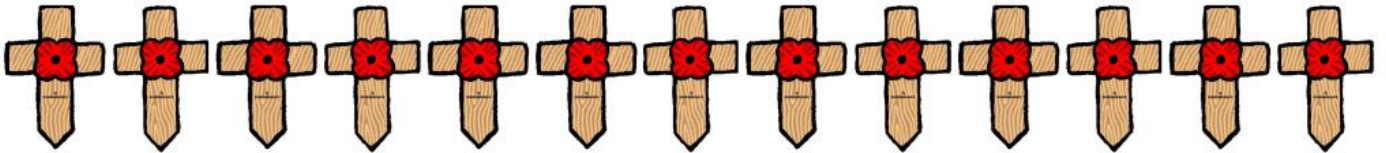


November 2020

Parish of Stockport and Brinnington

St Mary Stockport – St Thomas Stockport – St Luke Brinnington

STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH



Welcome to our parish news-sheet for November 2020.

The clocks have changed and the weeks are now ticking away towards Christmas, but as we enter November our thoughts turn to Remembrance Sunday, or if you like fireworks (and all that goes with them) maybe you are planning a nice slice of “Yorkshire” Parkin – alright then it doesn’t have to be the Yorkshire version but to me it has to be the “sticky” variety – to celebrate (if that is the right word) Bonfire Night. But first thank you all so much for your harvest gifts for the Wellspring last month and for your shoe-box gifts (or items to assist make up a box) for Teams4U.

Finally during October we were able to hold our Annual Meeting, delayed from April 2020 due to our closure arrangements and Covid restrictions. The meeting was held via Zoom – thank you to those who managed to join us. We very much hope that we will be back to a normal time-frame next year, with our Annual Meeting 2021 (for year ending December 2020) to be held before the end of May 2021.



RESULTS OF ELECTIONS

Parish of Stockport and Brinnington / Deanery of Stockport

At the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the above parish held on the 18th October 2020

The following were elected as **Churchwardens**:

Jayne Brindley – St Thomas

Susan Heap – St Mary

Paul Heard – St Luke

Anne Jepson – St Thomas

James Kitchen – St Luke

Adam Pinder – St Mary

The following were elected as **Lay Members of the Deanery Synod**:

Linda Mather

Kevin Morgan

Adam Pinder

The following were elected as **Lay Members of the Parochial Church Council**:

John Brearley

Tony Marsh

Kevin Morgan

Jane Scott

It seems to be that time of year when virtually every other e:mail or envelope that falls on to the door mat is from a charity or similar organisation asking for donations or assistance of some kind or another, which makes me wonder how those we normally support during the year (and especially at Christmas) are getting on in these difficult times. Some we have been in touch with, others not as yet, as we approach a very different Christmas from the ones we are accustomed to.

One organisation we have spoken to is Stockport Homes who would once again value any donations we can make in the form of gifts for distribution where needed to young people within the Borough.



Christmas Gift Drive

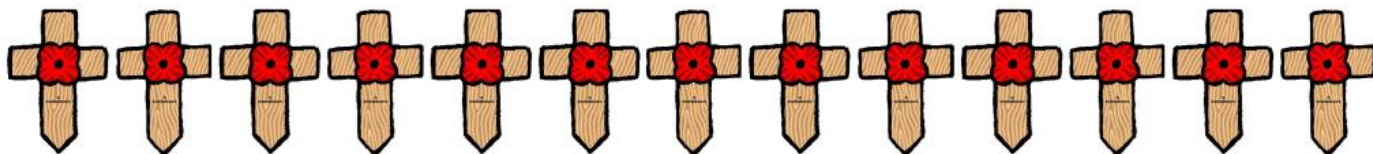
PLEASE help to brighten the festive season for children in need by donating to our Christmas Gift Drive in partnership with Stockport Homes.

**Stockport Homes will be handing out gifts for children and young people between the ages of 0 – 18 years of age.
(Gifts may be left at St Mary's at any time during November /early December)**

Please don't wrap your gift(s) but wrapping paper (separately) would be appreciated.

