

March Team St John, St Mary, St Peter, St Wendreda

12th Sunday after Trinity 7th September

Regular Church Services

St Peter's Sundays 8am & 11am; Wednesdays 10am

St Mary's Sundays 9.15am; St Wendreda's Sundays 11am

St John's Sundays 9.30am; Tuesdays 10am

Meditation

Last weekend there was the very impressive Armed Forces Fair in the Park. There seemed to be not only more people (approx 20,000) and stalls than at the previous years events, but rather more big pieces of equipment. As I walked to the park there was a Russian-made Tank near the skatepark, reminding me of the scenes of tanks entering Prague in '68 and Budapest in '56 and other cold war landmarks. Fortunately, this tank had not come to invade or impose on us here in March! Right at the other end of the field there was a spitfire, which made me wonder how they had managed to land it, until I discovered it was a replica. There was an American fighter plane which from an incomplete tail plane also looked as though it must have had a rough landing! As well as all of this we ended with an Act of Remembrance which, as well as Cadets and Legion personnel, included a bagpipe band. Mindful that we are only a week or so after many gathered for the VJ 80th remembrance, I hoped to find a slightly different emphasis. At our annual Remembrance Sunday service, as at the VE and VJ events this year, we do give pride of place to remember those whose lives were taken in War, belonging to all belligerent nations. Last Sunday we also remembered those who are serving in the Crown forces now and those who have returned to civilian life, perhaps especially those whose lives have left them scarred mentally or physically. For several years now we no longer have people who have first hand experience of combat in the Great War, whose Armistice of 1918 gives November 11th its purpose. The years after forced us to adapt to the missing and maimed service personnel that changed wider life. And there was often a conspiracy of silence for those who had experienced the horrors of war. Perhaps fuelled by the failure of the Peace Treaties after the Great War and the rise of nationalism, fascism and racism, the World War broke out in 1939. We still have people with us who served in the armed forces in this War, but they are now in their 90's and 100's, but soon we will have to rely on recordings and accounts as memory becomes history. Many more

civilians had direct experience of the violence of war, as well as the extensive and long-lasting rationing. We do perhaps have another 15-20 years when people who were children during the war can still share their direct experience. Our collective memory of the World War is not so much met with the conspiracy of silence that followed the Great War, but perhaps by a dominant narrative of how we all pulled together in these times of calamity and austerity.

I hope that our Remembrance never loses its anchor and origin in the tragedy of the Great War, but that it will also move forward in its meanings. (Equally I hope that Holocaust Memorial Day never loses its roots in priority on the Shoah of Jewish People, but also continues to move to include other genocides, even including those that are happening now.) There of course have been many Wars since 1945, but on the whole they have a lower profile at these Remembrance events, perhaps they will now become more prominent. It does seem to be true that as well as scale there are some significant differences between our understanding of the post 1945 conflicts and the two World Wars. Both World Wars appeared to end in victory for our side, and the objectives (perhaps partly in retrospect) achieved. We fought for liberty, democracy, freedom and against tyranny, racism and nationalism. It is also true that wars increasingly mean that civilian casualties far outweigh military ones, and it was during WWII that attitudes changes to permit and justify, although regretting, the deliberate targeting of civilians to attack the economic basis or fabric of society and morale of enemies. Although there are exceptions, many of the conflicts we have been involved in since 1945 have not ended in "victory" or successful objectives; there were the wars we fought as the age of our empire came (Aden, Palestine, Malaya, Brunei, Suez, Kenya etc) which meant nascent nations got self-determination, and often it was the leaders we fought against who became the new leaders. There were conflicts that were spin-offs of the cold war division that ended in stalemates, like Korea, and more recent conflicts where we achieved few or none of our best objectives, (Gulf, Iraq, Afghanistan). There were ostensible peace-keeping activities which had mixed success, (Northern Ireland, Cyprus, former Yugoslavia); and perhaps the Falklands stands in a category of its own as a victory. Many people served in our Armed Forces keeping the deterrence of the Cold War years, and are left with an ambivalent feeling of success or failure. In recent months I have heard of the contrast of those who returned for VE day feeling flushed with success, and those who returned following VJ day who felt forgotten and made to be ashamed. Perhaps the very different experiences of the more recent wars to the "Victories" of 1918 and 1945 will

enable our remembrances to develop and reflect where different people, civilians and former members of the armed services, now are.

