



Dear Friends,

As I write this we have literally just got back in from the Hippodrome where we saw the magnificent production of War Horse.

In an article in the programme Max Hastings begins, “We know that World War I killed some ten million fighting men, almost 800,000 of them British. Much less is known of the fate of a million hapless horses sent to France between 1914 and 1918. Only 62,000 returned. War Horse offers a glimpse of the experiences that befell them,”

Sculpture, art, music and almost balletic movement were brought together to tell an amazing, beautiful and heart-rending story. We were given snippets of action from different times in the war demonstrating both the needs and fears of the average soldier on both sides and the horses brought into the theatre of war enlivened the theatre where we were sitting.

Also in the programme Michael Morpurgo, the author of the book on which the production is based, wrote about part of his inspiration. He set up the charity Farms for City Kids which we have supported in the past and his story involves a young boy who had come to the farm from Birmingham. Morpurgo’s article from 2007 talks about Billy who visited the farm 25 years before, a troubled child who had been multiply fostered and had developed such a stammer that he barely spoke. He writes

“One November evening I came to the farmhouse to read to the children. As I came into the stable-yard behind the house I found Billy standing there under the stable light talking freely to one of the horses. He spoke confidently, knowing he was not being judged or mocked.

And I had the impression that the horse was listening and understanding too. It was an unforgettable moment for all three of us, I think. It was that extraordinary, inspirational moment that gave me the confidence I needed to begin writing War Horse” © Michael Morpurgo September 2007

The poignancy of this moment of inspiration is carried beautifully into the show which offers us a different angle on the First World War.

This month we commemorate the centenary of the ending of the War in ways which you can read about elsewhere in the magazine. It is the human stories rather perhaps than the political narratives which offer us a real way in to understanding something of what went on and this human and animal story, though fictional helps us greatly. I highly recommend it.

Priscilla

Aspects of life at St Faith and St Laurence

Morning prayer – is normally said Monday to Thursday and Saturday at 8.15 am in the Lady Chapel. We use Common Worship Daily Prayer, all are welcome to come and join in.

Reflections A chance to meet together over a cuppa and reflect on the Gospel reading for the previous Sunday. A group meets on Mondays from 1.45-3pm Venues are listed in the Programme of the month.

Task Groups – The church has a number of task groups enabling areas of church life. These are listed in the magazine with the contact details of the chairs. If you would like to be a part of a groups please contact the relevant chair or Priscilla. All are welcome to join.

Stay and Play meets on Thursday between 9.30 and 11am in the Hall to give a chance for people with young children to meet and the children to play. All are welcome. Cost £1.50 per family.

Sunday Club meets on the first, third and fourth Sundays of each month except during the holidays. We hold an extra Sunday Club on days when there is a baptism. All are welcome to join in hearing and experiencing a Bible Story and learning together about what it means for our daily lives.

Messy Church takes place on the first Saturday of each month, most months. A chance for children and parents/ carers to have an informal time of worship, and discovering about a Bible story through song, craft, listening, cooking and so much more. Dates are published in advance and all are welcome to come along.

Planned Giving helps people make giving regular. You decide how much you can afford to give. You can join the envelope scheme weekly or monthly or pay by Standing Order or annually by cheque. Income tax payers are asked to Gift Aid their giving, so the Church can reclaim the tax on their donations at no extra cost to the donors. For details, contact Jackie Taylor.

The Parish Giving Scheme is another way that you can give at no extra cost to yourself. It reduces paperwork and increases cash flow for us. Details are available from Geoff Bennett or Priscilla.

We support **Recycling**. We have a special collection on the first Sunday of every month when we collect ALUMINIUM cans and foil which can be sold and the money raised is donated to our Mission Partners in Chile (through USPG) Local supermarkets have battery recycling facilities in this area. Pauline Sitford (427 7005).

Home Communion We have a team of lay people trained and able to bring Home Communion usually on a monthly basis. This is for those who are unable to come to church long term. If the situation is more temporary for example after an operation you can also receive communion, usually from Priscilla. In either case please contact Priscilla.

Traidcraft

Traidcraft sells a range of fairly traded food, cards, clothes and accessories. We use Traidcraft tea and coffee and everything we buy helps fight poverty and supports our church. You can order seasonal gifts through the church at Christmas time when catalogues will be available. Any questions, please ask Ruth Jeavons or Bronwen Jones.

