to remember all Christians who had died. It is known as the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed. He set aside the day after All Saints as an additional feast day to remember and pray for those souls who have died and



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Dec: stalls, tombola and raffle at our **Christmas services**- Family carols with the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows (St A) 15 December, Lessons and Carols (St P) 16 December, Christingle (St P) 24 December, plus **Christmas Afternoon tea** 20 Dec 3pm St P Social Area
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Wed 11 Nov: St P 10am **Holy Communion** with Rev Christine Hardy with Act of Remembrance

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