All this thought was provoked by last Sunday and from today's gospel; *'What king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace.'*

Jesus did not take up arms, nor encourage his followers to do so, and the early church was firmly pacifist in practice for its first centuries. In subsequent centuries the Church has at times backed war as defence, as a tool for a greater good, but perhaps predominantly as a necessary or inevitable evil. And the collective nature of sin means that those of us who are not combatants cannot wash our hands and put the responsibility on those who we ask to serve. But Jesus does use this example above. It ought to encourage each of us, and not only our leaders, to consider whether we have not had achievable objectives, indeed whether the violence of war mostly seems to leave objectives of justice and humanity further away. We are facing the explicit reallocation of resources from Aid budgets to military ones, and maybe more furtively from health and care to border and other security. In this brief quote from Luke's Jesus we are at least asked to consider to move from where we are and to travel to where others are, to listen, negotiate, and accommodate in order to find terms for peace. Luke's Jesus asks us not only to plan effectively, to quantify and measure honestly, but to go the extra mile in the pursuit of true peace and justice.

Prayers, The Litany.

Minister: God the Father;

All: have mercy on us.

Minister: God the Son;

All: have mercy on us.

Minister: God the Holy Spirit;

All: have mercy on us.

Minister: Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity

All: have mercy on us.

Minister: From all evil and mischief;

from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy;

from envy, hatred and malice;

and from all evil intent,

All: good Lord, deliver us.

Minister: From sloth, worldliness and love of money;

from hardness of heart

and contempt for your word and your laws,

All: good Lord, deliver us.

Minister: From sins of body and mind;

from deceits of the world, the flesh, and evil,

All: good Lord, deliver us.

Minister: In all times of sorrow;

in all times of joy;

in the hour of our death,

and at the day of judgement,

All: good Lord, deliver us.

Minister: By the mystery of your holy incarnation;

by your birth, childhood and obedience;

by your baptism, fasting, and temptation,

All: good Lord, deliver us.

Minister: By your ministry in word and work;

by your mighty acts of power;

and by your preaching of your kingdom,

All: good Lord, deliver us.

Minister: By your agony and trial;

by your cross and passion;

and by your precious death and burial,

All: good Lord, deliver us.

Minister: By your mighty resurrection;
by your glorious ascension;
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit

All: good Lord, deliver us.

Minister: Hear our prayers, O Lord our God,

All: Hear us good Lord.

Minister: Govern and direct your holy Church;
fill it with love and truth;
and grant it that unity which is your will.

All: Hear us good Lord.

Minister: Give us boldness to preach the gospel in all the world,
and make disciples of all the nations.

All: Hear us good Lord.

Minister: Enlighten Stephen and Dagmar, our Bishops, and all who minister,
with knowledge and understanding,
that by their teaching and their lives they may proclaim your word.

All: Hear us good Lord.

Minister: Give your people grace to hear and receive your word,
and to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

All: Hear us good Lord.

Minister: Bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived.

All: Hear us good Lord.

Minister: Strengthen those who stand:
comfort and help the faint hearted;
raise up the fallen;
and finally beat down evil under our feet.

All: Hear us good Lord.

Minister: Guide the leaders of the nations into the ways of peace and justice.

All: Hear us good Lord.

Minister: Guard and strengthen your servant Charles our King,
that she may put her trust in you,
and seek your honour and glory.

All: Hear us good Lord.

Minister: Endue the High Court of Parliament and all ministers of the Crown
with wisdom and understanding.

All: Hear us good Lord.

Minister: Bless those who administer the law,
that they may uphold justice, honesty and truth.

All: Hear us good Lord.

Minister: Give us the will to use the resources of the earth to your glory,
and for the good of all creation.

All: Hear us good Lord.

Minister: Bless and keep all your people.

