

United Parish@Home

Sunday Services



November 2025

**The United Parish of Chinnor, Sydenham,
Aston Rowant and Crowell**

The ministry team offer you these services, particularly if you find you are unable to attend church. Our prayer is that these services will help you still feel connected to, and loved by, your church family.

CONTENTS

November Services	page 3
November Events	page 4-5
Pastoral Letter	page 6-7
Sunday 2 nd November	page 8
Sunday 9 th November	page 14
Sunday 16 th November	page 21
Sunday 23 rd November	page 24
Sunday 30 th November	page 29
David “Skip” Barlett	page 35
<i>Memories shared</i>	

November	TIME	CHURCH	SERVICE	LED BY
Sunday 2nd November ALL SAINTS	8am	St Andrew's Chinnor	NO SERVICE	
	9am	Aston Rowant	Morning Prayer	Margaret
	10:30am	St Andrew's Chinnor	Holy Communion	Joan +Jacky
	4pm	St Andrew's Chinnor	Commemoration Service	ministry team
Sunday 9th November Remembrance	10:30am	Aston Rowant	Service of Remembrance	Tony
	10:45am	War Memorial Chinnor	Service of Remembrance Followed by service in church	Jacky
	10:45am	St Andrew's Chinnor	Service of Remembrance shorten service inside church	Margaret
	10:45am	Sydenham	Service of Remembrance (Gather on the Green)	Joan
	4pm	Crowell	Service of Remembrance	Jacky
Sunday 16th Nov TRINITY 22	9am	Aston Rowant	Morning Prayer	Tessa + Jo
	10:30am	St Andrew's Chinnor	Holy Communion	Jacky
	6pm	Sydenham	BCP Evensong	Margaret
Sunday 23rd Nov TRINITY 23	9am	Aston Rowant	Holy Communion	Tony
	10:30 am	St Andrew's, Chinnor	Holy Communion	Jacky
	4pm	Crowell	BCP Evening prayer with Holy Communion	Jacky
Sunday 30th Nov St Andrew's Day	10:30am	St Andrew's Chinnor	Confirmation Service With Holy Communion	Bishop Gavin

PRAYERS

*Prayer is God listening to the whispers of the World'.
This quote came from a child at St Andrew's School*

Please pray for: Bev Joan Brian Dorothy Claire Karen Lara Pete Baby Mollie Rose	Baptisms 23rd November Torben 7th December Monty Weddings No weddings this month	For those who mourn for: Luke Greatox
---	---	---



Commemoration Service

St Andrew's Church, Chinnor
Sunday 2nd November 2025
2pm



A beautiful traditional service to remember your loved one(s) with hymns, Bible readings and the lighting of a candle, as we read the names of loved ones.

Refreshments served after the service

Remembrance Services

Sunday 9th November



Please see page 3 for details



Prayer Vigil for Peace St Andrew's Chinnor

Weds 12th November

noon – 1pm

A time of quiet reflection and prayer.

If you are unable to attend and would like your prayer shared you can leave it at church or email

Tricia, office@unitedparish.church



Saturday 29th November

10am - Noon

St Andrew's Christmas Market And United Parish Gift Day

Donations will be received with gratitude and blessings,
And will be used for the upkeep of our precious churches.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE



St Andrew's Chinnor

30th November 2025

1030am



**Led by the Bishop of Dorchester
the Rt Rev'd Gavin Collins**

Do speak to Rev'd Jacky if you are thinking about confirmation.

Pastoral Letter

Jacky writes:

Earlier this year I found myself unwell with a double ear infection. It left me unable to hear properly for some days which was a very strange and unsettling experience. What surprised me, though, was that while much of the everyday sound around me was dulled or missing, one thing came through with startling clarity: birdsong. This was a rather beautiful and unexpected “silver lining” of a mostly miserable couple of weeks. Listening to my garden’s resident blackbird singing his heart out was truly lovely.

That experience set me thinking about the importance of listening. We live in a very noisy world. The soundtrack of our lives is made up of many layers: the hum of traffic, the rhythm of household appliances, the chatter of children at play, the music of builders’ radios, bells ringing, trains passing. These are the sounds of community life, and in their way they remind us we are connected to others. Then there are the more personal sounds: the conversations we share, the voices of family and friends, the stories we listen to through radio, television, podcasts, and social media. These do not just pass us by; they have power to shape our emotions, our thoughts, even our outlook on life. To listen is never a neutral act. What we allow into our ears and minds has the potential to draw us closer to God or to distract us and leave us restless.

Abbot Christopher Jamison reminds us that the word obedience comes from the Latin ob-audire which means to listen deeply. Obedience in Christian life is not about blind compliance; it is about learning to listen with the heart, to tune ourselves to the voice of God amid all the other voices clamouring for our attention. Last year I was blessed to take part in a 30-day spiritual retreat. In that prolonged silence I was able to hear my own thoughts with new clarity and to

listen more deeply to the presence of Jesus. It was not an everyday experience, indeed it is rare to step out of life's demands so completely, but it showed me what becomes possible when the noise is filtered out.

The challenge for us is how to make space for that kind of deep listening in the midst of ordinary, busy, noisy lives. One way is through setting aside time for prayer. Prayer is not only about speaking to God, but about allowing ourselves to be still enough to listen. Even a few minutes of quiet each day can help us filter out the clamour of the world and hear instead the divine birdsong of our Lord, who always sings over us in love. So my prayer for us all is that in the days ahead we find small moments of quiet, even in the middle of all the noise of daily life. And in those moments we will know the peace of Christ, we will recognise and listen to the voice of the Shepherd who calls us by name, and may we be ever refreshed by the song of God's love that never ceases.



