

November Goodies



Dear Friends,

A busy month, November! All sorts of things going on as we journey through the feasts of All Saints and All Souls, on through Remembrance and then on to the feast of Christ the King, the final Sunday of the church's year before we arrive at Advent. All of this amongst all the difficulties across the world requiring our prayerful attention as well as the pressure for feverish Christmas preparations and clear up operations following the most recent flooding.

Hopefully, though, you will be able to find time to be with God amongst all the busyness and hopefully this missive will be helpful to you. Within it you will find readings for Sundays in November, a letter from the Bishops, some prayers and information from Christian Aid, notices, information on special services this month, and a challenging reflection from Rev. David. The usual services rota will be with you next week.

This all comes, as ever, with love and prayers.

Rev. Claire

A prayer for the Middle East

God, hear our prayers for peace in the Middle East.

May all people in the region be protected, safe from harm.

We pray that this crisis will end now, with no further loss of life.

God, may the injured and distressed know your healing presence.

May the powerful and the decision-makers follow the paths of justice, mercy and peace.

We pray for recognition of the dignity and value of every life. May the clamour of violence cease,

Replaced by the beating of swords into ploughshares. God, in your name, Amen



A message from Christian Aid...

What's happening?

On the morning of Saturday 7 October, Hamas launched a wave of rocket attacks and stormed into Israel.

1,300 Israelis have been killed and many more injured. Israeli civilians, including women and children, have been forcibly taken.

In Gaza, almost 3,800 Palestinians have been killed and 12,500 have been injured. Airstrikes have caused widespread destruction of homes, schools, healthcare facilities and telecommunication installations.

Hospitals that are already at breaking point are overwhelmed by casualties, while over a million people have been displaced. With Gaza's only power plant running out of fuel, cuts are affecting hospitals, closing food supply to shops and access to water and sanitation services. All schools are closed.

What is Christian Aid doing in response?

Christian Aid has been working with the poorest and most vulnerable people in the Middle East since the early 1950s, when we provided humanitarian relief to Palestinian refugees.

In Gaza, our medical partner is providing mobile medical and psychological care. This is a local response where there is limited access, and will allow patients who've been discharged early from severely overcrowded hospitals to be treated at home. The mobile health clinic will provide people with access to a doctor, nurse, social worker or physiotherapist. The mobile dressing team will reach people who require wound dressings to be changed, reducing the risk of infection.

In southern Gaza, our partner is responding to those most recently displaced to southern Gaza as a result of the war. They're providing:

- Mattresses
- Medicines (e.g. for people with chronic illnesses)
- Emergency food from a community kitchen for approximately 200 displaced people.

Moving forward, they'll be reaching more than 300 households who are most affected, with a cash grant to support them to meet their needs.

We're actively exploring ways in which we might also support Israeli civilians who've been directly impacted by the violence.

Your donations can make a huge difference to the current conditions of those affected.

[Please donate what you can today](#)



This year's Remembrance Service will be at 9.30am on Sunday 12th November at St Thomas' Market Rasen, immediately followed by the parade to the war memorial for 11am act of remembrance.

There will be a simple service of Holy Communion at 8.30am at St Thomas' that day.

Crafts by Alexis

There is a display of crafts homemade by Alexis (6) for sale in the church room, proceeds to church funds. We are very grateful to Alexis for gifting her time and talent in this way, please do have a look!

Alongside these, there are often other items for sale, including jams and preserves etc.

Suggestions for Prayer

For the people of Israel and Palestine, and of Ukraine and Russia.

For refugees and those working to provide safe homes.

For the Nomad Trust and the Harbour Place in Grimsby.

For all affected by rising energy costs and for our local food banks.

For the work of Christian Aid and The Children's Society.

For the Diocese of Lincoln, our Local Mission Partnership and for the Caistor group and Rev Catherine following Rev Ian's retirement.

For those who are sick and housebound. Delia, Lesley, Pam, Steven, Jenny, Tim, Sheila, Liz, Joy, and Brianl.

For those who have died, especially Sean Hudson, David Fryett and Mollie Collinson.

Weekday Services and Events

Mondays

Deanery Fellowship on Zoom 6.45pm

Link on Walesby Group Website <https://www.walesbychurches.org/>

Tuesdays

Morning Prayer at Market Rasen 9am

Coffee Morning in Church Room 9.30 – 11.30am

Wednesdays

Mini Messy in Church Room 10 – 11.30am

Bellringing Practice at Market Rasen 7.30 – 9.30pm

Thursdays

Holy Communion at Market Rasen 9.30am

Open Door in Church Room 2 – 4pm

Fridays

Morning Prayer on Zoom 9am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89033475242?pwd=SmVqUkdRTkp4eUpJdDIGUzJkLy9CQT09>

Rev Claire's Day Off is Monday

The Service of Light at which we remember loved ones who have died will be on Thursday 2nd November, 7pm, at St Thomas', Market Rasen.

On Sunday 5th November we will celebrate the feast of All Saints.

A Reflection from Rev. David Atkinson

Earlier this year we had a speaker from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission at our meeting.
He told us that the Commission was committed to maintaining the graves and the war cemeteries 'in perpetuity'.
He seemed to think this was the right thing to do.
I was not so sure. I had some reservations. Should we really be committed to going on remembering our war dead for ever and ever?
Let me focus on just one of my reservations.
It is an important part of any grieving process for loved ones to be able to let go.
It is part of the healing process.
It is very difficult to do so.
And it is not helped by what feels like a moral commitment to keep remembering in perpetuity.
As well as coming to terms with our sense of loss, it feels almost as if letting go means abandoning our loved ones.
But there are at least two things to be said about that.
First of all, love involves letting go, giving our loved ones freedom.
That's most obvious in a mother's love for her child.
We know how damaging it can be if she can't manage to do so and keeps her child tied to her apron strings.
We can see that very clearly in Mary's relationship with her son Jesus.
But it is true of any relationship of love. Freedom is one of the greatest gifts of love - giving our loved ones the freedom to be themselves.
And secondly, when we let go of our departed loved ones, we are not abandoning them but committing them to the loving arms of God.
We trust God to take care of those whom we love but see no longer.
We do not need to bear the burden of remembering them in perpetuity. We can leave that in God's hands.
And so when we observe Remembrance Sunday each year it can be about remembering those who died in war - but it can also be about committing them to God's love which goes on for ever and ever.

A Prayer for All Souls

Almighty and eternal God,
from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted,
either by death or life:
hear our prayers and thanksgivings
for all whom we remember this day;
fulfil in them the purpose of your love;
and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.