

November 2025 Edition 117

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Matthew 5 v 9

We Shall Remember Them



On 24th October 1945, the Charter of the United Nations came into being with these historic words:

“We the peoples of the United Nations, determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind ... to practise tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security.”

These words were born out of the deep pain and devastation of two world wars — a solemn pledge by humanity never to repeat the tragedies that had consumed entire generations.

Each year on **Remembrance Sunday**, we are invited to recall and honour those who gave their lives for the sake of peace — young men and women who stepped forward in courage and faith, believing that sacrifice might yield freedom for those who would come after them. Their names, inscribed on the walls of our church, are not mere letters etched in stone; they are stories of bravery, conviction, and love.

From this parish, we remember:

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|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Armitage, Alfred Cecil | 8. Thomas, Alec Vaughan |
| 2. Bowler, John Henry | 9. Thomas, Maurice Wotton |
| 3. Corn, Harold Frank | 10. Wearne, Frank Bernard |
| 4. Cox, John Benjamin | 11. Wearne, Keith Morris |
| 5. Deane, Arthur Francis | 12. White, Harry Arderne Shoults |
| 6. Guyton, Albert James | 13. Wilmot, Percy James |
| 7. Layton, Roland Churchill | |

These young men — most between the ages of twenty and thirty-two — offered their lives during the Great War. We also remember **Flying Officer Alfred Charles Allwood Greenfield**, who died on 6th June 1944, aged just twenty, giving his life for the peace we cherish today.

Their sacrifice was not in vain. They resisted narratives of division, hatred, and destruction, choosing instead the costly path of courage and love. We remember them because they stood against forces that sought to tear humanity apart — and through their sacrifice, they gave us the fragile gift of peace.

We also remember the countless others from across the Commonwealth who fought alongside them. From India alone, **1.3 million men** served in the First World War — 74,000 of whom never returned home. In the Second World War, **2.5 million soldiers** from the Indian subcontinent took part, with 87,000 losing their lives. Other Commonwealth nations too gave their sons and daughters to this shared struggle for freedom. My own mother's brother fought in the Burmese campaign of 1943, returning home wounded — a small but poignant reminder that war leaves no family untouched.

Many of us were born decades after these wars. We live in a world where peace is often taken for granted, where conflicts appear as distant headlines rather than lived realities. Yet wars still rage today — in cities and villages across the world — tearing apart families, communities, and futures. We continue to witness narratives of nationalism, greed, misinformation, and hatred that pit neighbour against neighbour.

To remember them, therefore, is not a passive act of nostalgia. It is a *moral and spiritual discipline* — a way of confronting the same destructive forces that once scarred humanity. It is a call to learn from history, to reclaim the values of truth, sacrifice, and reconciliation that they embodied.

The poet Laurence Binyon captured this eternal remembrance in his haunting lines:

*“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.”*

In the Gospel of John (15:13), Jesus declares, *“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”* These words illuminate the heart of remembrance. Those young men from Cuddington and beyond laid down their lives not for glory or conquest, but so that future generations might live in freedom and peace.

As followers of Christ, we are called to carry forward that same spirit of self-giving love — to challenge the destructive narratives of our own age. We live in times marked by division, xenophobia, environmental degradation, and the reckless pursuit of profit at the expense of others. But the image of God (*Imago Dei*) reminds us that every human life carries sacred worth. In Christ, the true image of God, we see what it means to live for others — to forgive, to reconcile, to share, and to build peace even when it demands personal cost.

To *remember them* is therefore to recommit ourselves to their vision — a world where human dignity is protected, where creation is cherished, and where peace is pursued with courage and grace. It means standing against manipulative ideologies that foster hatred, exploitation, and violence. It means transforming our technologies, economies, and conversations into instruments of compassion, justice, and shared flourishing.

We also give thanks for those in our own community who have served this nation and who continue to serve in its defence and peacekeeping efforts. The photographs of many from Cuddington, captured at St Mary's, remind us that the call to service continues in every generation. We honour their dedication, and we thank God for their lives and witness.



As we bow our heads in silence this Remembrance Day, we pray not only for the fallen but also for the living — that the world they dreamed of might one day be realised. May the era of conflict give way to an era of love, justice, hope, wellbeing, and abundant life for all people.

*“They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.*

*They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.”*

— Laurence Binyon, “For the Fallen”

We shall remember them.

And as we remember, we look to Christ — the Prince of Peace — whose life, death, and resurrection promise not only the end of war, but the dawn of God's new creation, where love triumphs over hatred and peace reigns without end.



