St Cuthbert's Parish Church Amble

Parish News

November 2026 Issue #2

Digital version + Large Print

Rachael's Ramblings



This month finds me at the crematorium at Bockingfield. This photo was taken before a funeral recently. It might seem odd but I do like coming out here. The site is peaceful, the drive over is lovely and the sight of goats as you make your way up the drive makes me smile.

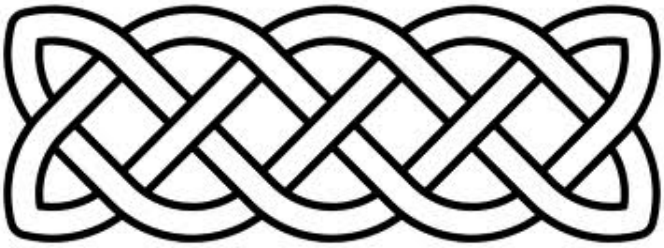
November starts with All Souls and then Remembrance Sunday, focusing on loss, bereavement and grieving. I am of the opinion that it is good to name these feelings, to be honest with ourselves and those around us. We will all experience the death of someone close to us one day. It is never plain sailing, even when the end means no more pain for the one we care for, because we may carry sadness or even anger at a life cut short. The more funerals I take the more I see that it is the little things in someone's life that often have the largest impact.

The simple pleasures enjoyed together leave deep memories. Another observation is that when a loved one has made it clear about their wishes for end of life care and funeral arrangements, the family are left in no doubt that what they are doing is right. It is a way of showing care for those left to mourn.

We have caring funeral directors in Amble and I am always happy to sit with anyone who wants to talk things over or put plans in place.

In the midst of grief or despair I cling on to Jesus' words of comfort from Matthew 28:20 "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Revd Rachael



Light a Candle

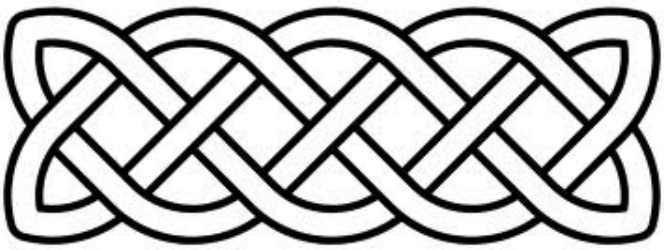
Our Celtic Christian ancestors thought that at this time of the year the veil between heaven and earth was partly drawn aside. So after all the fuss of ‘Halloween’ the church offers the opportunity to come together in a quiet, reflective service and to light a candle in remembrance of our loved ones. So you are invited to a service for ‘The Commemoration of All Souls’ on Sunday 1 November at 6pm in Church. All are welcome



Bereavement Drop-in

Have you recently lost a loved one? Are you finding it hard to find a safe and welcoming place just to chat over a cup of tea and a biscuit (or two) with others in the same situation? If so you might be interested in a ‘Bereavement Drop in’ at Church on every third Tuesday at 2.30 pm? Or you might know someone who you could bring along.

Please note that this is not a professional counselling service, just the opportunity for a chat amongst friends.



From our Mayor



Remembrance Sunday is one of the main events in our civic calendar and it befalls on the Town Council to organise arrangements for the service.

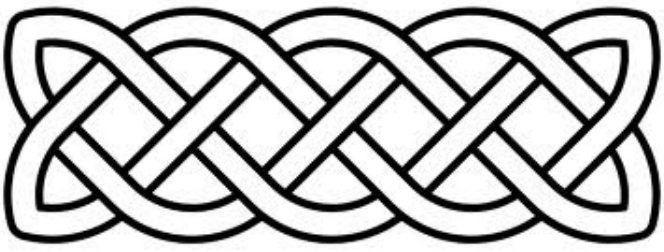
It is an opportunity for residents and local organisations to honour the sacrifice made by those in conflict, to remember and reflect on how best to carry forward the legacy of those that paid the ultimate price in defence of freedom & democracy.

As Remembrance Sunday draws near this year, I would urge you to reflect on how these lofty themes present themselves in our daily lives. If you attend church at St. Cuthbert's for example, reflect on how not all people on this earth have the right to practice religion freely and safely in their communities. Perhaps you voted in the recent by-election? Again, the freedom to participate in a democratic election is not a freedom that all people on this earth enjoy.

For me, this is the meaning of remembrance. It is a quiet recognition that the freedoms we enjoy, right down to the very local level here in our Town, were given to us because ordinary people, people that might have been our family, friends or neighbours, paid the ultimate price in defence of them.

It is the recognition that it is incumbent upon each of us to continue to do our small part in honouring this sacrifice everyday, by participating and by striving to keep this freedom alive.

Cllr. Luke McTaggart, Chair of Amble Town Council and Mayor of Amble.