'easyfundraising'

Next time you shop online, think of St Faith and St Laurence and raise free donations with 3,000+ retailers:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stfaithandstlaurence>

Women's Fellowship meets on the first Monday of the month from March to December. Meetings are held in the Committee Room at 7.45pm. We have talks on a variety of subjects. See Programme of the Month for details.

Prayer Ministry Team

Prayer ministry is offered during the 10am Communion on Sundays. People can receive prayer for themselves or for any situation that is important to them. It takes place in the Lady Chapel during the distribution of communion.

Foodbank

We collect food for the Quinton and Oldbury Foodbank. There is a box in church and food can be placed there at any time. The list of things that are needed is in church and in the hall. Food is distributed from St Boniface Church on Wednesdays and Paul and Barney's place on Fridays. Vouchers are required to receive food.

Choir and Music.

Choir Practice takes place weekly, normally on Thursdays 6-7pm. Anyone interested in singing in the choir should contact Simon Palmer, Organist & Choirmaster. (Contact details on page cover) We also like to encourage instrumentalists to perform in church, either in services or in concerts.

Call in for Coffee time together over a cuppa on a Wednesday morning from 10.30 -12.00. if needed we can arrange for someone to collect you and then take you home. Please ring Pauline Sitford (427 7005). If you are passing, do call in, or bring a friend, all are welcome.

Current Financial Situation

It is important that you are kept informed of our current financial situation at this difficult time. Both in terms of the cost of restoring the Church hall and also the day to day running costs of the Church.

Church Hall Building Costs.

Much attention has been paid to the need to raise monies for the repair of the Church hall which has received a generous response. So much so that the original target £56,985 has been reached and work has been commenced with the Diocesan Architects overseeing the project.

Unfortunately, during the first stage of the work, structural problems have been identified which require additional work. A new specification has been drawn up to remedy those problems and estimates have been obtained for that work. This has increased the cost from £56,985 to £139,645 and extended the project completion time . We also have to factor in VAT and it's possible reclaim.

The problem has been exacerbated by the contractor's inability to secure the roof which has resulted in flooding and subsequent damage, particularly to the floor. As I understand it, all costs for the repair of this damage should be met by the contractors insurance. It does, however, mean that the time for repairing the building will be extended.

Day to day running costs.

In addition to paying for the Hall roof repairs, we have struggled to meet our running costs which average about £2000 per week. Our income from the hall has been reduced though this should be made up by insurance claims. There also appears to be a reduction in the general level of income and an increase in expenditure.

However it is quite difficult to accurately estimate the state of our ability to pay for our day to day expenses with outstanding payments and income in both our Current Account and our Church Hall savings account.

PCC have agreed to withdraw £5,000 from our reserve account and to withhold the November and December payments of the Common Fund (2x £4,690) with the intention of paying this at a later stage when we can afford it. Thereafter we agreed to review our payments to the Common Fund on a monthly basis before paying a cheque to the Diocese. This gives us a breathing space to obtain a clearer picture of where we stand.

The situation is very difficult. Your ongoing support and prayers are much appreciated.

Geoff Bennett-Treasurer

Edgborne Cluster worship

We will be welcoming members of the churches in the Edgborne cluster to our evening worship on November 25th at 6.30pm. The Feast of Christ the King. It would be lovely to have some extra church members in the congregation to welcome people and share together in fellowship.

Presentation of Ribbons

At our Harvest Festival Service, we presented surplices to our three new choristers and the purple Bishop's Award ribbons to some of our more senior members. They will receive them again formally in the cathedral in a service on Saturday, November 17th at 3.30pm. This is the Annual RSCM service and all are welcome to attend.

Harvest Bread recipe

After the Harvest Service a number of people asked me for the recipe for the soda bread, so here it is.

