

March Team St John, St Mary, St Peter, St Wendreda
2nd Sunday of the Kingdom Season, 9th November

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

Remembrance Sunday

9.30 Parade from Sainsbury's
9.45-10.30am Service in St Peter's
10.40am Parade to Memorial.
11am Remembrance in Broad St
(Also Act of Remembrance in St Peter's 11am)
11.40am Simple Communion in St Peter's
Services at usual times at St Mary's and St John's
Also Tuesday November 11th 11am in Broad St

Meditation

***When you go home, tell them of us and say
for your tomorrow we gave our today***

These haunting words from the Kohima memorial place each generation in our country under the solemn obligation to remember with sorrow and gratitude the tragic loss of so many lives during the Second World War. We owe our subsequent stability and prosperity to those who fought so hard to defend the liberty and integrity of these islands, and then to liberate parts of Europe from tyranny. This is at the heart of Remembrance Sunday each year, and its commemoration has captured the imagination and commitment of a rising generation. But around this focal point are various other circles of remembrance. So what else has to be remembered?

Firstly, the Second World War was part of a thirty-year conflict with a twenty-year uneasy truce. Its roots lay in the bitter conflict of the Great War, in which so many were slaughtered on all sides. This, in turn, had its roots in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. This too, in turn, arose out of the fears kindled by Napoleon's attempt to impose French domination across Europe, which, in its turn was the latest in centuries of wars between France and England. Those facing Napoleon felt the same vulnerability as was later felt in 1940, because the liberty and integrity of nations and their people was

threatened. We can see from this that tragically all wars seem to beget more wars and building peace is a more challenging and long-term enterprise.

Secondly, that the brunt of suffering in both world wars was in fact borne by the Russians. Their key role is often overlooked completely on Remembrance Day, convenient it may be whilst they are the current aggressors in the Ukraine. In the Second World War the very survival of their nation was at stake and their casualty rate was maybe ten times greater than that of the Western Allies. The scale of suffering on the Eastern front in both wars was appalling, and it contributed greatly to the rise of Communism, and to its persistence in the long years of the Cold War.

Thirdly, that civilian losses in both world wars, due to conflict, but also due to economic blockade, and compounded by the scourge of the Spanish Flu pandemic, were so great that no European society remained unscathed and unchanged. The severe trauma of 1914-20 gave impetus to the rise of Communism and then Nazism. The economic disruption and rampant inflation contributed to the rise of vicious antisemitism. The price of war was indeed catastrophically high. The impact of these two world wars was also global leading to great instability and suffering in many parts of the world as empires collapsed, especially after 1945.

Fourthly, Remembrance Day is an occasion to remember all the unquiet dead- the many victims of dictatorships, deportations, genocide and evil concentration and labour camps. These ghastly phenomena stretched on long after the end of the war in 1945 and persist today. Millions of lives were destroyed by Nazism and under Communism in Russia, China and Cambodia. History may well judge the twentieth century to have been another Dark Age; and it continues to cast a shadow over our own time, as human rights are abused, people are dehumanised, and people are persecuted for their belief, culture or identity in too many parts of the world.

Fifthly, from the bitter conflict of the Second World War arose the technology of mass destruction, which culminated in the creation and use of nuclear weapons to destroy cities. The shadow of this amoral development remains, and its fundamental cynicism calls into question all civilised and Christian values. The scale of the modern arms trade and the diversion of scientific and economic resources to sustain it are often overlooked. The ruthlessness of terrorism derives part of its driving force from this moral crisis at the heart of modern human society.

Lastly, there have been so many wars which our nation's forces have been involved in since 1945. Unlike the two world wars that ended in "victory" many of these did not look like or feel like victory, and few

achieved their objectives either at all or with any lasting legacy. There were conflicts as we decolonised, Palestine, Malaya, Aden, Suez, Kenya, Brunei for example. There was Korea where we ended where we started; there was the success of the restoration of the Falklands; the Gulf and Iraq wars may have brought short term success but long term failure; in the Balkans after terrible slaughter there has been some incremental peace and order, perhaps we may say the same of Northern Ireland, but we left Afghanistan in defeat and worse than when we arrived. Those who served in these places rarely felt like returning heroes, and we have tended to choose to forget these wars and conflicts. Remembrance needs to acknowledge these more recent episodes and the contribution and experience of those who served in them.