All: Hear us good Lord.

Minister: Bring your joy into all families;
strengthen and deliver those in childbirth,
watch over our children and guide the young,
bring reconciliation to those in discord
and peace to those in stress.

All: Hear us good Lord.

Minister: Help and comfort the lonely, the bereaved and the oppressed.

All: Lord have mercy.

Minister: Keep in safety those who travel and all who are in danger.

All: Lord have mercy.

Minister: Heal the sick in body and mind,
and provide for the homeless, the hungry and the destitute.

All: Lord have mercy.

Minister: Show your pity on prisoners and refugees,
and all who are in trouble.

All: Lord have mercy.

Minister: Forgive our enemies, our persecutors and slanderers,
and forgive their hearts.

All: Lord have mercy.

Minister: Hear us as we remember those who have died in the peace of Christ
both those who have confessed the faith
and those whose faith is known to you alone
and grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

All: Lord have mercy.

Minister: Give us true repentance:
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance
and our deliberate sins:
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit
to amend our lives according to your holy word.

**All: Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

*NEXT Saturday 13th September
Chatteris Music Society Concert
at St Peter's 7.30pm*

*Jazz Music with Paula Jackman's Jazz Maters
£15 Members £18 no—members U16/Students Free
Details 01354 693160*

HARVEST FESTIVALS

Sunday 21st St John's 9.30am

Sunday 5th Oct St Mary's 9.15am

Sunday 5th Oct St Peter's 8am and 11am

Sun 12th 4pm St John's Harvest Choral Evensong

"Time to Remember"

ANNUAL MOURNERS' SERVICES.

Sunday 26th October 4pm at St John's

Tuesday 28th October 10am at St John's

Wednesday 29th October 10am at St Peter's

Saturday 1st November 10am at St Peter's

Sunday 2nd November 9.15am at St Mary's

Sunday 2nd November 4pm at St Peter's

Sunday 16th November 4pm at St Wendreda's

*If you are intending coming to any of these services,
please let Andrew (01354 572117 or
andrew.marchurch@gmail.com)*

*have the names of the loved ones you wish to have
remembered by name, or write their names on the lists in
any of our churches.*

Each church has list for each one of these services.

*If you are not able to come please let us know the names
and we will read them at the service on 1st November.*

*We will also read at the 1st November service the names
of all those we have taken funerals for since July 2024*

This Fri 12th 9.30-12 Westwood School in St Peter

St John's Church Activities

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

9.15-11.15 St John's Tots;

Tuesday

10am Midweek Communion Service

2nd Study Group 11-12 Next Sept 9th

Study Group 7pm-8.30pm; Film The Chosen
resuming **this week** 2nd Sept.

Wednesdays

Thursday 1st Thursday Social Group (see above)

Friday Choir Practice in Church

Next First Thursday 2nd Oct at 7:30

at 129 West End. Celia Green speaking about her
time as a special in the Met Police.

Regular Church Activities at St Peter's

Tuesday

10am-12noon Knit and Natter;

1st St Peter's MU 2.30-4pm 3rd Deanery MU

Wednesday

10am Midweek Communion Service

1st Study Group 7.30-9pm Next Oct 1st

2nd Wed Christian Aid Lunch Hall 12-1pm

12th Sunday after Trinity 7th Sept

**Welcome to St John the Evangelist,
St Peter & St Mary Churches
in the March Team**

Regular Sunday Services

St John 9.30am Sung Communion

TODAY First Sunday of each Month 9.30am

Wholeness Service with Laying on of Hands

Monthly, 3rd Sunday **MESSY CHURCH 1-3pm**

St Mary 9.15am Traditional Sung Communion

St Peter 8am Holy Communion

11am Sung Communion

*Last Sunday of each month, **Sunday Club***

TUESDAY St John's; 10am Holy Communion

WEDNESDAY St Peter's; 10am Holy Communion

Zoom services

Sunday 5.15pm Team Service

Thursday 8.30am Morning Prayer

Team Rector: Rev Andrew Smith 01354 572117
andrew.marchurch@gmail.com

*All enquiries about Weddings Baptisms etc to Andrew
Baptisms; 12.30 St Peter; 2pm or later St John St Mary*

Team Leader in Mission Ruth Clay 07905950849

RevRuth.marchchurches@outlook.com

Clergy; Jane Rees 463284, Anthony Chandler 652894,

Jenny Webb 650855, Mother Jane Dicker 661099

Readers; Hannah Taylor 661712, Diane Wise 651512.