Ingredients

250g Plain flour

250g Wholemeal plain flour

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon bicarbonate of Soda

400ml milk

1 ½ tablespoons white wine vinegar

(or use Buttermilk instead of the milk and vinegar but the above is how I made it)

Method

Heat oven to 200C / 400F / Gas Mark ^Mix the dry ingredients in a large bowl

Add the vinegar to the milk and then add the mixture to the dry ingredients

Mix with a spoon

This doesn't need kneading

Shape into rolls or a single loaf (if doing a loaf make a cross shaped cut into the loaf down to about half-way through the dough)

Bake the loaf for about 30 minutes or the rolls for about 12-15 minutes until they sound hollow when hit on the base

Cool and eat!!!!!!! Enjoy

Priscilla



“IT IS PROPOSED THEREFORE TO BUILD A MEMORIAL CHURCH”

“The time has arrived when we should take prompt and vigorous action to inaugurate a worthy and noble memorial... It should be on a grand scale, beautiful in design, worthy of those who have served and of those who have fallen. It is proposed therefore to build a memorial church.”

When the Vicar of Harborne, the Reverend A.G. Lloyd, wrote these words in January 1919, the First World War had ended only two months before. A fund had been set up to build a war memorial to the 204 men of Harborne who had given their lives. In that short time, the fund had raised such a large sum, Reverend Lloyd was able to add the building of a new church to the existing plans for the more traditional memorial in St Peter’s Churchyard.

It is not widely remembered that St Faith’s and St Laurence’s is that church. It still stands in the middle of the community to remind us of all those that didn’t come home. Their names are recorded on the roll of honour board which is set high on the porch wall. Each Remembrance Sunday, we distribute their names amongst the congregation to ensure that they are remembered still.

This year, the church will mark its status as a memorial church by taking part in the national memorial installation “There But Not There”. This project aims to bring the lost back into the communities they left behind, as part of the centenary commemoration of the end of the 1914-1918 First World War at Remembrance 2018. This is in the form of transparent military figures who will sit or stand wherever there is a roll of honour; There But not There. We will have 10 seated figures in place in church from 4 November through to Remembrance Sunday.

More information about the “There Not There” project and the new Remembered charity can be found at <https://www.therebutnotthere.org.uk>

Caroline Mosley



This month’s magazine cover is of one of many hundreds of churches taking part in “There But Not there”

Remembrance Concert

On Saturday 10th November, the eve of Remembrance Sunday, we will be holding a concert in church to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. As Caroline's article on previous page reminds us, it is particularly appropriate that we hold the concert in our church, built as a memorial to those who lost their lives 100 years ago.



The evening will be a blend of suitable readings, poetry and music. The music will include *Greater love hath no man* by John Ireland (the text of which is in a window in the North Aisle), *Thou knowest Lord* by Henry Purcell and *The Lord is my shepherd* by John Rutter.

The concert will begin at 7.30 pm and finish soon after 9 pm, with a short interval. We hope that many will be able to join us. There is no charge, but a retiring collection will be taken.

Simon Palmer
Organist and Choirmaster

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 10.30AM - 12 NOON

ST.FAITH & ST. LAURENCE COMMITTEE ROOM

COFFEE/TEA AND TEACAKE - £3.00



BRING AND BUY, BOOKS,PUZZLES AND TOMBOLA

PROCEEDS TO FISHER HOUSE AT QE HOSPITAL

Church Laundering: thank you Pat Jones

After more than 25 years of dedicated service, Pat Jones has decided to retire from laundering the church linen, effective 31 December 2018. Our grateful thanks to Pat for keeping our linen, used every week for services, so clean and beautiful.

Can you help?

From January 2019 we are in need of a person, or persons, who can continue this role. In brief, the work involved is weekly washing of small cloths, or 'purificators', used in communion services, along with checking (for wine stains etc.) of other items such as small table and altar cloths, and washing these as needed. Further details of what's involved are available. If you might be able to help with this, please get in touch.

Bronwen Jones (Churchwarden)

Prayer of the month

When we remember 1918, we reflect on a time of great hope and great sadness for our country. We recall our part in the horrors of war and the darkness that drives humanity to violence. But we also remember the promise of peace. On 4 August 1918, many in this country came together with King George V to pray for peace: 100 days later the Great War ended.

Our God is one who brings peace to hearts and calls us not only to stop violence, but to seek reconciliation. His reconciliation asks that we disempower memories of destruction and their hold over individuals and societies. Through this we can learn to approach difference with curiosity and compassion, rather than fear – and begin to flourish together in previously unthinkable ways.

(Justin Welby 2018 *Remembrance 100*)

What does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy

and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8

A Prayer for Peacemakers

History can inspire or trap.

Walls can protect or divide.

Words can encourage or inflame.

Power can free or destroy.