Remembrance Sunday obliges us therefore to consider seriously all that is at stake in our country and the world today: the reality and the value of freedom of thought, worship and expression; the rule of law, internally and internationally; the right to education and not indoctrination; the continuing challenge against racism and extremism; the stability, character, values and integrity of our own country. Also, the need for international diplomacy and mediation of disputes; the recognition that grinding poverty is socially undermining wherever it is found; the realisation that war is always a last resort and a failure of humanity.

Christians approach Remembrance with a further perspective, because it brings into sharp focus the reality of evil in the world, which preys on human weakness and aggravates resentments that lead to conflict. “Deliver us from evil” – the words are those of Jesus in the Lord’s Prayer, who was himself destroyed in an environment of hatred, occupation, racial resentment, violence and fear. But evil can only act when humans succumb to its malign influence. No-one looking at the events of the last century and this can doubt the reality and aims of evil, seeking the destruction of human beings, who are all made in the image and likeness of God.

Every Christian prayer, and every celebration of Communion, is a warding off of evil, a safeguarding of human hearts. It is putting love in where love is blotted out; and Christians believe that such a costly intercession is the only power in the world that can withstand and reverse evil. “Christians stand by God in his hour of grieving” - words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was murdered by the Nazis in 1945 for his resistance to their tyranny. This is because Christians know that the Cross of Christ is the place where evil collides with the loving purpose of God as revealed in Christ Jesus. Remembrance Sunday therefore poses a profound challenge to us all, as we hear the words of Jesus himself: “Do this in remembrance of me.”

Prayers and ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

We commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between the nations, that all people may together; live in freedom, justice and peace.

We pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.

We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives, in world wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away.

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.

2 minutes SILENCE

May the souls of the departed rest in peace, and through the mercy of God, may they rise in glory. May they rest in peace, and let light perpetual shine upon them.

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

Remember, Lord, those whose stories were unspoken and untold.

Jesus, remember them when you come into your kingdom.

Remember, Lord, those whose minds were darkened and disturbed by memories of war. *Jesus, remember them when you come into your kingdom.*

Remember, Lord, those who suffered in silence, and those whose bodies were disfigured by injury and pain. *Jesus, remember them when you come into your kingdom.*

God, bless the peacemakers.

Bless those who work in home and community to end a quarrel; bless those who keep faith with arguing churches; bless those who speak a careful word in corridors of power; bless those who live good and hopeful lives in refugee camps, those in internment, detention or prison; bless those who minister to the military; bless those who seek peace with you and give your peace away. Bless all our peacemakers with the powerful presence and support of your Holy Spirit, and the confidence that comes through following in the steps of Christ. Amen.

In the service at St Peter's, last year we had poems from the First and Second World Wars. This year I am intending using poems for people who have been involved in some of the many conflicts since 1945, and I share them with you below.

Robert C Millar - Task Force Falklands

Car packed and ready to go;
on leave so we thought but it wasn't so;
I suppose it wasn't just meant to be;
T Air Defence Battery was going to sea;
Across the south Atlantic Ocean;
Well at least that was the notion

One hundred and ten ships all packed to the top;
Commandoes, Paras, Guards, Ordinance, Artillery, the lot;
This is it lads. We're going to war;
But nobody knew, what was in store
And all those mixed up feelings inside;
Were **** near impossible for us to hide.

We landed at a place called San Carlos Bay;
In nineteen eighty two. On the twenty first of May;
To repel Argentine invaders from the Malvinas;
Anxious, proud and scared. You had to have seen us.

Across the Falklands, the Task Force did travel;
By air, sea and foot and not as a rabble;
Objective Port Stanley for the final shove;
First taking Tumble Down; Goose Green and Bluff Cove.

We recaptured the Islands. They were British again,
And amid all the glory, cheering and pain;
We now look to peace for as long as we reign
And no more hostilities, that drive man insane

Thomas Hawkins Jul 2010 Fallen hero

From the time he was a little boy
He wanted to be a soldier real bad
To wear big boots and a uniform

to look just like his dad

Although he'd never met the man
Many pictures had he seen
Of daddy as a soldier
being inspected by the queen.

