

Church Magazine

News from the Shirwell Mission Community

November 2026



Shirwell Mission Community

www.shirwellmissioncommunity.org.uk

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NEXT MONTH'S MAGAZINE

Articles for inclusion in next month's magazine to be sent to Terry no later than **Thursday 19 November** please.





Ramblings

We do a lot of remembering in November.

The 1st is All Saints Day (or All Hallows), when we remember the best of those who have journeyed this life before us, followed by All Souls Day on the 2nd to remember everyone else who wasn't holy (hallowed) enough to earn the title of 'Saint'. We no longer hold the distinction between the Saints and the Souls, and just wrap all our remembrance of the departed up into one event at our Remembering Service on whichever Sunday is closest. The night before All Hallows is Hallow's-eve, or Halloween – now a secular festival that consumes all of October into pumpkins and cobwebs.

Later we have another secular festival of Bonfire Night on the 5th, or Fireworks night, or Guy Fawkes' Night, although this too has religious roots. After Henry VIII separated the Church of England from Rome, Roman Catholics struggled in society, later being imprisoned or executed for not swearing allegiance to the monarch as the head of the Church. Thus in 1605 a group of mistreated Catholics attempted to blow up the Houses of Parliament and King James I. The Gunpowder Plot was discovered and the conspirators executed, including Guido Fawkes, who was in charge of the explosives. In 1606, to celebrate the failure of the plot, Parliament passed a new law: "An Act for a Public Thanksgiving to Almighty God every Year on the Fifth Day of November". The act demanded annual church services and the lighting of bonfires, a tradition that continues 421 years later, but with more drones and less church.

Then we get to Armistice Day on the 11th when we remember that we must never forget the tragic loss of life in the Great War. Ironically, the two-minute silence was moved to the nearest Sunday in 1939, in order to not interfere with wartime production should the 11th fall on a weekday. This became Remembrance Sunday, and now commemorates the contribution of military and civilian service personnel in the two World Wars and later conflicts.

We *do* things to remember. We light candles. We lay flowers. We ooh and ahh at fireworks and burn a guy on the bonfire. We hold silence. There's something important to humanity about remembering together in action, not just in words or belief. While we can remember alone, we teach our stories to the next generation by *doing* something *together*.

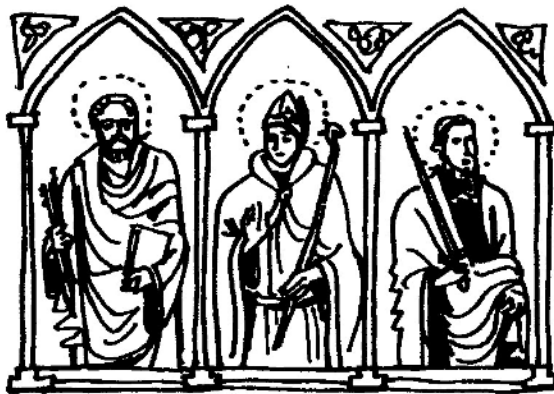
God knows this. Indeed, he made us to need community and action. When Jesus was facing his own death he didn't explain what it was all about, but he gave his followers a meal and told them to 'do this in remembrance of me'.

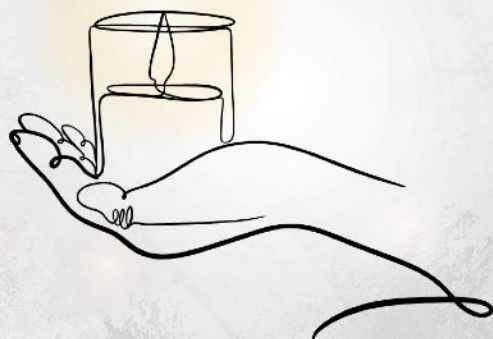
The first thing we know about the early Christians is that they ate together. They set aside class, gender and wealth to gather around a table to celebrate the day the whole world changed. We still do it, 2000 years later, in a meal we tend to call Holy Communion. We take bread, thank God, break it and share it. At some point someone always says 'remember': Remember how God became one of us?

