

# The Smestow Vale Team Ministry

St. John's and St. Michael's

Keeping in Touch with our Church Family

Sunday 14th November 2021

Remembrance Sunday



God our refuge and strength,  
bring near the day when wars shall cease  
and poverty and pain shall end,  
that the earth may know the peace of heaven.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Prophet looks forward to a time of peace.

In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war any more. Every man will sit under his own vine and under his own fig-tree, and no-one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken. All the nations may walk in the name of their gods; we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.

*Micah 4:1-5*

## Jesus reminds his friends that love can involve sacrifice.

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you

servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

*John 15 :9-17*

## A reflection for Remembrance Tide from Revd Richard Fisher.

Renewing relationships to live better together through reconciliation is the heartbeat of Coventry Cathedral.

It all stems from two powerful symbols that emerged from the burn-out Cathedral after its wartime destruction: the Charred Cross, made from two roof beams, and the Cross of Nails formed from three medieval roof nails.

Their meaning was amplified by the simple act of writing the words of Christ from the cross "Father, forgive" on the ruined walls – and by the words of Provost Richard Howard in a Christmas Day roadcast six weeks after the bombing, that we need to make a "kinder, more Christ-like sort of world." The call for reconciliation quickly became a powerful sign of friendship and hope in the post-war years. The Christian partnerships that emerged became the international community of the Cross of Nails, which continues to pray at noon every Friday a Litany of Reconciliation.

As we remember people from many different nations who have died in war (and their loved ones),

let us be aware of our own capacity for violence, which begins in human hearts, and challenge everyday militarism which glamorises war and venerates the armed forces as “heroes”.

Harry Patch, the last British soldier who fought in the First World War, said in 2004: Passchendaele was a disastrous battle—thousands and thousands of young lives were lost. It makes me angry. Earlier this year, I went back to Ypres to shake the hand of Charles Kuentz, Germany's only surviving veteran from the war. It was emotional. He is 107. We've had 87 years to think what war is. To me, it's a license to go out and murder. Why should the British government call me up and take me out to a battlefield to shoot a man I never knew, whose language I couldn't speak? All those lives lost for a war finished over a table. Now what is the sense in that?

*Richard*

### **Prayers for Remembrance Tide**

#### **Sunday**

As we remember the Fallen, pray for peace in today's conflict zones. (Mark 13: 7a, 8a)

#### **Monday**

Pray for those who still struggle with physical and mental disabilities caused by war.

#### **Tuesday**

Pray that people and governments will put into effect the decisions of COP26.

#### **Wednesday**

Pray for nations facing starvation, including the people of Afghanistan.

#### **Thursday**

Pray for continuing efforts to make Covid19 vaccine available to all the world.

#### **Friday**

Pray that help will be available for countries worst-affected by climate change.

#### **Saturday**

Pray for the country of Nicaragua following the controversial presidential election.

### **Please remember those who have asked for our prayers**

Joy Waistell, Sarah Aldridge, Geoff Truby, Ann and Barrie Taylor, Olga Barrow-Collins, Amanda and George Moorhouse.

### **Those who have died**

Eric Corns, Nora Reynolds, Horace Woodford and David Allen.

Please send requests for prayer to the Parish Office

### **Services Next Week.**

**Sunday 21st**

**9.30am St. John's**

**11.00am St. Michael's**

### **Taize Prayer**

Taize prayer this Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm at St Benedict's.

### **Intercessions Workshop**

Do you lead prayers in Church services? Or, are you interested in exploring this special ministry? This Team event is an opportunity to refresh and encourage one another, sharing good practice and resource ideas.

Tuesday 23 November, 7.30 -9.00, at St Benedict's.

Please contact William Cole phone 01902 476843 or email [williambookaholic@gmail.com](mailto:williambookaholic@gmail.com) for more details or register if you'd like to come.