Karen Pritchard karen.marchchurches@outlook.com

FUNERAL

Tues 16th 2.30pm Fenland; Elizabeth Repper

Next Sunday, Sept 14th, 13th Sunday after Trinity

Jeremiah 4 11-12 & 22-28, Luke 15 v1-10

12.30pm Baptisms at St Peter's

NEXT Saturday 13th

"Ride and Stride" Walk, Cycle etc

NEXT Saturday 13th

Working Party in St Mary's Churchyard

NEXT Sunday 14th

Musical afternoon 2.30pm with St John's Choir
at 129 West End – Refreshments and Raffle

Tues 16th Sept St Peter's PCC 7.30pm

Thurs 18th Sept St John PCC 7pm

Tues 23rd Sept Deanery Synod 7.30pm Wimblington

Tues 30th Sept St Mary PCC at Vera's 7.30pm

CHANGE of DATE Team Council from Tues 9th

Sept to Tues 4th Nov at St Peter's 7.30pm

Prayer, Collect, for this week

God of the ages, you call the Church to keep watch in the world and to discern the sign of the times. Grant us the wisdom which your Spirit bestows, that with courage we may proclaim your prophetic word and complete the work you have set before us. We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Old Testament Jeremiah 18 v1-11

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: 'Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words.' So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

Diane Wise sadly has decided to retire as LLM (Reader) at St John's after 20 years of faithful service for which we are very grateful and have been blessed. She will continue as an active member of the congregation, but we will need someone to take on the readers/servers rotas. Her last Sunday as LLM will be 5th October
Thank you very much, wise and faithful servant!

YEARS Mind – a reminder

The names we read out in the prayers in church are to be found in the 2024 diaries in each church.

Please feel free to add any more names

*The names for the sick are also usually by this book, **and you can add names**, and for other names see the information on this notice sheet.*

***Next Christian Aid lunch is THIS Wednesday
September 10th
at St Peters Church Hall 12 noon.***

Gospel of Luke 14 v25-33

Large crowds were travelling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, 'Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish." Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

Prayer after Communion

Jealous God, you call us to hate the life that is an echo of death and a whisper of fear: give us the courage to pass through shadows and count the cost of a love beyond measure; through Jesus Christ, the one who is fully alive. **Amen.**

SEPTEMBER

Sat 20th St John's Autumn Fair

Sat 27th Lions Event at St Peters

OCTOBER

Sun 5th 2.30pm 3Counties Masonic Service St Peter

Sun 12th Harvest Lunch Maureen's POSTPONED

Sat 18th Bondi Concert 7pm St John's

**Fri 31st Lumos 7pm Candlelit Concert
at St Peter's 7-8pm & 9-10pm**

NOVEMBER

Sat 8th St Mary Coffee Morning at Sue's

Sat 8th CMS Concert St Peter's 2pm

Sat 22nd St Peter's Christmas Fair

DECEMBER

Sat 6th St John's Christmas Fair/ Choir Singing

Sat 6th FMC concert in St Peters

Sun 7th Dec 1pm Christmas Lunch at St Mary's

**Fri 12th – Sun 14th Christmas Tree Festival
at St Peter's, with Christingle Sunday 3pm**

Wed 17th-Fri 19th Winterwonderland at St John's

Sat 20th Dec St Mary's Coffee Morning at Roger's

**Sunday 21st Carol Services 3pm St Mary,
4.30pm St John, 6.30pm St Peter**

Model Railway Exhibition raised £750. Well Done

"Suicide Prevention Awareness Eve

**THIS Tuesday 9th September online zoom 5.15 pm
finishing with Compline.
See Rev Jane for details."**