Opening prayer

Since we are surrounded by so great a crowd of witnesses, let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

Being members one of another in the Body of Christ, let us be united in one Spirit holding on to the bonds of peace.

As part of the household of faith, within the whole people of God, let us celebrate the communion of saints. Amen

Psalms 149

Praise the Lord. Sing to the Lord a new song,
his praise in the assembly of his faithful people.

Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; let the people of Zion be glad in their king.

Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with tambourine and harp.

For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory.

Let his faithful people rejoice in his honour and sing for joy on their beds.

May the praise of God be in their mouths and a double-edged sword in their hands, to inflict vengeance on the nations

and punishment on the peoples, to bind their kings with fetters, their nobles with shackles of iron, to carry out the sentence written against them- this is the glory of all his faithful people.

Praise the Lord.

Prayer of confession

Father God, we have not loved you with our whole heart, we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and humbly repent for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us; that we might delight in your will and walk your ways to the glory of your name. Amen

Collect

O almighty God,

Who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord:

grant us grace so to follow thy blessed Saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys

which thou hast prepared for them that unfeignedly love thee;

through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with

thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Bible Reading: Luke 6 vs 20-31

Looking at his disciples, he said:

‘Blessed are you who are poor for yours is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.

Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how our ancestors treated the prophets.

But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort.

Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

But to you who are listening I say: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who ill-treat you.

If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Reflection (*By Margaret*)

Today's passage from Luke is very early in Jesus' ministry. Jesus has been preaching in the synagogues and gathering disciples, healing people and having disagreements with the Pharisees.

After a night of prayer on the mountain he has come back and chosen 12 apostles from among his disciples, and we find him on a level place where he has been healing the crowds. And now he speaks, not to the crowds but to the disciples.

This is Jesus' first teaching in, that is addressed specifically to the disciples and among them the apostles. And these disciples are the ones at the other end of that chain of saints that stretches across the centuries and miles.

So where does Jesus start? What does he teach them?

He begins by teaching them who the blessed ones are. Unlike Matthew's Gospel with eight beatitudes or blessings, in Luke we have four blessings paired with four woes, each flipped to give its opposite. Those counted among the blessed are the poor, those who hunger now, those who weep, those who are excluded and reviled for Jesus' sake; woe is promised to those who are rich, who are full, who laugh, who are spoken well of.

I wonder which group Jesus' listeners most identified with – poor, hungry, weeping and excluded, or rich, full, laughing and well regarded?

I wonder which is a better description of our church today?

However neat Luke's pairings are, though, it is probably a bit of a false separation to pigeonhole people in one group or the other. After all, those who are hungry have fullness to look forward to, and those who weep are promised laughter. Neither are the woes a suggestion that God will curse or punish those who are full of emptiness, or those who are laughing with weeping.

Our lives have many seasons and, in our churches, will be people in seasons of joy; people in times of lacking and in times of plenty. But what Jesus tells his disciples is a truth that has played out over the generations, the centuries, the millennia between the time of his first teaching, in that level place and where we are here today.

When we feel satisfied by the things of this life, we tend to rely less on God and are less open to God's transformative power.

But when we stare poverty, hunger and weeping in the face, that is often the time we feel closer to God, when we sometimes understand most deeply how God has blessed us.

When we think about the saints- the ordinary everyday faithful Christians as well as the ones with a capital S – the stories that inspire us most aren't the stories of material riches, fame and worldly success. It's the stories of people who endured hardship, persecution or suffering and who found God's deepest blessings in the depths and lived the rest of their lives in the light of that learning.

This is the first lesson that Jesus taught to his disciples, and they came face to face with this reality as he was crucified.

This is the lesson learned by Christian after Christian in the unbroken chain of witness that stretches from them to us. And this is the lesson we continue to learn in our society today. Blessedness isn't to be found in riches or reputation. It is in our deepest need for God that we find ourselves most deeply blessed.

Amen

Prayer

Blessed Lord, you bring all things to fulfilment in your Son.
Set our hope always on Christ that we may live to your Praise and glory. With heart and voice, we sing of your wonder and splendour.

Blessed Lord, you turn the fortunes of the poor and hungry, and of the self-satisfied and those who seek easy praises. Shine your light on our families, friends, neighbour and communities.

May all come to rejoice with you as their maker.

Blessed Lord, your Holy Spirit transforms our conflicts so that the paths of peace and reconciliation may be opened.

May all your children have cause to be joyful.

Blessed Lord, you hear the cries of all in pain and misery.

We bring before those we hold in our hearts who are in distress or pain at this time.

May they be comforted and healed by your promised Spirit.

Blessed Lord, in Christ we have a heritage that is unfading.

In this hope we remember and praise your saints through the ages.

May all your holy ones be received into your Kingdom without end .

Amen

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, For ever and ever.