Remember how God ate with us, laughed with us and cried with us? Remember how God suffered for us, and died for us, and gave his life for the life of the world?

November seems to be the season for remembering. And while we no longer offer a celebration of the Church of England overcoming the Roman Catholics on the 5th of November, you are welcome to join us for Remembering on the 1st, Remembrance on the 8th, or a Holy Communion on any Sunday.

Katie





REMEMBERING SERVICE

*a short service
to remember loved ones*

3pm Sunday 1st November

*St Peter's Bratton Fleming
all welcome, please join us for tea and cake after*

November Monthly Reflection

Dear brothers & sisters in Christ,

Our church year is drawing to a close; as one year is ending, we are looking forward to the beginning of a new. My heart rejoices as drizzle dampens my coat (but certainly not my spirits) and darkness falls in the early evening. In the midst of the darkness of this world, it is the light of Christ that wants to lead us and Christ's call beckons us to follow.

Christ calls us and he sends us – the first is inseparable from the second. According to Matthew's Gospel, the risen Christ's final (the 'great') commission makes this clear: "go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Bishop Mike, in his latest Ad Clerum, reminds us that the new church year (Advent 2026 – November 2027) is the year of Missional DNA. He writes: "it means being caught up in the love of God for the world He sent his Son to bring home to Himself – whether as individuals or as churches - and that means being caught up in the life and work of Jesus in the power of His Spirit, 24/7."

We cannot separate our faith in Jesus Christ and our worship from our daily lives as followers of Christ. The world we live in is full of challenges, darkness seems to push out light, hopelessness and pain can test our beliefs. Our calling is to proclaim the Good News of Christ, to preach, to live and to bear witness to our Lord and Saviour.

Christ calls us and he sends us into the reality of this world.

My own personal faith and calling has been deeply influenced by the German pastor, and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who writes in his book *The Cost of Discipleship*: "if our Christianity has ceased to be serious about discipleship, if we have watered down the gospel into emotional uplift which makes no costly demands and which fails to distinguish between natural and Christian existence, then we cannot help regarding the cross as an ordinary everyday calamity, as one of the trials and tribulations of life. We have then forgotten that the cross means rejection and shame as well as suffering."

When we commit ourselves to Christ, we are not promised an easy life, a life without challenge and free of pain. We are, however, promised that Christ will be with us always, to the end of the age. The promise of the risen Christ is our light, our hope and brings a peace which this world cannot bring.

Christ calls us and he sends us. So, let us go out and shine as a light in the world by the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ - to the glory of God.

The Archdeacon of Barnstaple, the Venerable Verena Breed

Bishop of Exeter Speaks of ‘Siren Call’ of AI

The Bishop of Exeter has spoken about the ‘siren call’ of AI in his recent Presidential Address to the Exeter Diocesan Synod.

The Rt. Rev’d Dr Mike Harrison drew comparisons between the lure of artificial intelligence and the sirens of Greek mythology depicted in the recent film version of *The Odyssey*, based on Homer’s epic poem.

Bishop Mike joined fellow bishops doing a deep dive into AI at the recent meeting of the College of Bishops

Bishop Mike said “Odysseus has to sail past the island inhabited by the sirens, whose beautiful music had so enraptured many sailors before him that they jumped overboard in pursuit of the source of this intoxicating sound, ending up prisoners and eventually dying. It is in some ways a metaphor for addiction, and indeed a warning about the idolatry of desire.”

He spoke about the recent meeting of the Church of England’s College of Bishops, which did a deep dive into different aspects of AI: “We were discussing AI and how its alluring, siren calls of efficiency, speed and ease masked deeper more problematic questions of control by elites, manipulation of truth and apocalyptic possibilities,” he commented.

The bishop also said that while he concluded that AI represents ‘pattern recognition on a significant scale’ rather than ‘thinking beings’, there were important pastoral considerations such as people using AI to recreate conversation with a deceased person, utilising AI for spiritual discernment or confession to an AI conversation partner.