Touch can comfort or violate.

Peace can be shared or withheld.

Gracious God, on this day,

when we remember past and present conflicts,

we pray for the divided peoples of the world,

that leaders, governments and each one of us

may use our resources,

our opportunities and our lives

in the service of reconciliation,

for the sake of future generations

and to the glory of your name.

Amen.

Sally Griffiths

God's own county?

Jodie Whittaker, the latest Dr Who is a Yorkshire lass. She may in time, add to the list of famous women from that county which includes the Brontë sisters.

We have much to be thankful for to God's own county, but of all the bright stars of Yorkshire's rich heritage of Christian witness, for me Hilda of Whitby who we remember on November 19th, shines out as one of the brightest.

Some, including the Yorkshire Tourist Board, would claim that she was Yorkshire's greatest woman. However, the people of Hartlepool (in County Durham) may disagree. It was there that Hilda was first an abbess, and the place where some historians would argue she spent the greater part of her time even when running a dual site abbey.

It's not hard to see why some Hartlepudlians might think this way. If you go to the site of Hilda's monastery in Whitby, you will find a scene that is exactly what the romantic Celtic saint spotter wants to find – magnificent windswept headlands, beautiful coasts, big skies, large expanses of emerald-green grass, amazing vistas.

By contrast, if you go to the site of Hilda's monastery in Hartlepool, you find slum housing, a chip shop, a taxi rank, rather less elegant views of the Tees Oil Refinery, and an ageing nuclear power station.

For me though, it is precisely that gritty and ugly contemporary setting that makes the memory of Hilda and the other Northern saints so real. Hilda's first monastery was located in a place which now has amongst the highest deprivation rates in the country. In the north-east, if you chip away the veneer of post-industrial sprawl, poverty and decay, you uncover amazing lives of faith - Hilda, Bede, Caedmon, Aidan amongst others.

If you wanted strong evidence for the feminist claim that women have been eroded from history, try doing some research on Hilda. With Bede and Aidan the shelves are bulging. For Hilda we're dealing with scraps. With so little hard evidence, it is very easy to re-invent Hilda according to our own purpose or your own personal set of prejudices and opinions. That's what many have done.

The perception of the island of Lindisfarne is an interesting case study. Today, people with an interest in Celtic spirituality (myself included) love to go there because they see it as a place of escape, of peace and quiet, a place to feed a spirituality that is for the most part insular and individualist. Yet Aidan chose that spot because it was the equivalent of the M25, a place from where it was easy to carry the Gospel by sea to as many people as possible.

For some Hilda is a feminist ikon, a woman who in a patriarchal culture was able to gain for herself by courage, determination and intellect a place of massive influence and leadership.

For others she is rather the opposite, a meek stooge to Rome who rolled over all too easily, abandoned her Celtic roots and accepted the authority of Rome at the Synod of Whitby in 664 AD.

It is testimony to the power of Whitby, that King Oswy chose the site for the Synod. It was game, set and match to Bishop Wilfrid of Ripon, the chief spokesman for the pro-Roman delegation, but Hilda was obedient to the decision of the Synod which reunited British Christianity in a way that was essential to the mission.

Later, Hilda moved to become the second Abbess of the monastery at Hartlepool, and then in 657 she founded the monastery at Whitby, a twin-site establishment with Hartlepool. Before her death she founded yet another monastery at Hockness, 13 miles from Whitby. It is hard to overstate the power and importance of these monasteries, places where men and women, married and celibate, shared in living the Christian life and proclaiming the Gospel.

Whitby was a powerful place of learning with immense emphasis placed on study and on language. The monks and nuns sought to live in accordance with the early church, holding all things in common and making no distinction between rich and poor. Above all, it sought to equip people for the mission in a pagan country, and Hilda oversaw the formation of five Bishops at Whitby in addition to poets, scholars and musicians such as Caedmon.

Even when you strip away the veneers of different re-imaginings over time, Hilda led a remarkable life. The language of the Church was Latin, however the language of the people was Anglo-Saxon. Hilda's monastery would have employed Latin in its study and its worship, and it would have been easy for them to be dismissive of the pagan Anglo-Saxon spoken by the local people. In fact the opposite was the case. Hilda and her community were great sponsors of Anglo-Saxon and identified people like Caedmon who could communicate the Gospel in that language. That means that she was a bridge builder between Christian and non-Christian worlds, and indeed between the literate wealthy classes who had Latin and the poor who spoke only Anglo-Saxon. She was a cultural bridge-builder, and that was what enabled and drove the mission. She is called St. Hilda because what is known as an Approved Cult, and not by canonization which did not emerge until the 16th century.