Thank You

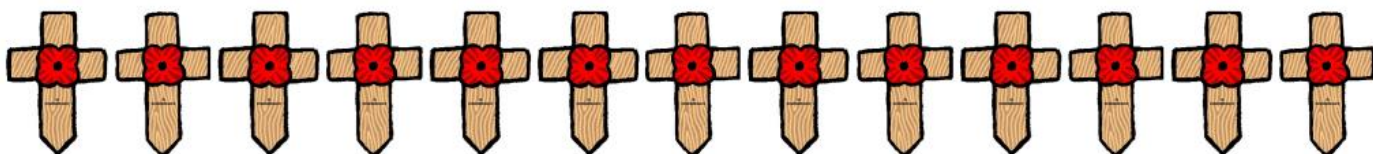
All being well, toys and gifts will be given to Stockport Homes at one of our Christmas Sunday services in December.



Thank you to those who have sent in their collection boxes for The Children's Society (£200 received) and The Leprosy Mission (£97 received). Cheques will be going out to the respective charities shortly.

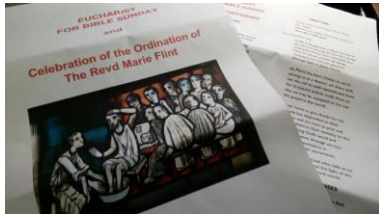


As stated earlier thank you to those who have given us a shoe box gift or items for boxes this year. In spite of difficult conditions with Covid-19 measures and restrictions, which of course are very much still ongoing, Margaret has a "load" of boxes from various sources (a selection of which are seen here at St Mary's for the service on the 25th October) and with lock-down knitting, plenty of box fillers. The boxes have a slightly more complicated journey this year – having to enter Wales during a further lockdown – but they will get there and will be sent off to their final destination. Someone, somewhere so excited to receive a wonderful gift.



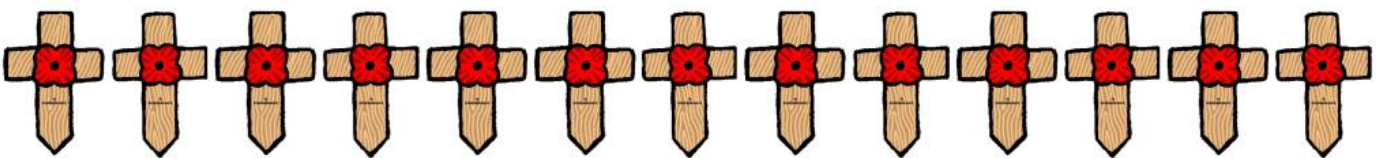
We can't possibly move into a new month without congratulating Marie on her Ordination as Deacon at Chester Cathedral on the 24th October.

No doubt many of you were able to watch the service on Chester Cathedral YouTube, and it was indeed lovely to be able to join Marie “virtually” if not in person at this special time. There are a few socially distanced photos on our Facebook page.



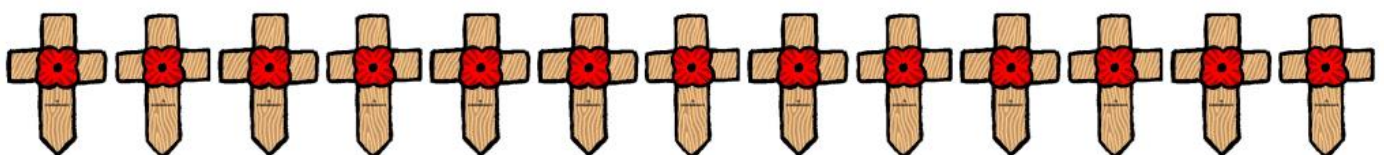
SMH.