Amen

Hymn

1) For all the saints who from their labours rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed
thy name, O Jesu, be forever blest. *Alleluia*

2) Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well fought fight;
thou, in the darkness, still their one true light. *Alleluia*

3) O may thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win, with them, the victors crown of gold. *Alleluia*

4) The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest:
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. *Alleluia*

5) But lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day;
The saints triumphant rise in bright array:
The King of glory passes on his way. *Alleluia*

6) From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in countless host,
Singing Father, Son and Holy Ghost *Alleluia*

Final Prayer and Blessing

May the gifts that you have given us bear fruit in our lives,
that we may be as one of your saints,
faithful, true, generous and bold, humble and dedicated.
In the name and spirit of Jesus Christ
Amen

Grace, mercy and peace,
from the God of all ages,
the saviour of all peoples
and the source of all goodness,
be with us all, and all God's saints,
Now and evermore.
Amen

Sunday 9th November 2025
Third Sunday before Advent
Remembrance Sunday

Introduction

Today is Remembrance Sunday. As we remember Two World Wars, and the conflicts since alongside the current wars, we need to be reminded as we approach Advent, that 'Christ The King' will return one day to establish in full 'The Kingdom of God' – a Kingdom of Justice and Peace, of Mercy and Resurrection Life.

Opening Verse and Prayer

I lift up my eyes to the hills – from whence will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. *Psalms 121.1,2*

God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the Kingdom and restored the broken to wholeness of life: look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your healing power make whole both people and nations; Meet with us today, we pray, and give us grace to be people who remember, and people of peace. For Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

A Psalm set for this Sunday: Psalm 20

- ¹ May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble, the name of the God of Jacob defend you;
- ² Send you help from his sanctuary and strengthen you out of Zion;
- ³ Remember all your offerings and accept your burnt sacrifice;
- ⁴ Grant you your heart's desire and fulfil all your mind.
- ⁵ May we rejoice in your salvation and triumph in the name of our God; may the Lord perform all your petitions.
- ⁶ Now I know that the Lord will save his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven, with the mighty strength of his right hand.
- ⁷ Some put their trust in chariots and some in horses, but we will call only on the name of the Lord our God.
- ⁸ They are brought down and fallen, but we are risen and stand upright.
- ⁹ O Lord, save the king and answer us when we call upon you.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Confession

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation,
race from race, class from class, **Father Forgive.**

The covetous desires of people and nations
to possess what is not their own, **Father Forgive.**

The greed which exploits the work of human hands
and lays waste the earth, **Father Forgive.**

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others, **Father Forgive.**

Our indifference to the imprisoned, the homeless,
the refugee, **Father Forgive.**

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men,
women and children, **Father Forgive.**

The pride which leads to trust in ourselves
and not in God, **Father Forgive.**

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God
in Christ forgives you. **Amen**

Coventry Cathedral Litany of Reconciliation

Absolution Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have
mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and
strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in life eternal through Jesus
Christ our
Lord. **Amen.**

Gospel Reading: Luke 20 vs 27-38.

Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him ²⁸and 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. ²⁹Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless; ³⁰then the second ³¹and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless.

³²Finally the woman also died. ³³In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.'

³⁴ Jesus said to them, 'Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage;

³⁵but 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. ³⁶Indeed they cannot die any more, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection.

³⁷ 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. ³⁸Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.'

Reflection *(By Tony)*

As I write this, it is just three days since I joined my wife and members of her family, beside her brother's grave. He died aged 6 on January 20th 1945 at eight minutes to eleven when a silent V2 rocket fell on the road where he and his parents and two brothers and two sisters lived. Another 21 people were killed in the street by the bomb.

We were gathered around that grave due to a memorial to all those that died in the bombing, having been recently unveiled nearby, recalling that terrible event and its impact on the local community.

The family also visited the local museum, which holds records of that day, including a photo showing the family home and five other houses destroyed in the explosion.

Our visit brought home to me so powerfully the impact of war and conflict, not just on service personnel but civilians too. It also gave the photos and reports coming from Ukraine and Gaza, added impact.

It also reminded me that an incident that took seconds to unfold and cause death and devastation, has immediate impact but also lasting consequences for those who survive and remember, maybe with trauma and permanent physical injury, passing through generations that follow too.

How do we make sense of it all on this Remembrance Sunday, and in the context of our Gospel reading set for today.

Firstly, we remember that God is our Father, and whose love is unconditional, and for whom we are free to love in return, or to reject. A consequence of rejecting his love has been war and conflict.

But then we also remember Immanuel – Christ is with us in our human condition, and he understands and knows what it is like to be a refugee; to live under a hostile and cruel occupying power; and to be tortured and crucified. He is there in Gaza and Ukraine.

Finally we remember Jesus' words in our reading: ***'³⁸Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.'***

On a day where our thoughts are full of those who have died as a result of war, there will be many like the Sadducees, who will ridicule the idea of Resurrection Life. How stupid we must be to believe this, they may well think.

Their understanding of what others believe Resurrection Life is, misunderstands how different it will be. It will not be a continuation of life as known, but life as God intended, life in all its fullness, where death and pain have been abolished, where relationships will be so different. God hasn't provided us with a detailed blueprint for Resurrection Life, but a promise sealed by the sacrifice of Jesus, and his Resurrection from death.

We can remember today in the context of other words Jesus spoke in our reading: ***'³⁶Indeed they cannot die any more, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection'***

We will remember them.

Tony



Collect

Almighty Father,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Intercessions

Today we remember all those who have died in Wars. Have mercy O God on those who are victims of man's inhumanity to man. We pray that all those who are involved in talks for peace throughout the world may promote the welfare and peace of all mankind.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Give grace to us, our families and friends, and to all our neighbours, that we may serve Christ in one another, and love, as he loves us. Help us to make our united parishes places of your love; of mutual trust and forgiveness; of true sharing and caring; of deep joy and peace; and unite us all, one to another in the circle of your love.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Jesus healer of the sick, who raised the dead to life, keep us hoping and praying for those who are ill. In a moment of quietness, we name in our hearts those we know or love who are ill at this time.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Almighty Father, be with all those who are grieving today over the loss of a loved one. Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light which no darkness can quench.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Hymn:

- 1). Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home:
2. Under the shadow of your throne
Your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone,
And our defence is sure.
3. Before the hills in order stood
Or Earth received her frame,
From everlasting you are God,
To endless years the same.

