St Clement's Monthly News

November 2026



Remembering the Faithful

On 1 November, All Saints' Day honours the saints, known and unknown, across the generations. In one of their recent articles the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) wrote that "*Remembering saints and martyrs and dedicating a specific day to them each year has been a Christian tradition since the 4th century AD*" It is now time to remember and give thanks for the people through whom we have been brought closer to Christ: our parents, our teachers, our friends, and the generous neighbours who gave but asked for nothing in return.
This is also reflected in St Paul's letter to the **Hebrews (13:7)** where he reminds us saying, *"Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith".* This is therefore a time for us to worship, remember and share those stories of such people whose faith helped shape ours. Tell people around us what made that person's love memorable, and consider together how their example might inspire fresh acts of generosity in our families and/or our church community.

Becoming a Living Witness

As Christians in our discipleship journey, remembering the saints should turn our hearts towards the needs near us, Rather than admiring faithfulness from a distance, let us be involved and practise it in the ordinary places where we live and work. Theologian Rowan Williams (former Archbishop of Canterbury) writes of Jesus: *"For him, being holy is being absolutely involved, not being absolutely separated"*. During this time, may we respond by moving towards those who need compassion, rather than waiting for them to find us.

Making Room for Grief and Hope

For some people, remembrance brings tears before it brings thanksgiving. If that is your experience, you need not hide your sorrow and instead hurry your healing. **Revelation (21:4)** puts emphasis on God as where the promise is: *"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes"*. As we hold that hope, let us sit patiently with those who mourn, speak cherished names with tenderness, and keep offering companionship long after others have stopped asking.

Our Prayer for November

Loving Father, we thank you for those who came before and have shown us Christ. Comfort the grieving, strengthen the weary, and teach us to love faithfully. May our church shine with your presence, and enable our lives help others to find their hope in Jesus Christ.
Amen. **Rev John Alex**

Diary for November

Sun 1st	**10.30am**	**Eucharist at the Parish Church**
	10.30am	**Morning Worship at Branch Church**
Mon 2nd	9.30am	Walking for Health Group
	4.00pm	Handbell Ringing
	7.00pm	All Souls Day Service to remember the departed
Tue 3rd	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wed 4th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
	2.00pm	MU service in church
Fri 6th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun 8th	**10.30am**	**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY Eucharist with act of Remembrance at the Parish Church**
Mon 9th	9.30am	Walking for Health Group
	4.00pm	Handbell Ringing
Tues 10th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wed 11th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
Fri 13th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun 15th	**10.30am**	**Eucharist at the Parish Church**
Mon 16th	9.30am	Walking for Health Group
	4.00pm	Handbell Ringing
Tue 17th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wed 18th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
Thur 19th	2.00pm	Mothers' Union
	7.00pm	Men's Group
Fri 20th	6.00pm	Preparation for Christmas Fair
Sat 21st	**10.30am**	**CHRISTMAS FAIR with Father Christmas**
Sun 22nd	**10.30am**	**Eucharist at the Parish Church**
Mon 23rd	9.30am	Walking for Health Group
	4.00pm	Handbell Ringing
Tue 24th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	7.30pm	Advent Course Session 1 at St Mary's
Wed 25th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
Fri 27th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun 29th	**10.30am**	**Advent Sunday Eucharist at the Parish Church**
	6.30pm	**Advent Carol Service at St Mary's**
Mon 30th	9.30am	Walking for Health Group
	4.00pm	Handbell Ringing

THE BRANCH CHURCH
HUMPHREY PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1ST
10.30am Morning Worship

Brownies 6.00pm Every Tuesday
Term Time only
Meeting in the Parish Hall
Contact Samantha
5urmstonbrownies@gmail.com

Advent Course 2026 - Journey to the Manger

This year's Advent Course starts on Tuesday 24th November at 7.30pm at St. Mary's. The course is called 'Journey to the Manger: Exploring the Birth of Jesus'. There will be lots of opportunities to explore Bible passages together, learn, share, and pray as we make our way towards Christmas.

Based on a book by Paula Gooder, the sessions reflect on the profound truth of Christmas.
As Paula Gooder writes, the birth of Jesus is "about the mind-blowing, brain-boggling truth that the God who shaped the universe into existence was prepared to be born as a tiny, vulnerable baby."

All are welcome to come along as we journey together!