Far-reaching consequences

Bishop Mike said “The positives of AI are far-reaching; it can save time on summarising and drafting documents, provide quick answers to 1001 questions, provide specialised support for healthcare clinicians, the legal profession, scientists etc. But some of the negatives are far-reaching too. The potential loss of jobs, the environmental impact of huge data centres, plagiarism and with it a growing inability of learning to think as we allow AI to do it for us, the concentration of power and wealth in a very small elite controlling the AI industry, lack of access for the poor and thus increased socioeconomic inequalities.”

He reflected that there was no “putting the AI genie back in the tech lamp” and said “One thing is for sure, the Church needs to be appraised of the pros and cons of AI and be aware that what we offer in face-to-face human relationships, building and serving local community, centred on the person and way of Jesus Christ is a completely distinct and timely gift in an era such as this.

“If we regard AI as music, how is it that instead of being utilised by the sirens in ways which entrap, imprison and corrode humanity, a more beautiful song is played which serves, equips and enables?”

The Diocese of Exeter is working to produce some simple AI principles and guidance to help navigate the new world of AI from a practical, ethical and theological viewpoint. The aim is to publish these by Christmas.

Read the [AI Guidelines for Christian Ministry](#) which have been published by the AI Christian Partnership.

[Read the Bishop of Exeter’s speech in full.](#)



Bratton Fleming



with

Stoke Rivers News



www.shirwellmissioncommunity.org.uk/churches/bratton-fleming

www.shirwellmissioncommunity.orh.uk/churches/stoke-rivers

Time seems to march on relentlessly, the last of the Harvest Festivals have been held. When typing this, the first named storm of the winter is winding up somewhere in the Atlantic and due to make landfall before the weekend.

Many of you were at Bishops Nympton Church on 29 Sept. for the licensing of Rev. Rosie to her new appointment, where both she and Adam received a very warm welcome and we trust they will be well supported by the new community. Both Churches received thank you cards from them for the love and support they had received during their time with us. May God richly bless them in the new appointment.

The 8 Churches of the Shirwell Mission Community took the first step toward finding a new Rector. We were very pleased to learn this will be a full-time post. The Archdeacon of Barnstaple in conjunction with Rev. Katie called a 'Vision Meeting' for

19 October at Kentisbury Village Hall. It proved to be a very useful first step in assessing the qualities and priorities, people present, wished to see in the new incumbent. Over the next few months, the Churches will prepare more detailed statements before the post is advertised.

Bratton Fleming Primary School held their Harvest Service at St Peter's on 9 Oct. Rev. Katie did the introduction and talk, and the children presented a well-rehearsed programme with all classes taking part.

A big thank you to the children and teachers. With more adults than children in attendance, the church was comfortably full!!

Open the Book Team have been going into school every two weeks and to say some of the stories have presented challenges is an understatement!

Breakfast church on the fourth Sunday of the month is well supported.

Stoke Rivers church held their Harvest festival on 11th. Oct. when Rev. Ann Lewis led a reflective service with members of the community taking part. This was followed by a Harvest Supper and Auction in the Village Hall.

Diary Dates: *(Sunday Services as on back page)*

Sunday 1st. Nov. 3p.m.
Remembering Service led by Jenni Coats

Sunday 8th. Nov. 10.50 a.m.
Remembrance Service at the War Memorial led by Jenni Coats and Peter Ayrton. Tea / coffee available in Wesley Suite before and after.

Saturday 28th. Nov. 7p.m.
Exmoor Carolers Concert at St Peter's.

Refreshments with retiring collection: 50% in aid of N.D. Hospice; & 25% each to Bratton Fleming and Stoke Rivers Churches. Do join us for the Carolers first concert of the 2026 season.

Finally, it was with sadness, but quite understandable, we read the news Terry will give up producing the Church magazine at the end of the year. During his time as editor the sum of hours spent, finding articles and formatting the magazine must total months if not years. We have all appreciated being kept informed about what we are meant to be doing.



The vicar's alternative to traditional after-service coffee was having a dramatic effect on male church attendance

THE EXMOOR CAROLERS



St. Peter's Church Bratton Fleming

Saturday 28th November at 7pm

*Interval refreshments
Retiring Collection*

Join with us singing songs of
Exmoor and beyond to welcome
the true spirit of Christmas



Bratton Fleming
CHRISTMAS
TREE FESTIVAL

Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th
December

St Peter's Church
2 - 7pm

All Welcome

Free entry, refreshments
and children's activities.