There's a shoebox in the cupboard
With daddys medals and beret
And a letter Johnny never read
about how daddy passed away

The Falklands war was halfway done
but wars are always hell
and The Battle of Goose Green
is where Johnny's hero fell

As soon as he was old enough
despite his mothers pleas
Johnny joined the army
though she begged him from her knees

It seemed he was a natural
a born soldier like his dad
who looking down from up above
would be so proud of his lad

He had an honesty and integrity
that his advancement did effect
A natural heroic *****
you could not help but respect

So when war came around again
this time in old Iraq
Johnny proudly did his duty well
not just the once, for he want back

28 years ago we said goodbye
almost to the day
this time we're here for Johnny
who war also took away

Johnny was my friend
a man I truly loved
No wife or children left behind,
his family's given enough.

Remains (gulf) by Simon Armitage

On another occasion, we got sent out
to tackle looters raiding a bank.
And one of them legs it up the road,
probably armed, possibly not.
Well myself and somebody else and somebody else
are all of the same mind,
so all three of us open fire.
Three of a kind all letting fly, and I swear
I see every round as it rips through his life –
I see broad daylight on the other side.
So we've hit this looter a dozen times
and he's there on the ground, sort of inside out,
pain itself, the image of agony.
One of my mates goes by
and tosses his guts back into his body.
Then he's carted off in the back of a lorry.
End of story, except not really.
His blood-shadow stays on the street, and out on patrol
I walk right over it week after week.
Then I'm home on leave. But I blink
and he bursts again through the doors of the bank.
Sleep, and he's probably armed, and possibly not.
Dream, and he's torn apart by a dozen rounds.
And the drink and the drugs won't flush him out –
he's here in my head when I close my eyes,
dug in behind enemy lines,
not left for dead in some distant, sun-stunned, sand-smothered land
or six-feet-under in desert sand,
but near to the knuckle, here and now,
his bloody life in my bloody hands.

Danny Martin - Afghanistan

*Finally the blades spun and we lifted
Skimmed the palm trees and popped flares above the river
We swooped low over the target truck
Then landed in its path
We charged in our Storm Trooper costumes
Blinding faceless shapes through dirty glass
With rifle mounted lasers
We were jumpy
We were ready
I dragged the driver from his seat
Slammed his face into hot tarmac
Held it there with my suede boot
Steadied my hands long enough to cuff his
We searched his packed pick-up
Boxes stacked four deep five wide
Emptied in the dust on the roadside
The first box revealed ice and fish, and the next
And the next, and the last
Intelligence had said he was armed and dangerous
Armed with melting ice and defrosting cod
No match for our guns, our bombs,
Our good intentions, our morals
Our God
We cut his cuffs, and his wife's
And left them to their ruined stock.*

THIS Wednesday 12th Nov 7pm St Peter's

Can't Sing Choir Charity Concert

popular songs in Aid of Local Youth Charities
The choir was set up for the benefit of the local community to sing for fun and for the health-giving benefits it brings (both physical and mental).
Suggested cash donations of £5 on the door

QUIZ NIGHT for St Wendreda 27th Nov 7.30 for 8
March Cricket Club, Burrowmoor Rd PE15 9RS
Teams of 4; £3 per person on night

CHURCH MEETINGS

Tues 11th Nov 7.30pm St Peter's PCC 7.30pm
Thurs 13th Nov St John's PCC 7pm
Tues 18th Nov St Mary's PCC at Vera's 7.30pm
Wed 26th Deanery Synod at Coates 7.30pm

St John's Church Activities

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

9.15-11.15 St John's Tots;

Tuesday

10am Midweek Communion Service

Study Group 11-12 **Next Nov 18th**

Study Group 7pm-8.30pm; Film The Chosen

Wednesdays Community Hub in Hall 12-2

Thursday 1st Thursday Social Group (see above)

Friday Choir Practice in Church

Thanks to all who helped tidying garden and church at St John's

First Thursday Christmas meal on Thursday 4 December at the conservative club 7pm for 7:30pm.
All welcome - partners, friends

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 Dec 3rd**

2nd Wed Christian Aid Lunch Hall 12-1pm

Buy your Stamps ready for Christmas and benefit
the Church Association Sudan & South Sudan
normal cost (87p each units of 10)

but with greater range of designs than normal.