4. A thousand ages in your sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

5. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly, forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.

6. Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home.

Closing Prayer and Blessing

God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom
and restored the broken to wholeness of life:
look with compassion on the anguish of the world,
and by your healing power make whole both people and nations;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

God grant to the living, grace;
to the departed, rest; to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth, and
all humankind, peace and concord;
and to us and all his servants, life everlasting;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Sunday 16th November 2025

2nd Sunday before Advent

“We do not lose heart – we are afflicted in every way but not crushed; perplexed but not driven to despair; persecuted – but not forsaken; struck down but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may be made sure more visible in our bodies”. 2 Corinthians chapter 4 vs 1, 8-10.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving.

The Lord is King! Earth be glad! Rejoice!

God rules with righteousness and justice.

Lord Almighty you are ruler of the earth.

We remember all that you have done

We give you thanks and we come now to worship you. Amen.

Malachi chapter 4 vs 1-2.

See the day is coming, burning like an oven, where all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings.

Commentary *(from Roots magazine)*

Malachi a prophet from the period of Persian rule in Judah (c539-332BC) mentions here two different kinds of heat, the oven that burns the stubble left behind when the ears of corn have been separated out and the sun that in the ancient world symbolises justice. The first will destroy those whose only contribution to the world had been to leave it in a worst state. The second will heal the social divisions they have caused.

The images warn and reassure for both are God's agents in the creation of a new community of God's people.

A Prayer of Confession.

We are sorry God for the times we have caused hurt and pain; when we have followed a wrong group and we have been lazy in our faith and witness to you. We ask you to forgive us. Amen,

The Gospel – St. Luke chapter 21 v 5-19.

When someone was speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down”. They asked him, “Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” And he said “Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, “I am he!” and, “The time is near!” Do not go after them. “When you learn of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately”. Then he said to them “Nation will rise against nation, kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. But before all these occur, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prison, and you will be brought before all governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death, You will be hated by all because of my name.

But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will save your souls.

A Reflection – (by Joan)

Focussing on coming disasters leads to fear and a sense of hopelessness, That was not Jesus’s intention in this passage, “Do not be terrified by such things” They are not a call for us to just grit out teeth and carry on. Bad things will happen. We are urged to focus on Jesus, to remain faithful and do whatever we can to change the world for the better.

It is tempting to feel that ruined, damaged buildings, closed churches are a sign of God abandoning his people. Herod’s Temple in

Jerusalem was destroyed in AD 70 yet 25,000 years later, God is still with his people. When the people of Israel had been taken into Babylon as exiles, they had lamented “how can we sing the songs of Zion in a strange land?” Jeremiah the prophet at that time encouraged them to seek the welfare of the city where God had sent them and to pray for it, saying “Houses and fields and vineyards shall yet again be bought in this land”. It was a pledge of better things to come, when all seemed bleak.

Writing from prison, before his execution, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, wrote “We are to live and take each day as it comes without fear and anxiety”. Sometimes the darkness seems overwhelming but every Christmas we remind ourselves that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

Take time to be still and pray.

Lift to God your worries and hopes for our world today; for your family and friends and your own fears and hopes.

You might like to close with this hymn.

1. Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.
2. Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.
3. Lord, for our land, in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

4. Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.
5. Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

A Blessing.

The Lord bless us and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life. Amen.



23rd November 2025@home service
CHRIST THE KING



Opening Prayers

O Lord, open our lips and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Your faithful servants bless you **make known the glory of your kingdom.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Pause for a moment of silence

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. Amen.

Gospel Reading Luke 23:33–43

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[³⁴ Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.’]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, ‘He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!’ ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷ and saying, ‘If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!’ ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, ‘This is the King of the Jews.’

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, ‘Are you not the Messiah? ⁴⁰ Save yourself and us!’ ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, ‘Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?’ ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.’ ⁴² Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ ⁴³ He replied, ‘Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.’

Reflection (by Jacky)

As a church that follows the lectionary, we hear this reading at the end of November every third year. And it catches me out every time. Its reading that is best suited to Good Friday surely? It is painful to read, and a stark reminder of the humiliation and brutality that Jesus experienced. Through this reading we are called to witness Jesus crucified between two criminals; we hear the mocking voices of people, the soldiers, and the one thief.

So, why do we engage with this scripture just as Advent begins and as we look forward to the cosiness and joy Of Christmas day?

The answer lies in the feast we keep today, the Solemnity of Christ the King. This feast marks the end of the year for church and it celebrates it with the vision of Jesus reigning from the Cross. As well

as the brutality and humiliation, we are invited to see that even in this place of apparent defeat, God reveals the true victory.

We are preparing to enter Advent, that season of watchfulness and waiting. We are readying ourselves for the demands of Christmas and the long journey of another year. To see Christ reigning from the Cross before we take those steps is to remind us where our hope and our strength are to be found. His power is not displayed in worldly splendour but in the depth of his love, his readiness to give himself utterly for us.

The radical character of Christianity is utterly laid bare in this reading. What the world considered an insult becomes our confession of faith. The sign placed above Jesus, “This is the King of the Jews,” was intended to mock, yet it tells the truth more fully than Pilate or the soldiers could know. The paradox of our faith is that glory is revealed in this apparent disgrace, life comes through death, and the divine majesty of Christ shines out despite the human suffering of Jesus.