Hilda used the atmosphere of learning and prayer in the monastery to send out ordinary people like Caedmon who could sing the Gospel in the language that people could be understood. Hilda's example of self-sacrificial leadership, and of courageous acceptance of what the gathered church discerned as the will of God, is a particular challenge to us today.

Peter Stokes

PROGRAMME FOR NOVEMBER

Sat	3	10.30 am	Messy Church	Church
SUN 4 ALL SAINTS				
		8.00 am	Holy Communion <i>Deuteronomy 6.1-9; Hebrews 9.11-14; Mark 12.28-34</i>	
		10.00 am	Family Communion <i>Readings as at 8am</i>	
		6.30 pm	Evensong <i>Psalms 145.1-9 Daniel 2.1-11, 25-48; Revelation 7.9-end</i>	
Mon	5	1.45 pm	Reflections	<i>143 Balden Road</i>
Wed	7	10.30 am	Call in for Coffee	Committee Room
		11.00 am	Holy Communion <i>Philippians 2.12-18; Luke 14.25-33</i>	Lady Chapel
Thu	8	6.00 pm	Choir Practice	Church
		7.30 pm	ATC practice for Remembrance Sunday	Church
Sat	10	7.30 pm	Remembrance Concert	Church
SUN 11 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY				
		8.00 am	Holy Communion <i>Micah 4.1-5; Philippians 4.6-9; Mark 1.14-20</i>	
		10.00 am	Morning Praise	
		6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist <i>Readings as at 8am</i>	
Mon	12	1.45 pm	Reflections	<i>143 Balden Road</i>
		7.30 pm	Morning Praise planning Meeting	Vicarage
Tue	13	7.15 pm	PCC Meeting	Committee Room
Wed	14	10.30 am	Call in for Coffee	Committee Room
		11.00 am	Holy Communion <i>Titus 3.1-7; Luke 17.11-19</i>	Lady Chapel
Thu	15	6.00 pm	Choir Practice	Church
		7.15 pm	Deanery Synod Meeting	
Fri	16	7.30 pm	Churches Together Week of Prayer planning meeting at Harborne Baptist Church.	
Sat	17	3.30 pm	RSCM Festival Service	<i>Birmingham Cathedral</i> (See page 4)

SUN 18 SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

- 8.00 am Holy Communion *Daniel 12.1-3; Hebrews 10.11-25; Mark 13.1-8*
- 10.00 am Family Communion
Readings as at 8am
- 6.30 pm Evensong *Psalm 95*
Daniel 3.13-end; Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43

- Mon 19 1.45 pm Reflections *143 Balden Road*
- Wed 21 10.30 am Call in for Coffee *Committee Room*
- 11.00 am Holy Communion *Lady Chapel*
Revelation 4; Luke 19.11-28
- 8.00 pm Team Meeting
- Thu 22 6.00 pm Choir Practice *Church*

SUN 25 CHRIST THE KING

- 8.00 am Holy Communion *Daniel 7.9-10, 13-14; Revelation 1.4b-8; John 18.33-37*
- 10.00 am Family Communion
Readings as at 8am
- 6.30 pm **Joint Worship with the Edgborne Group at St Faith and St Laurence.**

- Mon 26 1.45 pm Reflections *143 Balden Road*
- Tue 27 2.00 pm William Lench Court Service
- Wed 28 10.30 am Call in for Coffee *Committee Room*
- 11.00 am Holy Communion *Lady Chapel*
Revelation 15.1-4; Luke 21.12-19
- 3.30 pm After school club at Woodhouse School (to be confirmed)
- Thu 29 6.00 pm Choir Practice *Church*

Lead me from death to life,
from falsehood to truth;
lead me from despair to
hope,
from fear to trust;
lead me from hate to love,
from war to peace.
Let peace fill our heart,
our world, our universe.





CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Due to the uncertainty surrounding the hall, the Task Group has only recently been able to plan for a seasonal event this winter. We are now able to hold an event which will be called "CHRISTMAS IS COMING" It will consist of a series of Stalls, Tombola, Raffle, Memory Tree, Father Christmas and Refreshments. It will be held on 1st December. We will need items for some of the stalls (as in previous years) Details of which will be in the Pew sheets and separate notices. Any support you can give will be really appreciated.

Watch out for the notices and we look forward to seeing you on the day.

David Glanvill



In aid of
**BIRMINGHAM
ST MARY'S
HOSPICE**

Pre-Christmas Coffee Morning

Tea, Coffee, Homemade Cakes, Crafts,
Raffle, Tombola & Christmas Cards

Friday 23rd November
10.30am onwards
91 Fitz Roy Avenue, Harborne,
B17 8RH

Registered Charity No. 503456

Lest we forget.

Driving back from the south of France in August, we decided that we would visit one of the many Commonwealth War Grave cemeteries; I have done this before but it seemed especially right to do it this year. We did not have any particular place in mind but - for those of you who may not have driven through the area - there are literally dozens and they are very well signposted. Some are small with only twenty or thirty graves; others are huge. The largest is Tyne Cot Cemetery which has 11,900 graves. We ended up, quite arbitrarily, at Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery and Memorial which is just south east of Arras.

The cemetery contains 2369 graves of which 1458 are not identified; the backdrop to the cemetery is a curved white memorial upon which are inscribed the names of 9847 soldiers who have no known grave. This memorial and cemetery commemorates soldiers who were killed in the period from 8th August to 11th November 2018 in a battle period known as The Advance to Victory, a series of battles during which forces from Great Britain, Ireland and South Africa finally pushed the German forces eastwards.

Any visit to one of these places is moving, but this visit had an added dimension - something very simple and yet quite profound. When we pulled up in the lay by, the only other car there was a taxi. In the cemetery there was a lady, perhaps in her fifties, standing by one of the graves. In due course she came to us, visibly distressed and asked if we were looking for someone in particular because she had a map; we said "No" and shared a few words with her, whereupon she said "I have a spare cross. Would you like to place it somewhere?" She then said she had to go to the taxi.

All those graves and the memorial. Where to put our cross with a poppy? Coming from County Durham I looked for a grave of a Durham Light Infantry soldier, but failing that we settled for something close - the Northumberland Fusiliers. This month, thousands upon thousands of words will be written about the 1914 - 1918 war and rightly so. The rights and wrongs of it, the futility of it, the scale of the casualties, the horror of the trenches the loss of millions of young lives.

All I want to add to that is to emphasise the importance of not forgetting. Given the age of the lady we met, whatever family member she was remembering, it must have been someone fairly distant. And yet she was visibly moved. The remembering was important to her.

Our very act of stopping and being invited to place a cross on any grave meant that soldier from Northumberland was not forgotten. The Bible reminds us that we are prone to forget. The people of long ago are not remembered, nor will there be any remembrance of people yet to come by those who come after them. (Ecclesiastes 1:1) For that reason alone we need to make the effort to remember.

Geoffrey Lowson

They think it's all over, it is now.

Many men, believing that the Great War (as it came to be known) would be over by Christmas 1914, joined up so as not to miss out on the action. A large number were young, well below the permitted age for joining the armed services at the time.

John Parr enlisted in 1912 when only fourteen, having had a brief job as a caddy at a local golf club. John grew up in North Finchley, not far from Victoria House. He was 5ft 3ins tall with brown eyes and brown hair. Unfortunately no photograph of the soldier survives.

As a member of the Middlesex Regiment, Parr became a reconnaissance cyclist, riding ahead of the advancing troops to gain information about the enemy.

In the summer of 1914, his battalion was stationed in northern France near the village of Bettignies. It is unclear exactly what happened on 21st August, but Parr appears to have been sent to search for a missing unit and was killed by rifle fire after encountering a German cavalry patrol. He was seventeen years old and the first British casualty of the war.

Private George Ellison from Leeds had, like John Parr joined the army as a young man. He left the service to marry and became a coal miner. Shortly before the outbreak of war, he was recalled and served with the Royal Irish Lancers. He served the battles of Mons, Ypres, Arras; Loos, Bassee, Lens and Cambrai. By November 1918, he found himself again in Mons.