Donations to charity.

East Down

with

Arlington News



www.shirwellmissioncommunity.org.uk/churches/arlington
www.shirwellmissioncommunity.org.uk/churches/east-down

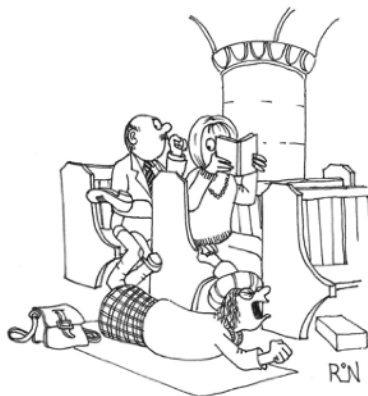
We had a lovely Harvest Festival service led by Revd Katie on 27 September at 5pm. Thank you to Julia for playing the organ for us, makes such a difference to our singing. Also thanks to everyone who helped decorate and clean the church and provided vegetables which were given to the North Devon Womens Refuge who are always very pleased to receive them.

The supper after was well supported and enjoyed. Thank you to Charlie and

all those who donated food for the lovely supper.

The following Thursday we held a coffee morning in aid of the church at East Down Village Hall. Thank you to everyone who came and supported it and gave raffle prizes.

The next service will be the Carol service on 21st December at 6.30pm followed by mince pies, tea and coffee. All very welcome to come and enjoy the carols just before Christmas.



Somebody sat in Minnie Hyssop's pew

Loxhore News



www.shirwellmissioncommunity.org.uk/churches/loxhore

Harvest Festival Update - went to the Freedom Centre, not as stated in last month's magazine.



Christmas Door Wreath Evening

Friday 27th November 2026

At Loxhore Village Hall starting at 7pm

Glass of bubbly and cake.

Tickets £20

All proceeds are going to St. Michael and All Angels Church toilet fund.

Contact Nicky
07867128737

Shirwell News



www.shirwellmissioncommunity.org.uk/churches/shirwell

Recent News

Since submission for our last magazine Rev Verena Breed, our Archdeacon, led our service on September 27. One positive aspect of the interregnum is we are seeing more of her.

We pray for Katie and Hazel and Mark, our church wardens during this busier time of the interregnum. A Vision meeting to discuss the process for appointing the new member of clergy was held at Kentisbury village hall on Monday 19 October, ably led by our Archdeacon Verena Breed. She asked all parishioners attending to prioritise aspects of the new vicar's role, as we saw them. It was good to meet with members from all churches within the Mission Community. We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide all concerned with the appointment process, including candidates.

Our harvest festival service was held on Sunday evening October 4. We

were pleased to welcome Rev Peter Churcher who led our thanksgiving. The choir sang "All creatures of our God and King". The church was beautifully decorated with fruit, veg. and flowers. Everyone enjoyed a get together over the bring and share supper afterwards. Many thanks to all involved in any way.

Rev Katie is leading a harvest service for the school children today, the 22 October in the Church.

We have been blessed with a variety of music during services this month: the bells being rung for the harvest service, Julia playing the organ, and Harvey playing his guitar.

The re-plastering of the chancel wall has been completed and looks good. We received a grant of £1000 towards the work from the Archdeacon's fund.

November

Our Remembrance Day service will be held on Sunday 8 November. We are always grateful to Brian (Barrow) for his work researching details of those in the parish who lost their lives in the World Wars, and for preparing the poppy memorials for them.

Please see the last page of the magazine for details of all other services this month. Everyone is very welcome.

There will be a coffee morning in the Church on Saturday 14 November for the work of the charity Tearfund in third world countries. This will be from 10 until 12. Please do come along. (See poster).

The soup lunch this month will be on Wednesday 18 November at 12.45 for 1 o'clock. Anyone over 50 from the village or who attends Shirwell church is welcome. Please phone Sue on 01271 850447 to book your meal by Friday November 13th to help catering plans. Thankyou.