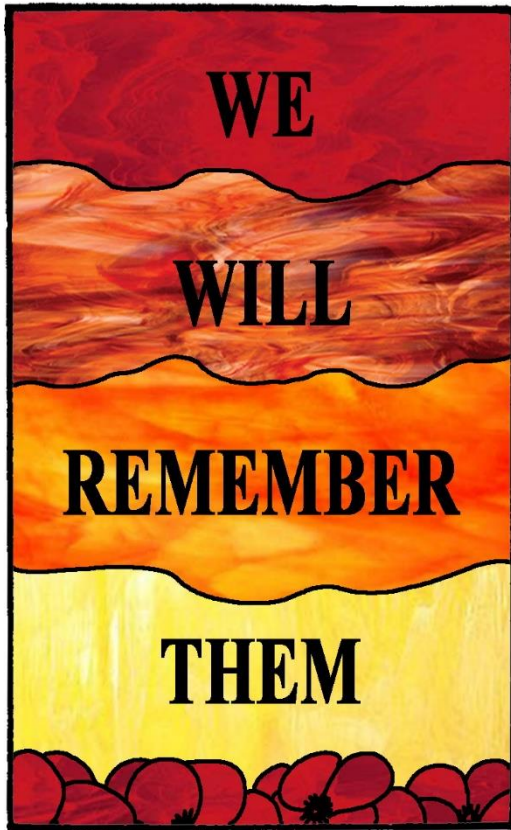
It was of course a joy to be present and take part “in person” at a special service at St Mary’s on Sunday 25th October – Eucharist for Bible Sunday – Celebration of the Ordination of The Revd Marie Flint. Our congratulations to Marie as she moves into this phase of her ministry with us.



All in the month of November: It was:

500 years ago, on 28th Nov 1520 that the Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan sailed into the South Pacific and named the waters the Pacific Ocean. / **200 years ago, on 28th Nov 1820, that Friedrich Engels, German socialist philosopher and social scientist who collaborated with Karl Marx to found modern communism and co-write the Communist Manifesto.** / 100 years ago, on 11th Nov 1920, that following World War 1, Britain and France held ceremonies to dedicate a national monument known as the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior. The British monument is at Westminster Abbey in London. / **100 years ago, on 21st Nov 1920 that Bloody Sunday took place during the Irish War of Independence. 31 people were killed in a day of violence that began when the IRA shot dead 14 British soldiers in Dublin. The British then opened fire on a Gaelic football crowd, killing 14 people. Three Irish prisoners held in Dublin Castle were also killed.** / 80 years ago, on 5th Nov 1940 that Franklin D Roosevelt became the only US President to win a third term in office. / **80 years ago, on 14th Nov 1940 that German Luftwaffe bombers virtually destroyed the city of Coventry, including its medieval cathedral.** / 80 years ago, on 15th Nov 1940 that all the Jews in Warsaw were transferred to the Warsaw Ghetto – about 400,000 of them. / **60 years ago, on 2nd Nov 1960 that a British jury cleared Penguin Books of obscenity for publishing D H Lawrence’s novel Lady Chatterley’s Lover. This event is often considered the beginning of the permissive society in Britain.** / 60 years ago, on 8th Nov 1960 that John F Kennedy was elected as the 35th President of the USA. / **40 years ago, on 4th Nov 1980 that Ronald Reagan was elected as the 40th President of the USA.** / 40 years ago, on 21st Nov 1980 that American TV soap opera Dallas revealed ‘Who shot J.R.’ after keeping viewers in suspense for eight months. / **30 years ago, on 7th Nov 1990 that Mary Robinson became the first female President of Ireland.** / 30 years ago, on 22nd Nov 1990 that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher announced her resignation. She was succeeded by John Major on 28th Nov. / **25 years ago, on 20th Nov 1995 that Princess Diana admitted that she had committed adultery, and spoke openly about her separation from the Prince of Wales in a frank interview for the BBC.** / 20 years ago, on 7th Nov 2000 that George W Bush was elected as the 43rd President of the USA, though the result of the election would not be known for over a month because of disputed votes in Florida. / **15 years ago, on 30th Nov 2005 that John Sentamu became Archbishop of York. He was the first black archbishop in the Church of England.**