At 9.30am, Ellison was shot while on the outskirts of the town. He died just 90 minutes before the signing of the armistice - the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. He was the last military casualty of the Great War although soldiers died later as a result of their injuries. .

The graves of both soldiers face each other in the St Symphorien military cemetery just southeast of Mons. Their proximity is said to be a coincidence - a consequence of the fact that Mons was lost to the Germans at the beginning of the war and regained at the very end.

The Reverend David Railton, who had served on the Western front and seen numerous men die on the battlefields, had the idea of exhuming one of the many thousands of unidentified bodies and give the soldier a State funeral as a representative of all those who had died fighting in the pursuit of freedom. Four bodies were exhumed from each of the main battlefields in France and Belgium.

At midnight on 7th November 1920, in a chapel in Saint-Pol-Sur-Ternoise in northern France, one of the corpses was selected by Brigadier General L J Wyatt. The unknown warrior was then sealed in a specially built coffin and transported to Dover on HMS Verdun. Upon arrival on 10th November, the coffin was placed in the same van that had transported the bodies of Nurse Edith Cavell and Captain Charles Fryatt to London and State funerals. The coffin remained at Victoria Station overnight, guarded by servicemen with arms reversed.

The stone Cenotaph in Whitehall, designed by Edwin Lutyens, had replaced the temporary wooden structure erected in 1919 and at 11 o'clock, as the horse-drawn carriage conveying the coffin arrived at the new permanent memorial. King George V unveiled the edifice. After a two-minute silence, the coffin was carried to Westminster Abbey. It was lowered into the grave at the west end of the nave, encased in French soil brought from the battlefields.



The tombstone of grey Belgian marble was inscribed with the simple inscription 'A British Warrior who fell in the Great War 1914-1918 for King and Country. Greater love hath no man than this.' It has since been replaced by a much longer inscription and the engraved wording filled with brass melted down from wartime ammunition. (Stainer & Bell)





FROM THE REGISTERS



Funeral at the Crematorium

27th September

Dennis Nipper

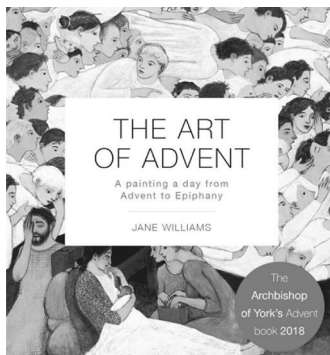
FACTS AND FIGURES

Week Beginning	Communicants	Loose Plate £	Planned Giving £	Gift Aid £
Sept 23	77	86.70	341.22	20.00
Sept 30	66	86.04	97.44	15.00
Oct 7	78	91.96	99.50	2.00
Oct 14	30	102.44	62.00	23.00
Standing Orders			N/A	N/A
Parish Giving			N/A	N/A

Desert Island Bible

Ever since the Radio 4 programme Desert Island Discs began, it has provided its castaways with two mandatory books, the Bible and The Complete Works of Shakespeare. There have been reports recently that the Bible might be dropped from the programme. However, the BBC insists there are no plans to ditch the Bible. The presenter of the programme, Kirsty Young, has suggested to Philip Pullman that, as an atheist, he might not be too keen to have the Bible. Philip said, 'Why not? There are lots of good stories in the Bible.' We can say "Amen" to that!

BOOK REVIEW



The Art of Advent- Jane Williams

Jane Williams has carefully chosen 37 varied paintings from the very famous to the lesser known to take us from Advent to Epiphany: a painting a day. These are combined with texts to make us think more about what we believe and how it affects our lives. The text starts the exploration with the Advent themes of light and darkness.

Art of Advent is a small format book, but Jane manages in depth to challenge to what we think. This is combined with very powerful full colour images. Questions are given at the end of each painting's text to get us closer to the issues as individuals or in groups. I am pleased to say that Jane Williams doesn't just use the Grand Masters: non-Western and beautiful modern paintings are included. (SPCK)

(Dr Jane Williams is Assistant Dean and Lecturer in Systematic Theology at St Mellitus College, of which she is a founder member, She is the author of several books, including *Approaching Christmas* (Lion, 2005), *Approaching Easter* (Lion, 2006), *Lectionary Reflections Years A, B&C* (SPCK, 2011), *Faces of Christ* (Lion, 2011) and *Why Did Jesus Have to Die?* (SPCK, 2016). She is a regular contributor to the Church House Lectionary Reflections for Daily Prayer. She, and the other founders of St Mellitus College, Bishop Graham Tomlin and the Revd Dr Michael Lloyd, appear in a regular theological podcast, Godpod. Jane has also contributed to Radio 4's *Something Understood*)

Outdoor Christmas Market to be held in the grounds of Birmingham Cathedral.