LOOKING AHEAD: ADVENT and CHRISTMAS

Our Carol Service will be on Sunday December 20 at 6.30pm
The Christmas Day Family Communion service will be at 9.30am.
The Team Christmas service will be on Sunday December 27 at Bratton Fleming at 11 o'clock.

Tearfund Coffee Morning

Shirwell Church

**Saturday November 14th
10-12 noon**

Do come along!

Other News

1st November – All Saints' Day, the feast day of all the redeemed

All Saints, or All Hallows, is the feast of all the redeemed, known and unknown, who are now in heaven.

When the English Reformation took place, the number of saints in the calendar was drastically reduced, with the result that All Saints' Day stood out with a prominence that it had never had before.

This feast day first began in the East, perhaps as early as the 5th century, as commemorating 'the martyrs of the whole world'. A Northern English 9th century calendar named All Hallows as a principal feast, and such it has remained. Down the centuries devotional writers have seen in it the fulfilment of Pentecost and indeed of Christ's redemptive sacrifice and resurrection.

The saints do not belong to any religious tradition, and their lives and witness to Christ can be appreciated by all Christians. Richard Baxter,

writing in the 17th century, wrote the following:

He wants not friends that hath thy love,
And made converse and walk with thee,
And with thy saints here and above,
With whom for ever I must be...

As for my friends, they are not lost;
The several vessels of thy fleet,
Though parted now, by tempests tost,
Shall safely in thy haven meet....

The heavenly hosts, world without end,
Shall be my company above;
And thou, my best and surest Friend,
Who shall divide me from thy love?*

1,255 ancient English churches were dedicated to All Saints - a number only surpassed by those dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

**(Maurice Frost (ed.), Historical Companion to Hymns Ancient and Modern (London: Clowes, 1962), no. 274, verses 1,3,6.*

8th November – The poppies of Remembrance Sunday

In late 1914, WWI erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

We all know that these endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such misery and destruction, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

And it was McCrae's poem which inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She got it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States, and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK.

A French woman, Anna Guérin who was in the UK in 1921, caught the same vision, and planned to sell the poppies in London. There she met Earl Haig, the founder of the Royal British Legion, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as its emblem in the UK.

The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. Ever since then, the red poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance, of support for the Armed Forces community, and also of hope for a peaceful future.



Are vicars slowly disappearing?

There are certainly some worrying statistics out there. Such as:

There are 8,368 retired priests holding permission to officiate. But there are only 6,682 clergy in paid (stipendiary) positions, and 2,440 in self-supporting, unpaid roles.

Nearly half of the current 6,682 paid priests are aged over 55. They all retire at 70.

But numbers of new entrants in training dropped from 591 in 2020 to 442 by 2025.

Where is this all headed? Worse case, by 2033, there could be only 5,400 full-time priests. That is 40 per cent of what the number was in 2000.

These sobering predictions come in a recent report by the campaign group Save the Parish. It argues that the decline has left the C of E at real risk of no longer being “a Christian presence in every community.”

So, Save the Parish is calling on the C of E to “commit to a model that will support a young person in stipendiary ministry for their lifetime.” It does not want a reduction in full-time paid clerical positions to save money, and it wants to lift the retirement age of 70.

Also, the report says that the Church should measure ministers’ success on the “numbers of lives touched, funeral by funeral, cup of tea by cup of tea”.

Could a cemetery – or churchyard – surprise you?

By the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the C of E.

A while back, I found a strange connection between the cemetery, opposite the church where I minister, and my hometown.

I discovered that a former head curator of the world-renowned Kew Gardens in west London was buried in the cemetery – and that one of his lasting achievements was to plant a line of trees along the gardens' Thames embankment.

Why? To hide unsightly views of industrial Brentford – where I was brought up – from visitors to the gardens.

Back then, Brentford was the site of one of London's largest gas production plants and its pungent smell drifted across the area. I was christened in a church that nestled among the gasworks.

Today, Brentford is a thriving west London suburb that even boasts a Premier League football team.