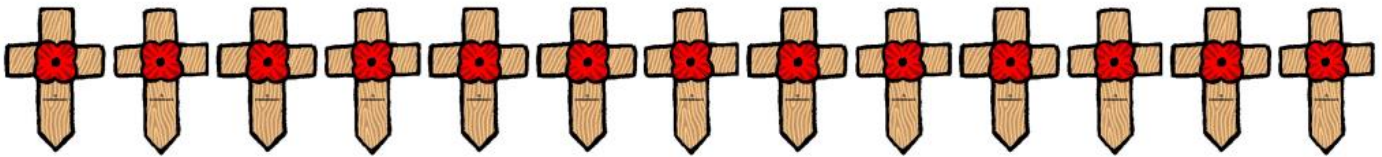


Poppy Appeal 2020

Look out for the Poppy Appeal again this year, but not so much via street collections. Instead, the Royal British Legion will focus on contactless donations, as a safer way forward during the pandemic.

One such method will be 'point of sale donations'. This means that when you shop at your supermarket and reach the till or online, you may be invited to round up your total to the nearest pound to help the Poppy Appeal.

A spokesman for the Royal British Legion said: "The Poppy Appeal 2020 is very much still going ahead", but that "the safety and well-being of our volunteers, staff and members is paramount. This means that collectors who fall into the vulnerable category have been advised "not to take part in activity on behalf of the Poppy Appeal that would expose them to any additional risks while coronavirus is still present." And yet the need is still huge: "Members of the Armed Forces Community are suffering significant hardship as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak and we at the Royal British Legion will do everything we possibly can to support them."



We will Remember 80 years on

Canon Paul Hardingham

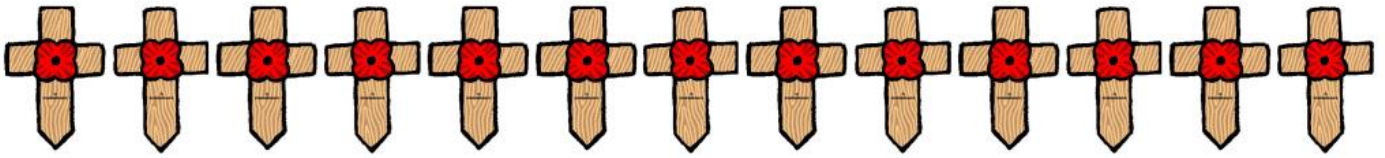
This year we've been remembering the Battle of Britain, described by Winston Churchill in August 1940 as '*one of the decisive battles of the war... never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.*' It was a dramatic turning point in the history of the Second World War. The occasions for Remembrance this month will provide us times of gratitude for what was achieved in the darkest moments of war.

However, this year we are very aware of our own struggles with the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic. We face an unseen enemy, but the effects on our lives and society are almost as devastating as world war.

Remembering is not just about focusing on past events. It is also about making present past events, as we give thanks for all that took place. The Battle of Britain was fought by the Few and won in the skies over the Channel. In our battle with the virus, we can call to mind the victory of Jesus: '*Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David.*' (2 Timothy 2:8). Jesus secured the victory of death by His cross and resurrection, so that we don't need to fear death, but trust in His loving purposes for our lives.

Currently we can't see clearly what the future holds for us; it may be very different from what we might expect. However, we can pray for God's will to be done and that we will play our part, just as each of those airmen did so many years ago.

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'



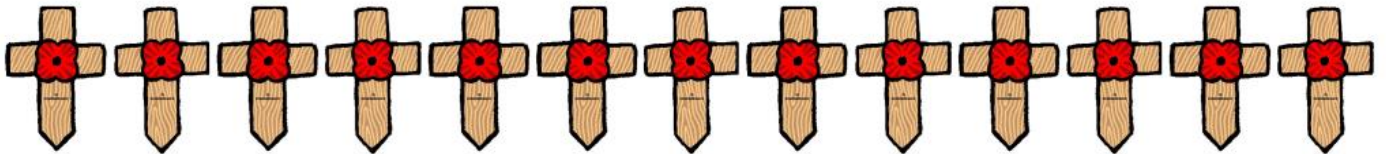
The destruction of Coventry



German Luftwaffe bombers virtually destroyed the city of Coventry – including its medieval cathedral – 80 years ago this month, on 14th November 1940.