Contact Sue Claydon by 10th Nov 01354654214

Saturday 29th 11.30am St Peter's

FREE Coffee Concert Snowman

Complete Live performance with narration & song

St Mary's 2 Course Christmas Lunch

Sunday 7th December 1pm in the Parish Room

Tickets £15 from Ruth 01354 650858 or
fundraising@stmaryschurchmarch.co.uk

Draw prizes please!

Thanks for supporting Coffee Morning at Sue's

2nd Kingdom Sunday 9th November

Remembrance Sunday

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

Today, Remembrance Sunday

9.30 Parade from Sainsbury's

9.45-10.30am Service in St Peter's

10.40am Parade to Memorial.

11am Remembrance in Broad St

(Also Act of Remembrance in St Peter's 11am)

11.40am Simple Communion in St Peter's

Services at usual times at St Mary's and St John's

Also Tuesday November 11th 11am in Broad St

Regular Sunday Services

St John 9.30am Sung Communion

First Sunday of each Month

9.30am Wholeness Service with Laying on of Hands

NEXT SUNDAY 3rd Sunday MESSY

CHURCH 1-3pm

St Mary 9.15am Traditional Sung Communion

St Peter 8am Holy Communion

11am Sung Communion

*Last Sunday **Sunday Club 11am***

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, Stewart Piper

BAPTISM

2pm St John's Albie Gray-Esson

FUNERALS

Tue 11th 11.30am St Wendreda; Doris Denson

Thu 13th 12noon St Wendreda; Wilfred Bennett

Fri 14th 1.45 St Mary; Doreen Easey

Wed 19th 10.30am Fenland; Brenda Sired

Wed 26th 12.30pm Fenland; Joseph Stacey

Next Week, November 16th, 3rd Kingdom, Sunday

2 Thessalonians 3 v6-13, Luke 21 v5-29

12.30pm Baptism at St Peter's

Prayer, Collect, for this week

God of all the living, in the resurrection of Christ Jesus you have given us the life which even death and resurrection cannot destroy. Remember your unshakeable promise and strengthen us to live in this world as your new creation. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, who is one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Epistle 2 Thessalonians 2 v1-5 & 13-17

As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you?

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

*Wed 19th Nov 12.30-2.30pm St John's Hall
Vaccinations available – see poster for details*

March Christian Aid Group Quiz Night

Friday 14th Nov 6.45 for 7 pm at Catholic Church, £5 per person to include a glass of wine/soft drink. Come as individuals or as a team of up to 6 people

*Next Christian Aid lunch is **THIS** Wednesday November 12th at St Peter's Church Hall 12 noon.*

St Peter's Christmas Fair

Saturday 22nd November 9.30-12.30

Cakes, Raffle prizes, Bottles and HELP wanted

12th-14th Dec St Peter's Christmas Tree Festival
Entry forms for Christmas Trees now available.

Individuals or Organisation invited to enter a tree and sign up to help please in the many ways needed

Donations for Contents of Hampers welcomed

See Christmas Events newsletter for more info

Gospel of Luke 20 v27-38

Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus and asked him a question, 'Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless; then the second and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. Finally the woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.'

Jesus said to them, 'Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. Indeed they cannot die any more, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.'

Prayer after Communion

Living God, burning wild and unconfined, you call us to new being, free from the fear of death: take away the limits that bind our imagination and choke our compassion that we may feel your pleasure in all that brings us life; through Jesus Christ, risen and ascended. **Amen.**

Thanks to all who supported CMS Concert

DECEMBER

Sat 6th St John's Christmas Fair/ Choir 10-1.30

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

Sun 14th 4.30 G&S concert in St John's

Wed 17th-Fri 19th Winterwonderland St John's 5-8

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

Sunday 21st Carol Services 3pm St Mary,

4.30pm St John, 6.30pm St Peter

CHRISTMAS EVE Wednesday 24th December

10am St Peter's Holy Communion

1-3pm St John's Messy Church Nativity

4pm St Peter's Crib and Carol Service

9pm St John's Midnight in Bethlehem! Communion

11.30pm St Peter's Midnight Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY Thursday 25th December

Communion Services at usual Sunday times

8am and 11am St Peter's

9.15am St Mary's

9.30am St John's

March Foodbank needs volunteers to help at the food collection at Tesco 27th to 29th Nov (one hour slots). Please contact Rev Jenny for more info