Cemeteries and churchyards can be places of encounter and surprise. Places too that speak of history, of community, of nature and of the spiritual.

My local municipal cemetery has graves dating from the 1880s, including more than 200 war graves and a memorial, built after the First World War. Walking among the numerous graves, you can see

reminders of people who lived lives very different to our own.

Well-known people buried there include Samuel Ryder, who founded golf's Ryder Cup, and was a prominent local churchman.

The cemetery, like all cemeteries, also speaks of the breadth of the local community, with people of different nationalities and faiths buried within its grounds.

Humour sometimes features on the inscriptions. One of my favourite gravestones reads, "I can only please one person a day – today is not your day. Tomorrow doesn't look good either!"

The cemetery is a green oasis in a busy urban suburb. Take just a few steps away from the busy road, and you are in a nature reserve, with many birds, trees and plants, plus squirrels and other animals.

And, of course, the cemetery is a spiritual place, where many people go to remember their loved ones, perhaps to pray and reflect. Early morning in the cemetery is always a special time for me, where I can feel close to God.

If you are looking for somewhere to experience history, community, nature and the spiritual, then consider paying a visit to a cemetery or churchyard near you. It may just surprise you.

What's the Big Idea? – an introduction to 1 Timothy

Canon Paul Hardingham continues his series on the books of the Bible.

This month we look again at the books of the New Testament. Paul wrote to Timothy, *'my true son in the faith'* (2), as leader of the church in Ephesus. Timothy had a Greek father and Jewish Christian mother (Acts 16:1). Paul led him to faith during his first visit to Lystra and on his second visit invited Timothy to join him on his travels. He circumcised Timothy so that his Greek ancestry would not be a liability to working with the Jews (Acts 16:3). Although somewhat timid and often unwell, Timothy was a faithful servant of the Lord and Paul.

Paul writes his letter to challenge false teaching and to give instruction on aspects of church life, including worship, the appointment of leaders, and their attitude to money.

Paul gave Timothy authorisation to challenge the false teachers in the

church. They taught a strong emphasis on Jewish myths and genealogies and were legalistic about Jewish laws. They also taught that the resurrection had already come and Christians no longer needed to look to Christ's coming, judgment, and resurrection of the dead. They were so immersed in speculative controversies that they neglected the very core of the Christian faith. Not an unfamiliar situation today!

Therefore, like Timothy, we are called to enable the church to bring glory to God: *'But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.'* (6:11,12)



...I haven't the heart to tell her the bishop went home 20minutes ago!

22nd November – the excitement of the Sunday of Christ the King

The last Sunday in November is the last Sunday of the church year, and in some ways the most important. Why? Because everything else in the Christian year looks BACK on what happened 2000 years ago. The Sunday of Christ the King looks FORWARD to what we can expect next.... the return one day of Jesus Christ to this earth, as King of Kings.

Does the idea of Jesus of Nazareth literally returning to earth seem a bit quaint to accept, in our computerised world of e-mails and the internet? Well, that is what the Bible says will happen – *it is promised more than 250 times!*

The Bible is quite clear: the return of the Lord Jesus Christ as King of Kings will take place personally, powerfully, bodily, visibly, publicly – and INSTANTLY. (Read Matthew 24:30,31, or I Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:3.) Here are words of Jesus Himself:

For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other. (Luke 17:24)

This will be no local story for a BBC TV reporter to cover if he gets time. That day he won't be interviewing the Carpenter of Nazareth, wearing

Galilean homespun. Jesus will be in His incandescent brilliance as the 'Son of Man' – a bit of a challenge even for TV reporters! Certainly when Peter, James and John were witness to their familiar Master 'transfigured', as the same irradiated Person – in a dramatic preview of Christ's triumphant final rule (Luke 9:28-36), they did not feel very confident.

The martyred Stephen, about to die, had a similar glimpse: "Behold I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God" (Acts 7:56). The exiled apostle John on the island of Patmos saw the same figure: '...His face was like the sun shining in full strength' (Revelation 1:16.)

