

The Vicar writes...

On Wednesday 5th November we had our monthly prayer meeting. Brian led us and we began by making origami coracles. We reflected on the lives of the Celtic saints, especially St Columba and the way some of them would set themselves adrift on the water in a coracle, trusting that God would take them where they needed to go and keep them safe.

My days are like that too; I start out with a plan but rarely does a day go how I expect but I often marvel that I have ended up being with the people and doing the things that were necessary. You may or may wish your days were the same, I know that for some of us predictability equates to safety and security, but I cherish the thought that, just like the Celtic saints I have the privilege of giving my time and myself over to God. We can all take time to look back on our day or our week and try to see God at work in us and through us.

No matter how much control we have or lack over our working days however, we can allow God into our lives in the way that we live each moment. In how we interact with those around us and by giving each small act over to God and asking for a blessing upon them. Perhaps this is something you might like to try this week?

Sunday services

Sunday 9th

10.30am Remembrance Sunday including Communion

Feel free to bring along photos, medals or other things that may help you to remember family members who served or volunteered.

Sunday 16th

8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.30am Morning Worship with All Stars

6.00pm Gone too Soon – a service to remember babies and children we have lost

Tree of Hope

Greener Greenham Group members are delighted that their application to receive a sapling from the famous Sycamore Gap Tree was accepted.

There is an official Tree Planting Ceremony at Greenham Common Control Tower on Saturday 22nd November at 2.30pm. It will be a historic celebration, with representatives from environmental groups, and local VIPs and Gail will be blessing the tree – a first for her!

Tea and cake will be available afterwards. It would be lovely to have some St Mary's Church members there.

Please could you RSVP to contact@greenergreenhamgroup.org.uk or ring Katharine on 01635 31533 or email her on kath.prior68@ntlworld.com if you've planning to come along.

Prayer

Can I pray for you? I say Morning Prayer every day. I pray for the needs of our parish, the church more widely and our world. I pray for my day and the people I know about but maybe I don't know what you need.

Do let me know, or just ask me to pray for you without the details if you prefer.

NB – No Morning Prayer on 14th November

Mens Breakfast

Tony and a couple of others are hosting a breakfast in the church hall on Saturday 15th November at 10am for an hour and would love other men to join them for bacon, coffee (or tea) and conversation. Breakfast is on Tony so please let him know if you're coming so he buys and cooks enough.

tony@stmarysgreenham.org

Readings

Revelation 21:1-7

21 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. **2**I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. **3**And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. **4**‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

5He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

6He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. **7**Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Matthew 5:1-10

5 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, **2**and he began to teach them. He said:

3“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

8Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.