Reflections from the Ministry Team – November 2026

Dear Friends,

As I sit down to write this month's edition of Reflections from the Ministry Team, it's very sunny outside but there is a definite autumnal feel in the air. The darker nights are drawing in, and the 'C' word is being mentioned much more frequently than some of us would like.

If I had to pick a favourite Sunday celebration, it would have to be the last one of the church year, which is Christ the King. I love the whole pre-advent season with the dramatic build up from All Saints and All Souls to Christ the King at the end.

We begin with All Saints on the 1st of November. This is the day when we remember, not only those great biblical saints but also the ordinary people who did extraordinary things, especially those early saints who were willing to give their lives for Jesus and his message. Then All Souls on the 2nd of November when we remember all those who have died, especially praying for those people we knew and loved personally.

November is an important month for remembering in the life of our church. On Sunday 8th November at Boxford, Groton, Little Waldingfield and Newton we will remember those who lost their lives in 2 world wars and in conflicts since. It seems like a very poignant thing to do as we read of intense fighting in conflict zones in the Middle East and in Ukraine and Russia and other parts of our world. So many lives are being lost and often silence and reflection are the most appropriate responses and there is a strength to be gained from gathering together to remember.

For me the important thing is to go somewhere and stop for a few moments to reflect on all that is going on, all that people have done in the past to secure our freedom and to commit ourselves to doing all in our power to build a more peaceful future. It might be in our families, in our schools and workplaces, in our neighbourhoods and churches.

Wherever we build connections and relationships, are we seeking to be peace builders and bring hope to a world that is in desperate need? These are important questions for all of us to reflect upon.

I know for some in our community this first winter will be hard being the first without someone dear to them. We will be having an All-Souls Service' on Sunday 1st of November at 11:00pm at St Mary's Boxford. This will be an opportunity to pause and be in a safe space to express that deep sadness that inevitably we feel when someone is no longer physically present with us. We will also be reading out a list of names of those we love and have died. If you would like your loved one's name to be included, please let the Benefice Office know.

That’s what this season of pre-advent is, remembering the journey to Jesus Kingdom where we will join him, the saints and those we love who have died. Jesus has given us the promise of his Kingdom that is to come.

Blessings to you all.
Maggie