Christmas at Birmingham Cathedral (St Philips) on Colmore Row will include an outdoor market and grotto in Cathedral Square this year.

The Cathedral's Clergy Team will officially open the market and bless those who visit at a special launch evening 6pm Thursday 15 November. The unique location will lend itself to a festive array of locally sourced crafts, gifts, food and drink and will run from Thursday 15 November until Sunday 22 December. Families will be able to book in for a very special visit with Father Christmas and to enjoy the events and services happening inside the Cathedral. The market will be home to one of the largest Christmas trees in the city.

For generations, families have made a point of visiting the Cathedral as part of their Christmas celebrations. The Cathedral team and congregation are delighted that worship will be going beyond the doors of the Cathedral. The Cathedral will be hosting a full programme of worship, music and film events to celebrate Advent and Christmas.

The Cathedral's coat donation appeal will be stepped up this winter. Wrap Up Brum will run from November until the end of December. 2017's appeal saw people from across the city and beyond donate over 3,000 coats and warm jackets plus hundreds of hats, coats and scarves for the homeless community and those in need. Members of the public will be able to donate coats at a chalet within the market. The Cathedral team will then place the donated items on a rail outside the Cathedral for those who need one. We will also continue to work with local charities including St Basils, Lets Feed Brum, The Salvation Army and SIFA Fireside to ensure the items reach those who the vulnerable in our city.

Anna Pitt, Chief Executive at Birmingham Cathedral said the Cathedral has a commitment to engaging with the local community.

She said: "I am delighted that the market will offer commuters and those who work in the city an opportunity to dwell in Cathedral Square, enjoy the market, and spend time with their family and friends in the city centre. Those who visit the Cathedral this year, whether for worship, the market, carols or events will find a very warm welcome."

The Centenary of the Armistice - Bellringing



As part of the programme to commemorate the centenary of the Armistice which signalled the end of the First World War, Her Majesty's Government is inviting communities across the UK to ring bells on 11 November at 12.30pm.

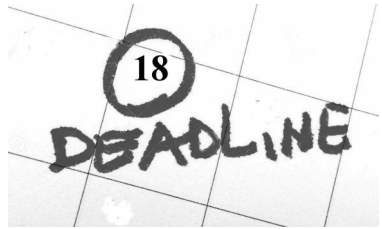
This will be a symbolic way to give thanks for the end of war 100 years ago and it will replicate the national outpouring of relief that took place at the end of the war as news of the Armistice filtered through and bells which had long been silent rang out. It will also coincide with the stepping off of 10,000 members of the public who will process past the Cenotaph in a nation's thank you. In this way, bells ringing out at 12.30 will help mark a shift in emphasis from the solemn services of Remembrance in the morning to one of thanksgiving for the end of war and for peace, in the afternoon.

The Government wants bells of any sort and in any location - across the country and also worldwide - to join in, as is appropriate, to mark this historic occasion, and very much hopes that churches across the UK will participate.

They very much want anyone participating in bellringing on 11 November to help populate this map by adding their bell ringing events at the button. It's very quick and you don't have to register. Simply go on the website, www.armistice100.org.uk enter the details and it will appear on the map.

The deadline for material for the next
PARISH MAGAZINE is

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 18th



Send Him a text

(This notice was seen by the entrance door to a church.)

"By entering this church it may be possible that you hear "the call of God.". However, it is less probable that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phones. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him. If you want to see Him, send Him a text as you are driving away from here."

And finally.....

As part of their Religious Education studies, a group of children from the local school were being shown around the village church by the vicar. They stopped to look at a big plaque on the side wall which listed the names of people from the village who had given their lives in two wars. One little boy asked the vicar why the names were listed, and the vicar explained that these were people from the village who died in the services. The boy looked puzzled and said, "It doesn't say much for the preaching, does it."

Many parents find that by the time their son or daughter is fit to live with, they are living with someone else.

It's no good telling me to act my age, because I haven't been this age before.