In his Letters to the early Christians, we read Saint Paul struggling with this. As a Pharisee he would have known that the law declared anyone hung on a tree to be cursed. For him the idea of a crucified Messiah was unthinkable, even scandalous (1 Corinthians 1:18–25; Galatians 3:13; Philippians 2:5–11). Only after his encounter with the risen Lord did he grasp that this curse was taken on himself by Christ, so that the blessing of God might be opened to all. Paul came to see that the shame of the Cross was in truth the place where divine love was most fully displayed.

For us, too, it can be hard to accept. We might prefer a faith in which God protects us from pain and shields us from loss. Yet the Gospel tells us that Christ is found in the midst of suffering, not apart from it. Jesus experienced the suffering that can be our human condition. His kingship is not one of hierarchy, but it is of love, compassion, and mercy.

To the repentant thief who turned to him with the words “Jesus, remember me,” he offered the promise of paradise. That assurance was given not to the powerful but to a man who had nothing left except a plea for grace.

This is why we proclaim Christ as King before Advent. We are reminded that our faith is not rooted in the sentimentality (that often overtakes Christmas) or success as the world judges it. It is grounded in the Cross and Resurrection, in the Lord who reigns from the cross of Calvary and opens his kingdom to all who turn to him. As we move towards Advent and Christmas, this truth steadies us. We are not preparing to celebrate a cosy story of a child born long ago. We are preparing to welcome the King who reigns in humility, who calls us to follow him in love, and who makes our lives share in his victory. So today, at the turning of the year, we lift our eyes to the Cross and see there the throne of Christ. We acknowledge him as King of our hearts. And with the thief on the cross we also can make our prayer Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Amen.

The Benedictus (*The Song of Zechariah*)

¹ Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.

² He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.

³ Through his holy prophets God promised of old
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,

⁴ To show mercy to our ancestors,
and to remember his holy covenant.

⁵ This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

⁶ Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.

⁷ And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

⁸ To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

⁹ In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

¹⁰ To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace. *Luke 1.68-79*

Prayers *Take some time to offer to God your own prayers.*

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King
and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Conclusion

May the Lord, when he comes, find us watching and waiting.
Let us bless the Lord, thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn

1) Rejoice, the Lord is King! your Lord and King adore;
mortals give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore;
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

2) Jesus, the saviour, reigns, the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains he took his seat above;
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

3) Rejoice in glorious hope! Jesus the Judge shall come,
and take his servants up to their eternal home.
We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;
God's trumpet call shall sound, rejoice!

Sunday 30th November 2025 @home service
Advent 1

Opening Prayers

O Lord, open thou our lips and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us. O Lord, make haste to help us.

Praise ye the Lord. The Lord's name be praised. Amen

Venite (*a prayer that calls us to worship, based on Psalm 95*)

O come, let us sing unto the Lord :

let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving :

and shew ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God : and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are all the corners of the earth : and the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it : and his hands prepared the dry land. O come, let us worship, and fall down : and kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is the Lord our God : and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

Psalm 122

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.

² Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

³ Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together:

⁴ Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord.

⁵ For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.

⁷ Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.

⁸ For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee.

⁹ Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

Gospel Reading Matt 24:36-44

But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. ³⁷ But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. ³⁸ For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, ³⁹ And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. ⁴⁰ Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. ⁴² Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. ⁴³ But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. ⁴⁴ Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Reflection (by Jacky)

Psalm 122 was written around 3,000 years ago, in the time of King David, who established Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and brought the Ark of the Covenant there. It looks forward to the Temple that Solomon, David's son, would later build, and it captures the joy of pilgrims going up to worship in the holy city.

For us now, when the modern nation of Israel is engaged in violent conflict with Hamas and causing the ordinary Palestinian people such terrible suffering, it hard to think of Jerusalem as a place to go to worship and be close to God. As modern Christians, we can allow the language and poetry of this psalm as a reminder for our longing for peace and unity and allow Jerusalem to be a metaphor for the spiritual kingdom of God.

Psalm 122 is known as one of the Songs of Ascents. These are a collection of psalms (120–134) that were sung by pilgrims, at the time

of King David, as they made their way up to Jerusalem. Three times a year the people of Israel were commanded to go up to the holy city for the great festivals of Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles. This was often a long and demanding journey, but it was filled with anticipation and joy. To go to Jerusalem was to draw near to the dwelling place of God, to join with others in worship, and to renew the covenant bond between God and His people.

The psalm begins with a burst of gladness: “I was glad when they said unto me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord!’” This is the excitement of a worshipper setting out with the community on a pilgrimage. To enter God’s house was not a matter of duty alone, but of joy. Worship is not meant to be a burden, but a delight. When we gather with others in God’s presence, something in us can be set free to rejoice.

The psalm then celebrates Jerusalem the city. For us, this is not the geographic location but a metaphor of the Kingdom of God, a spiritual place of peace and unity of God’s people. Jerusalem is where the tribes go up, not scattered or divided, but together. Worship is never just about the individual soul: it is the gathering of many into one body, offering praise with one voice. Psalm 122 reminds us that to worship God rightly is to seek unity, peace, and fellowship.

Another element of this Psalm is the connection between worship and justice. The psalm recalls that “there the thrones for judgment were set, the thrones of the house of David.” To come before God is not only to sing praises but also to acknowledge God will and order in the world.