When Christ one day returns, the whole world will finally witness this same spectacle (Revelation 1:7). His return will mark the end of history, as we know it. It will inaugurate the final Judgment. It will re-unite the Lord with His Church on earth.

Jesus' return to us will bring about the new heaven and the new earth. Pain, death, persecution, privation and sorrow will all be banished. The entire edifice of evil that has raised itself against the rule of God will be dismantled in a moment.

We have been warned all along not to place a date or a time upon the Second Coming of Christ. (Matthew 24:42-44) Sadly, many people ignore this warning and waste endless time in calculations. The way in which we should be spending our days before the end is to work, watch and witness to our Lord Jesus – whether or not ours is a world of computers, e-mail and all the rest!

In the meantime, where is Jesus now? The Bible writers tell us that Jesus

has returned to the place of privilege and power, and is ‘seated at the right hand’ of the Father (Ephesians 1:20-21; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3), and is waiting for the Father’s timing for Him to return to earth in glory (Mark 13:26-27,32), to raise the dead (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18), and give them their resurrection bodies (1 Corinthians 15:35-44).

Jesus will never be a baby again. He is now Christ the King – today, tomorrow, forever.

Remembrance Sunday 2026

This year the national service for Remembrance will be held on 8th November, and include the annual march past involving up to 10,000 veterans and eligible participants. It will be followed by formal two-minute silence on Wednesday, 11th November.

This year Remembrance marks several significant milestones:

The 110th anniversary of the 1916 Battles of the Somme and Jutland, as well as the introduction of wartime conscription.

The 70th anniversary since the Suez Crisis of 1956.

The 25th anniversary since UK armed forces first entered Afghanistan, following the 2001 deployments.

The gardener and the Vine



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS ALL
ABOUT A GARDENER.

THE GARDENER'S JOB WAS
TO CARE FOR THE VINES



HE WOULD LOOK AT EACH
BRANCH CAREFULLY..

... AND IF IT WAS PRODUCING
GOOD FRUIT, HE WOULD CARE
FOR IT AND NOURISH IT.



IF IT WAS PRODUCING BAD
FRUIT...

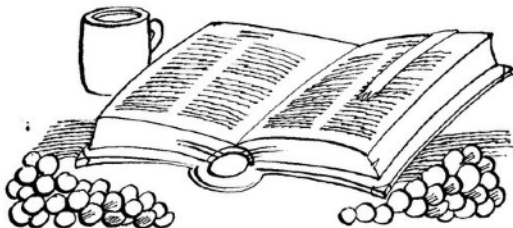


...OR NO FRUIT AT
ALL...



...THEN THE GARDENER WOULD
CHOP IT OFF, AND BURN IT IN
THE FIRE!!

JESUS WANTED HIS FRIENDS TO SHARE
THE GOOD NEWS - THAT'S LIKE THE
VINE BEARING GOOD FRUIT.



YOU CAN READ THIS SPECIAL PARABLE IN JOHN'S
GOSPEL, CHAPTER 15.

The Gentle King

Christ the King – His gentle grace
Will not be found in halls of stone.
But in the still and quiet place
Where prayers are gathered, pleas made known.

His mighty hand holds sword nor spear,
No weapons fly at His command;
But earthly empires disappear
Crushed by faithful, prayerful hands.

No crown of gold – His royal brow
Bore only crown of braided thorn;
Yet ev'ry knee to Him will bow
Every person ever born.

We come before our Sovereign King
We gaze upon His shining face.
How loud our Alleluias ring!
We're saved by His amazing grace!

By Nigel Beeton

Bishops urged to fight to protect 'human dignity' amid AI development race

Churches and faith groups are uniquely placed to challenge Artificial Intelligence companies on the ethics of the technology's development, Church of England bishops have heard.

Much of their recent annual four-day residential meeting of the College of Bishops was given over to exploring the subject of 'Christian Wisdom and Artificial Intelligence'. Bishops heard from and spoke to academics from Oxford, Cambridge and Durham Universities, as well as experts working in the fields of legislation, AI research and development.

Baroness Kidron, crossbench Peer and advisor to the Institute for Ethics in AI at Oxford University, stressed the need to publicly discuss the ethics of AI, noting the questions are not just technological but go to the heart of the value of human work and creation.