On Remembering

With Mack Hetherington

Churchwarden Emeritus



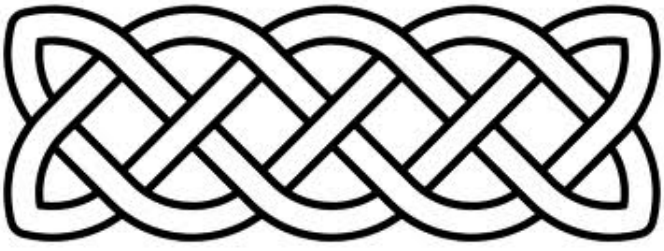
Rev. Rachael writes: “Interviewing Mack in the family home there are photos on the walls and in large albums easily at hand. A home that is full of memories and, as Mack said, “We all have memories, some good and some bad.” Mack’s early life was lived in the shadow of family sadness and the affects of parental PTSD from WWII.

At 12 he joined the ATC and at 15 and a half he joined the RAF. A great decision that resulted in many years of training, service and employment. He became a radio technician, was given training that developed his technological ability massively, and worked in many different places in the world. Great memories were made and he loved his work, both far and near.

A well respected man now but in his younger days, well. A young Audrey, when he first tried to get her on a date, refused him three times… because he was too wild. She had seen the dancing on tables! After time overseas and hard work he returned and tried again, this time with success. At one point he told Audrey he was off to Belize for two months, only to find on his arrival it was a six month posting!

When he returned they got engaged and married because she was the love of his life. Family was very important and the tragedy of their first child being stillborn hit hard, but the kindness of many helped. Their twins came along later and completed their lives. They were committed to guiding their children and bringing them up in the Christian faith, their way.

Mack's children and extended family are his pride and joy and they recently welcomed a new great-grandson to the fold. The death of Audrey in 2021 left a huge hole but the memories are a great comfort until they meet again."



Church Life

Creating Soul Space.



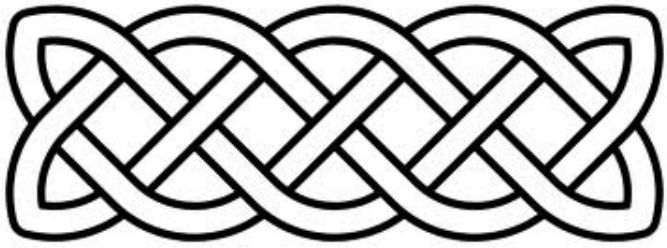
Craft sessions start with instructions and examples then there's guided relaxation. We use watercolour paints, crayons and felt pens or collage papers and glue to create to a background of music.

After about 45 minutes we have a drink and chat. It's amazing how we all create something different - our individuality shines through.

New members are made to feel welcome and are assured that NO ARTISTIC TALENT IS NEEDED – just a willingness to have a go, let go of perfectionism, and have some fun!

Sessions are held on the first and third Wednesday each month, starting at 10.30am and ending at about noon. There is no charge.

Contact Rev'd Liz Jones on 07818424809 for more information – or just turn up!



Services and events in November

ALL SERVICES AND EVENTS IN CHURCH
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED

Sunday 1 November

10.30 am Parish Communion.
6.00 pm All Souls' Service *

Wednesday 4 November
10.30 am Creating soul space

Thursday 5 November
11.00 am Julian Meeting

Saturday 7 November
10.00 am Coffee Morning

Sunday 8 November

10.00 am Communion for Remembrance Sunday
3.30 pm Cafe Church *(The Helm)*

Wednesday 11 November
9.30 am Said Communion
10.30 am Mothers' Union

Sunday 15 November
10.30 am Parish Communion.
4.00 pm Take Time to meditate

Tuesday 17 November
2.30 pm Bereavement Group

Wednesday 18 November
10.30 am Creating soul space

Saturday 21 November
11.00 am Christmas Fayre (*Parish Hall)*

Sunday 22 November
10.30 am Parish Communion.

Sunday 29 November
ADVENT SUNDAY
10.00 am Joint Communion at
St John's, Chevington.

MORNING PRAYER,
EVERY THURSDAY AT 8.00 AM.

DONT FORGET THIS MONTH

In Church

Sunday 1st at 6.00 pm
"All Souls" Service to remember our departed loved ones.

Sunday 8th at 10.00 am
Communion for Remembrance

Parish Hall (Dovecot Street)

Sunday 8th at 7.30 pm
Highlights - Standing in Line

Saturday 21st at 11.00 am - 1.00 pm
Christmas Fayre

Community

Sunday 22nd at 5.00 pm
Amble **Christmas Lights** and Parade

LOOKING FORWARD TO DECEMBER

Saturday 12th at 7.30 pm
Christmas Concert

Sunday 13th at 6.00 pm
Carol Service

Monday 21st at 6.00 pm
Longest Night Service

Thursday 24th Christmas Eve
4.00 pm Christingle
10.00 pm 'Bethlehem Midnight'
Communion

Christmas Day at 10.00 am
Christmas Communion

CONTACTS

Vicar

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