A view from the Rectory Window November 2026

I began last month's article by referring to October as having the theme of thankfulness at its heart. For me, November by tradition has a theme of Remembrance. Remembering all our loved ones who have gone before us on **All Souls'** Day. and on **Remembrance Sunday** those who gave their lives for the defense of freedom, liberty and their neighbour.
There is a saying that 'you cannot know where you are heading unless you know where you have come from'. I believe that this is true for all of us. We are all shaped, formed, and to some extent influenced by our past. Our characters result from a combination of our nature (our DNA at birth) and our nurture (our relative degrees of good fortune or tribulations in the lottery of life). These forces and factors create an environment where character and personality are tried and tested, made and molded. In the Christian sense, life produces opportunities and therefore choices about how to act, live, and order our lives. As followers of Christ, we are invited to make our choice in the light of the **Word of God** and the **example of Christ.** Moreover, for Christians we have a clear and known reference to the past, not only in our own ancestry but also that in Jesus we are blessed and loved people of God's kingdom. And therefore, heading for the fullness and mystery of being one with that which brought us into the world.

So how does this sense of Christ as our personal Alpha and Omega relate to the sacrifices we remember on Remembrance Sunday and the loved ones we recall on All Souls' Day? It is that both those who made the greatest sacrifice in time of war, and those whose lives we remember in love and thankfulness are not simply products of their time. They are all people who chose to put the values and qualities of love before their own personal welfare. They made the conscious decision to serve others, to use their lives for the purpose of freedom, truth, and justice. For their choices that made them the people they will always be for us, we honour, commemorate, and remember them. Just as Jesus proclaimed in his commandment, Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. **John 15:13.**

Each generation may well have to relearn the lessons of the past. The lessons that peace must be fought for, goodness is only found when hate and evil is rejected, and that truth is real but must come from the heart. Jesus commanded his disciples to 'turn away from sin and trust the good news of the Kingdom' **Matthew 4:17**. In the same way those we remember in November are people whose lives show us the way to turn away from self-centeredness and have the courage to choose the ethic of love'.

Rev. Richard Higgins