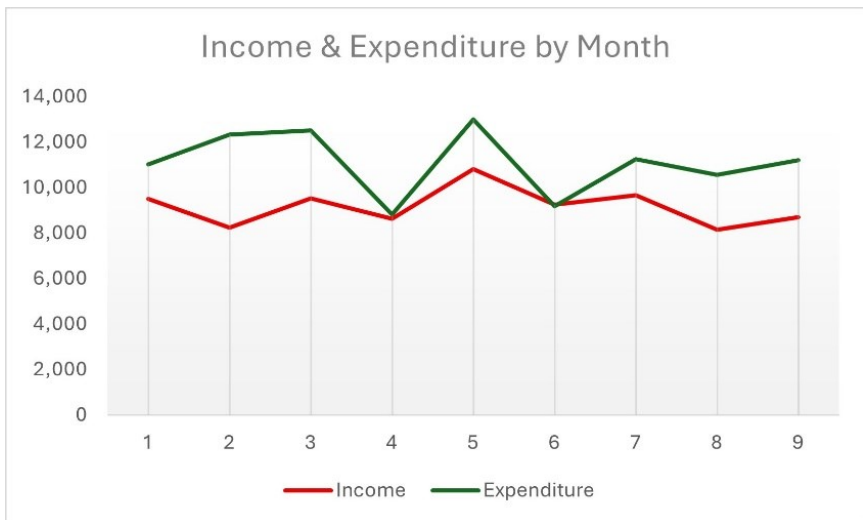
Kohima Epitaph

When you go home, tell them of us and say
“For your tomorrow, we gave our today”

Church Finances

It's been a while since I updated you on the Church Finances and a lot has happened so far in 2025. Significantly, we have welcomed our new vicar, the Rev Joshva Raja, to St Mary's after a long period of vacancy. With Joshva's leadership and ministry we look forward to a bright new chapter for our church.

With regard to our finances, unfortunately it is tempting to say "business as usual". We are continuing to struggle to match our income with expenditure on a day-to-day basis. In the first nine months of the year (to the end of September) this is evidenced by a shortfall of £17,400 in the General Fund. The chart below shows the month-by-month totals for income and expenditure so far in 2025.



You will see that there is an ongoing gap between what it costs to run the church and the income we are able to generate. As you know, the main source of this income is your regular giving, fundraising events and the hire of our halls. We are able to continue to operate at a loss only because of the past legacies we have received.

Since I became your treasurer in 2013, we have been fortunate to receive £199,118 in legacies. From the Covid pandemic to the end of last year, we have had to use over £45,000 of these reserves to support the shortfall in income. During the pandemic we suffered a reduction in giving and a sharp downturn in hall lettings. Hall letting income has now recovered to its pre-pandemic level, but other income continues to fall short. Clearly, if we do not reverse the ongoing deficits our reserves will eventually be exhausted.

However, it's not all doom and gloom! We have made progress so far this year in improving our efficiency and in moving to a greener, more eco-friendly church. We have replaced our ageing photocopier, which was regularly causing problems, at no additional cost to the church and improved our telephone and broadband services, also at no additional cost. From the 1st October, with the help of Parish Buying, we have new gas and electricity suppliers with electricity now being entirely from renewable sources. Again, this has been at no additional cost to the church.

The Estates Committee have established a subgroup looking at how we can replace our aged and expensive heating system with a more efficient, effective and eco-friendly alternative. They expect to report to the PCC with recommendations next year.

Finally, there is a Gift Day on 30th November where we hope to raise funds to, amongst other things, allow us to progress with our heating and other eco projects. These will benefit us financially and improve our sustainability for the longer term.

I hope you can support this.

God Bless

David Eames

November Services and Events

Sunday 2	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Sung Communion and Children's Groups
	15.00	All Souls Commemoration Service
	18.00	<i>Fauré's Requiem</i> in Church
Monday 3	19.30	Knit & Natter Group in the Leverton Room
Wednesday 5	10.30	Knit & Natter Group in the Leverton Room
Sunday 9	08.00	Holy Communion
	10.30	Remembrance Sunday Service
Saturday 15	10.00	Women's Group in the Cuddington Hall
Sunday 16	09.30	Sung Communion and Children's Groups
Wednesday 19	20.00	PCC Meeting in the Cuddington Hall
Thursday 20	14.00	Afternoon Club Garden Centre Outing
Sunday 23	09.30	Sung Communion
<i>Christ the King</i>	11-2	Christmas Homemade Fair
Sunday 30	-	<i>Gift Day for Church Heating</i>
	09.30	Sung Communion and Children's Groups
	18.00	<i>From Darkness to Light</i>
Monday 1 Dec	09.30	Advent Bible Study - 1
Wednesday 3	10.30	Knit & Natter Group in the Leverton Room
Sunday 7 Dec	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Sung Communion and Children's Groups
	09.00	Epsom & Ewell Silver Band in Church

Morning Prayer is said in church every weekday morning at 9am

Everyone is very welcome