The bishops discussed how the Church of England can help create space for considered debate on something that is beginning to shape childhood, education, politics and public life.

The College heard about AI's specific impact on young people, with many unclear about where their futures lay in an AI dominated workplace.

Lady Kidron spoke of the positive benefits of emerging technologies but also questioned the business model that is designing some AI products.

"AI development is not a zero-sum game between turning our back on tech that can be harnessed for social good and a race to develop more and more powerful models," she said.

Speakers continually returned to the themes of oversight and decision making, noting that much of scientific research and development was previously undertaken in public institutions with ethical oversight but now happened in private companies. They encouraged Bishops to think about how we can ensure AI develops to solve the problems we need to solve, rather than developing the technology first and then seeing what it can do.

Professor Gina Neff of the Mindereroo Centre for Technology and Democracy at Cambridge urged the Church to address how "AI is being built to feel Godlike to millions of people: always listening, always affirming, seemingly all knowing."

"This is arriving just as trust in our institutions is thinning and people's sense of security in who they are, what they do and what is true is under strain. The Church is one of the last institutions with the standing to

Rotas

Date:	Nov 1	Nov 8	Nov 15	Nov 22	Nov 29	Dec 6
BRATTON FLEMING						
Sidespeople	Maria	Barbara	Lynne			Maria
Flowers	Pam	Pam	Lynne	Lynne	Alissa	Alissa
Readers	Roger & Barbara	Roy & Lynne	Pam & Barbara			Barbara & Roger
Intercessions	Steve	Vas	Roy			Alissa
CHALLACOMBE						
Sidespeople		Hugh		Mary		
Readers		Roy & Carole		Hugh & Daniel		
SHIRWELL						
Sidespeople	Mark	David F	Hazel	Sue F		
Readers	Harvey & Charles	June & Mark	Averil & Charles	Nadine & Mark		
Flowers	Sue	Sue	Eva	Eva	Lorna	
Coffee	June & Ann	Charles & Julia	Sue & David	Averil & Marian		
Cleaning	Ann & Daniella	Mary & Marian	Averil & Linda	Julia & Mary Mc	Ann & Daniella	

And Finally . . . **Story**

It was Dad's turn to read young Jamie a bedtime story. After 20 minutes, Mum called up the stairs, "Is he asleep?"

Young Jamie called softly back, "Yes, finally."

November 2026

Services in the Shirwell Mission Community

Date	Place	Time	Service type	Readings Year A
1 st All Saints White	Shirwell	9.30am	Lay led Morning Worship	Rev 7:9-17 Matt 5:1-15
	Bratton Fleming	9.30am	Holy Communion	Ps 34:1-10
	Loxhore	11.15am	Holy Communion	
	Bratton Fleming	3pm	Remembering Service	
8 th Remembr ance Red	East Down	All Day	Poppy Display in church	
	Shirwell	9.30am	Holy Communion with Act of Remembrance	Amos 5:18-24 Matt 25:1-13
	Bratton Fleming	9.30am	Morning Worship	Ps 70
		10.50	Followed by Act of Remembrance at War Memorial	
	Challacombe	10.50	Holy Communion	
	Loxhore	10.50	Service with Act of Remembrance	
15 th 2 nd before Advent Red	Shirwell	9.30am	Morning Worship	1 Thes 5:1-11 Matt 25:14-30
	Bratton Fleming	9.30am	Methodist Communion	Ps 90:1-8, 12
	Kentisbury	11.15am	Holy Communion	
22 nd Christ the King Last before Advent Red	Shirwell	9.30am	Holy Communion	Eph 1:15-23 Matt 25:31-46
	Bratton Fleming	10.45 for 11.15am	Breakfast Church	Ps 95:1-7
	Challacombe	3pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	
29 th Advent 1 Year B Purple	Loxhore	11am	Mission Community Holy Communion Service – where all the churches worship together	1 Cor 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37 Ps 80:1-8, 18-20

All services Common Worship unless indicated BCP. BCP is a more traditional liturgy, with language from 1662.

