



November

Remembering

Remembering is a funny thing - especially as you get older!!!! I hope it is because my head is so full of stuff that something has to pop out of my memory to allow something new in - but maybe I am just losing it!!! Also I realise that it is easy to remember the past as if it was glorious. This happened to me the other day when I heard a piece of music that flooded me with memories and attached to that were other memories and attached to those, lots of emotions that left me feeling desolate. For a brief moment, I thought my life was so much better back then; if only I could go back to that time. But sense took over and I decided to be rational and examine the memories, take them apart and see if what I was remembering was accurate. Of course, I soon realised that I was only remembering all the good stuff and actually, there were difficulties, problems, sadnesses back in those memories too. So we have to be careful how we interpret our memories.

There is a tendency to do this with the First and Second World Wars. I bet for those soldiers, miles from home and loved ones, cold, wet and frightened in the trenches the war felt endless and terrible. So many millions killed! It is right that we remember them and right that we think and pray for those fighting in wars now all over the world and those who are the victims of war, displaced from home, struggling to keep their families fed and sheltered. But it all seems so distant and such a big and overwhelming never ending problem. I was thinking this as I drove into work this morning and it occurred to me that all I could do was pray for the broken world, but pray from a grateful heart. Grateful that I have a job, will eat 3 meals today, can turn the heating on in my flat if it gets chilly and I will be able to do this, almost certainly, tomorrow, and the next day and the day after that.

And also, if peace is the absence of conflict then I can choose to live in peace. I can choose to end an argument, and choose not to begin one. I can learn to live appreciatively of those around me and speak words of peace and encouragement rather than criticise or make sarcastic comments because I am trying to be clever or funny. Hard though, isn't it?

So, as I said, remembering is a funny thing. As we stand to remember those who gave their lives, let's do so with thankful hearts. Let's also remember that conflict is very much present in our world at so many levels and try and bring peace to the little bit of the world we live in.

Liz

Dates for your diary

November 11th - **Sunday@Ten** will be a Remembrance Service suitable for all ages. Starts at 10 for an hour.

November 18th - **Sunday@4** at 4pm in small hall for families with young children. The service is very short, informal, interactive and fun. Ends with a bring and share tea.

November 18th 7.30 pm – **Community cinema**. Due to licence conditions we are not able to advertise the titles of films. If you would like to know future films send your email address to cinema@stmarkschurch.me.uk. There is no admission charge although we appreciate donations. At the interval, enjoy free tea or coffee and opportunity to buy popcorn and ice cream.

Friday November 30th **Advent calendar making** for age 7-11 - £3 per child. Places must be pre-booked by 16th November. Email Liz

Saturday December 1st from 10-1pm **Tattenhams Christmas Market** – in the community hall. Come and buy some Christmas presents and enjoy coffee and homemade cakes in our very well priced coffee shop.

Saturday December 1st from 4 pm – 6.30 pm - **Tattenham Corner Christmas Market and Tree lighting**. A bouncy castle and lots of stalls - including a Messy church stall. Raffle and lots of nice things to eat!. Father Christmas is bound to make an appearance!

December 14th - **Gin Night** Ticket price £20 from Liz and Des.

December 15th **Star Trail** A wonderful trip through the story of the 3 Wise Men. Arrive between 11 and 11.30 – takes 45 mins - for all the family.

Next Messy Church will be Messy Christmas! Dec 4th

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