The psalm concludes with an exhortation: “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.” For us, to pray for the peace of Jerusalem is not simply about a city in a foreign land. It is to pray for God’s peace to take root in our own hearts, in our communities, and in the world. Psalm 122 reminds us that worship is always both joy and responsibility: joy in coming into God’s presence, and responsibility to live as people of

peace. When we gather in God's house, we do so as pilgrims who long for the unity and justice of God's kingdom. Amen.

Prayers *(in the tradition of the Book of Common Prayer)*

The Lord be with you. And with thy spirit.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name;

Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever.
Amen

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us. And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the King And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people. And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord. Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us. And take not thy Holy Spirit from us. **Amen**

The Collect of the Day (First Sunday of Advent)

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.

The Collect for Peace

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord,
in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is
perfect freedom; defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our
enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the
power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect for Grace

O Lord, our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast
safely brought us to the beginning of this day; Defend us in the same
with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin,
neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be
ordered by thy governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

A prayer for the King and Parliament

Almighty God, fountain of all Goodness, we humbly beseech thee to
bless our sovereign lord thy servant Charles III, this parliament and all
who set authority under her; that they may order all things in wisdom,
righteousness and peace to the honour of thy holy name and the good
of thy Church and people.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

A Prayer for the clergy and people

Almighty and everlasting God, who alone workest great marvels: send
down upon our Bishops, Priests and Deacons, and all Congregations
committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace; and that
they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy
blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honour of our advocate and
mediator, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

A prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications into thee; and dost promise, that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come to life everlasting.

Amen

Final prayer

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Hymn

The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is his new creation, By water and the word;
From Heav'n he came and sought her
To be his holy bride; With his own blood he bought her,
And for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, Yet one o'er all the Earth,
Her charter of salvation, One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, With ev'ry grace endued.

'Mid toil and tribulation And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation Of peace forever more;
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.

O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly, On high may dwell with thee;
There, past the border mountains, Where in sweet vales, the bride
With thee, by living fountains, Forever shall abide!

MEMORIES OF DAVID “SKIP” BARTLETT

shared at his funeral service St Andrew’s Church

3rd October 2025

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD from Margaret

David was my brother, 12 years older than me, and I was fond of him.

David never should have lived as he was over 2 months premature and the doctor and midwife told my mother his death would be imminent. She felt different and told them both not to come to the house again. She kept him close to her chest and at times put him in a cosy box in the airing cupboard.

My first memory of David was when my mother opened the back door and yelled loudly, “I don’t want any more shrapnel brought into this garden.” It seemed David proudly had the nose cone off a German bomb and for years he slept under a large, dark patch in his bedroom ceiling as shrapnel had penetrated the roof of our house. During the war David, my sister Frances and our Mum had evacuated to Lynton in North Devon, but they didn’t stay there long. David and Frances went to school there and David got ten of the best as he entertained other boys, on top of a wall, teaching them rude Nazi songs. The wall also overlooked the girl’s toilets.



Each November 5th Guy Fawkes was celebrated with a huge fire on the bridge next to our house. All the road brought their fireworks. Possibly in 1948 when David had left John Lyons school and was an apprentice in the Bovis building company, he decided to make some fireworks. It seems gunpowder could be made by crushing potassium chloride tablets to a fine powder. Some of his powder got damp and he thought he would dry it in the gas oven. I can remember the explosion and soon learnt he was a patient in Moorfields Eye Hospital. He was still there at Christmas, as my Mum disappeared to visit him.

At 18 he started his National Service as a sick bay attendant in the Naval hospital at Portsmouth. Aged 20 he returned home and worked for a short time with a local builder. My mother had seen an advertisement for young men to join an Antarctic expedition. As he had ornithological experience and he was keen on photography and was willing to learn meteorology, he was accepted and left Tilbury docks excited, especially as he was beginning to have problems seeing with his bad eye. Sadly, on the voyage the young men were fooling about and a sugar lump hit his bad eye. The boat sailed into Montevideo where he went into hospital. After being moored for a few days, they wanted to continue and although the hospital wanted him to remain a patient, he decided to return to the boat.

He did meteorological training in the Falkland Islands, but sadly had to watch his boat leave for Antarctica without him as he did not pass the medical. He had made friends with a shepherd and was staying with him when the Governor unsuccessfully tried to contact him about a boat leaving for England. It sailed without him and the Governor suggested he either join a team building roads from Port Stanley or he became a travelling school teacher. He chose the latter and enjoyed teaching, having a horse, flying in a tiny aircraft, sailing in small boats between islands and having an off-road trials motorbike. Almost two years later he returned home and got a place at St. Paul's



(Mens) Teacher Training College, Cheltenham. There he met Monica, who was training at St. Mary's (Ladies). They kept in contact and in Easter 1963 got engaged, then married in the October with Penny (Monica's sister) and me as bridesmaids. In early 1964 David became unconscious, with diabetes, and thankfully the Radcliffe Infirmary, where I was nursing, couldn't locate him and RAF Halton hospital put him on one of the first kidney machines, which probably saved his life.

In 1967 I was placed in digs with a lovely Christian girl and both David and Frances asked me very direct questions about my commitment to Jesus. I then recommitted my life to Jesus and soon after met Stephen. He suggested that we asked our pastor if he would pray with us to cut off Diabetes 1 from the family. Our mother had seen her mother, two brothers and my cousin die of it. Another brother had it but lived. Since then, I have not heard of anybody in our enormous family being affected by Diabetes 1. God is so gracious when we seek after him with our whole hearts.

MEMORIES OF DAVID AS DAD AND GRANDAD

From Jonathan: A trip to the Western Brecons. Sometime in the nineties. Long suffering Terry Castle leading. We'd walked up to a place to camp on the Friday night, pitched tents and turned in. The morning was fair, we left our tents to come back to for another night, and went off for the days walk. As the day went on, it began to rain. It's Wales after all. The rain got heavier all day, and on return to the tents, we found them to be islands in a typical Terry swamp. Unanimous agreement to forget another nights camp, pack up, walk



back to the cars and go home. Dad was a bit slow packing up his things. This was not unusual so, with everyone busy, went almost unnoticed. Started walking back. Skip begins to stride ahead with little thought to the ground under his feet. Looks like he's going hypo. Catching up with him is difficult. Asking him are you alright, perhaps we should stop and have something to eat and drink. I'm alright, says he, in that voice we all know so well that means he's anything but alright. He starts to run away, down the steepest section so far. The rest of us in pursuit. It's still raining hard. The ground is slippery and rocky, but he doesn't fall over, even though we do. His guardian angel is working overtime again. Never was there such a sorely used GA as Skip's. He just keeps going on down, straight through a stream without appearing to notice it but at

least it slows him a little and the ground is levelling out. He crashes into a low wall and fence, bounces back flat on his back arched over his rucksack a stranded turtle. Now we've got him, and as we're nearly back at the cars, take it in turns to part drag, part frog march him back and into a vehicle. Many Scouts and leaders will have had similar experiences over the years.

A children's party, Thomas's fifth, I think. I'd built a play house out of some plywood machine crates, the house of carrots Thomas called it. The children were running in through the front door and then climbing out of one of the windows. A constant fast and noisy circuit. Enter grandad, regulation baggy shorts held up with braces nearly to his breast, sandals, peak hat, I'm sure you can picture it. He watched them doing this for a few minutes and then, the ever present inner child bubbling forth from the 75 year old man, decided to have a go too. So he joined the circuit, to much encouragement from the children, all egging him on. He got through the front door with little trouble, and began to try getting through the window. His head, shoulders and arms went through okay, but then got to the thicker bit of his body, the crux move now. He wriggled a lot, getting more firmly wedged, still to great applause and much advice from the children. It seemed to us watchers that he was stuck, like Winnie the Pooh in rabbits front door, that Thomas would have to read him stories at one end whilst Andrew hung things on his legs at the other. He was determined though, and with the enthusiastic help of children both pulling and pushing, he popped out and rolled inelegantly on the ground. The children were delighted. Grandad was out of breath and massaging his mid regions, but obviously very pleased with himself.



FROM IAN



I don't recall which holiday, but suspect it was one in Cornwall. All five of us decided to have a sandcastle competition (or a couple persuaded the rest of us) and appointed Dad as the adjudicator. I recall most vividly that Willies and Pete's were clearly the best, both artistically and technically and that mine was, quite frankly, shite. But as luck would have it Dad judged, that, taking into account our respective ages, we all came first and won an ice

cream! The feelings of guilt completely evaporated with the first lick of Mr Whippy.

Sam's 10th or 11th Birthday, a trip with her friends to the Plymouth ice rink, Granny and Grandad had come to stay and of course came to the ice rink. As Grandad (about 77) queued to get his skates, Julie asked Granny if it was a good idea? "Probably not, but I can't stop him". The session started with the usual mix of skills, some holding the edge and going round gingerly and some zooming round competently. Grandad glided at least a yard before sliding on his posterior, he doggedly continued to try to skate but spent most of the time on his knees or bum. About 20 minutes into the 2 hour session, a couple of stewards approached him and asked him to leave the ice as they were very concerned he would break something. "I used to be really good at skating" he declared. Granny gave him the 'I knew that would happen look'. The kids loved it, both because he had the gumption to give it a go and wouldn't give up until removed, and because he had been kicked off the ice by the stewards, which made a lot of 10 year olds day!

From Ruth The first time I was due to read a lesson in church Dad took me to practice. He stood right at the back and told me that I'd got to speak loud enough for the deaf old ladies in the back row to hear. I must also speak slower, not like an express train, or no-one would understand me.



That's stood me in good stead for many of the things I've done in life.

For my 8th birthday Dad took me to buy my first pair of walking boots. They were the best, I was convinced that they gave me amazing grip! I loved walking up mountains and particularly enjoyed it when I was allowed to carry on to the summit, with Dad and Jon, when the rest of the family were heading down. Dad gave me a love of mountains,

which has brought me some fantastic experiences.

Thanks Dad.

From Ben Aged about ten, cycling with Dad and Pete through Welwyn to Auntie Vi's I went smack into the back of a parked car. My pride and front wheel had both taken a massive dent. No problem for dad, just carry it back, find a bike shop with a secondhand wheel and jobs a goodun. Thanks Dad, for teaching me that when you crash and burn you must get back up.

Toms first birthday and Mum had to deliver the cake to the party, but Ruth had borrowed her car and wasn't home yet. That's okay, you can borrow mine I said. So off they went, Dad with cake on knee in the Spitfire with the roof down.

After the party which I'd driven to later in Mum's car we switched back so I took Dad home.

After a spirited drive home from Arch's Dad turned to me with his massive grin and remarked "Well, that was rather different than the drive over with your Mum in that seat".

MEMORIES OF SKIP AS SCOUT LEADER a letter of condolence

To the Bartletts,

I wanted to write you a letter, mostly because what I have to say probably won't fit in a card and I didn't want to start writing up the sides and upside down like people do on postcards. I guess I could have written in really tiny writing or maybe bought a ginormous card but after weighing up the pro's and con's I settled on this. Now that

we've got the formalities out of the way I'm not actually sure how to start writing what I feel I need to say, so I guess I'll just dive in.

I am truly sorry for the loss of Skip, he was a wonderful person, with a great personality, that did a huge amount for the community. What I'm not sorry about is what he did for me and my friends as we were growing up. I was fortunate enough to have a wonderful childhood, of which I am very grateful, not everyone gets that, Skip and indeed the Bartletts as a whole are responsible for a massive chunk of that, so thank you.

When I first moved to Chinnor in '88 it wasn't long before myself and my brother started going to Scouts in the Hall behind the community centre. That right there was the best move I ever made in my whole life (I'm 47 now and i'm not sure it can be beaten) It was where I made a great bunch of friends, laughed my head off and got up to all kinds of mischief. 30 odd years later those same guys are my core friendship group, without Skip I probably wouldn't have known those people let alone shared my childhood and indeed adulthood with them, so again thank you.

Skips way with us was brilliant, when I look back now we must have been an absolute pain in the butt 99% of the time, but Skip took all that in his stride, he laughed when we laughed, taught us a tonne of stuff, took us on loads of adventures and gave us **a jolly good telling off (edit)** when we deserved it. When we stepped out of line he made sure you knew you had, and I respected him for that, still do, because then we all knew where we stood. You taught us respect Skip, it's an important life lesson that seems to be strangely lacking these days. Again, thank you.

There are so many memories of my time in the scouts that I could type for a solid year and not get through half of them. But I want to list a few, call it an overview if you like.

The first thing that springs to mind does so because it doesn't happen very often, in fact to the average person this wouldn't happen in a lifetime, so what did happen? Skip managed to lose his eye in a

swimming pool. He then instructed all of us scouts to look for it, there was quite a frenzy, like I said its not everyday you get to go on a submerged treasure hunt where the prize is a glass eye. Man I so wanted to find that eyeball. Alas it wasn't me, but the scout that did find it raised it out of the water like the lady of the lake did with Excalibur.



Another time, on our yearly Streatly bike ride, we were all rallied and ready to go, and somehow I managed to get a puncture before we even got out of the carpark, needless to say Skip was not best pleased about this, and after issuing me with a mini **telling off (edit)** (which was just as loud as a regular one, only shorter lived) he proceeded to fix my puncture in a time formula 1 would have been proud of.

On scout camps we would always get split into groups and would have to navigate our way about 10 miles or so, following compass bearings and instructions laid down by Skip, occasionally you would see him about half a mile in the distance behind you and he'd bellow "YOU'RE GOING THE WRONG WAY" to which we would retrace our steps, change our heading and continue on, only to hear about half an hour later "YOU'RE GOING THE WRONG WAY!". At the time I used to wonder why he left it so long before telling us we'd mucked up, today, of course I realise it was just a lesson. If he told us straight away we wouldn't have learned A - how to read a compass and B - to rely on ourselves and not others.

Those camps were the highlight of my summer, what felt like four days of travel on a cramped minibus with nothing but a deck of cards to keep us amused was rewarded with a week in Wales. Aerial runways, camp fires, little rabbit foo foo, Zulu (or Everitt) warriors and where's my golden arm! As I typed that I could hear clear as a bell in my head skips ghost voice "where's my golden arm"

Then there was every scout meet, colditz, bungo the barrel - (you could hear people groaning even before Grunt had started his

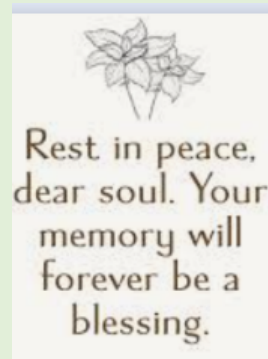
run up), British Bulldog, night hikes through mud, sledging - (Goaty hit me full on with a wooden sledge once, I could barely walk for two days, that was deemed 'character building stuff') There was also lessons that still come in handy to this day, I recently went boating on the Norfolk broads, my knot of choice when mooring the boat was a round turn and two half hitches, my brother preferred the clove hitch, both taught to us by Skip 35 years ago and still coming in handy today. So for that and all of the memories. Thank you.

I'd like to think I turned out pretty good (you can be the judge and jury on that) and for that I can thank my parents, and Skip. He genuinely made and impact on my life for the good for which I will remain forever grateful. Thank you.

I am sad that Skip is no longer with us, as I write I have a tear in my eye. But I'm not sad about all the great stuff he did for Me, for my friends and for the community. You will be sorely missed Skip. Days done, Gone the Sun. Thank you for everything. Sam.



**David
Barlett**



CHRISTMAS 2025

Sat 29th Nov: 10am-noon

St Andrew's Christmas Fayre and United Parish Gift Day

Sat 6th Dec noon-2pm

Sydenham Christmas Fayre

Sat 6th Dec –Sun14th Dec 2pm-5pm

St Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday 14th Dec: Seven Lessons and Carol service:

4 pm Sydenham church tbc

Friday 19th Dec

7pm Carols@Crowell (with readings)

Sunday 21st Dec: Nine Lessons and Carol service:

4pm Aston Rowant Church

6pm St Andrew's, Chinnor

Wednesday 24th December: Crib Services

4pm, Aston Rowant

4pm, Sydenham

5pm, St Andrew's Chinnor

Midnight (in Bethlehem) Mass

9pm St Andrew's, Chinnor

10pm St Mary's, Sydenham

Christmas Day, Holy Communion

1030am St. Andrew's Chinnor

9am Aston Rowant