Coventry was targeted by ‘Operation Moonlight Sonata’ as an industrial city, but more than 4300 homes were destroyed and about two-thirds of the city’s buildings were damaged.

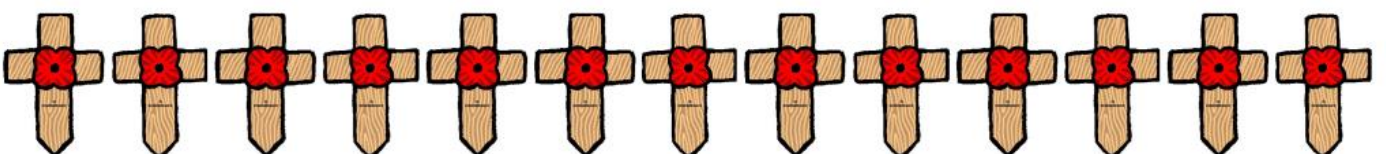
There were many direct hits on the cathedral, and flames spread quickly. More than 550 people were killed and over 850 badly injured, with nearly 400 sustaining lesser injuries. There would have been more casualties, but many citizens left at night to sleep in nearby towns or villages after earlier air raids. Rumours that Churchill knew of the raid in advance but declined to take precautions to prevent the Germans knowing their code had been broken were later shown to be misguided. Joseph Goebbels later used the term *coventriert* (‘coventried’) to describe high levels of destruction in other towns. The cathedral was left as a ruin, still standing today as a reminder of the bombing. A new cathedral was built close alongside in the 1950s, designed by the architect Basil Spence. The Queen laid its foundation stone in 1956. It was consecrated in 1962, and Benjamin Britten’s *War Requiem* was composed to mark the occasion.

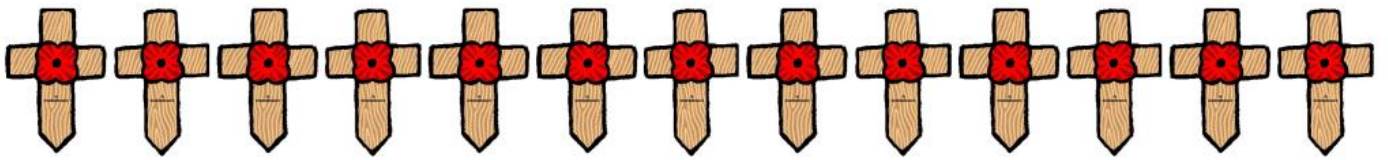


This is the month we remember soldiers and war. So, here is a prayer written by an anonymous confederate soldier in the American Civil War. What he says applies to all of us fighting our own private battles in life.

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve,
I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.
I asked for health, that I might do greater things,
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.
I asked for riches, that I might be happy,
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.
I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men,
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life,
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.
I got nothing that I asked for –
But everything that I had hoped for,
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.
I am among all men most richly blessed.

Soldier in American Civil War





80 years on - we still need courage and endurance



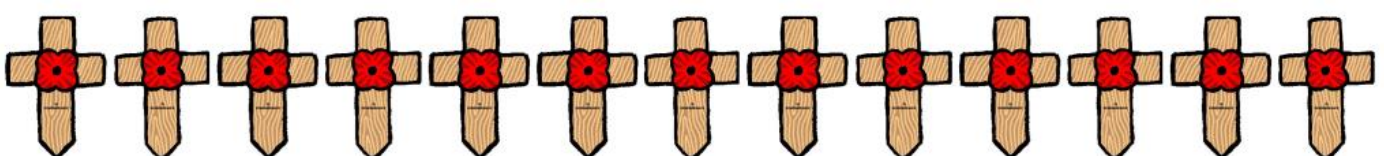
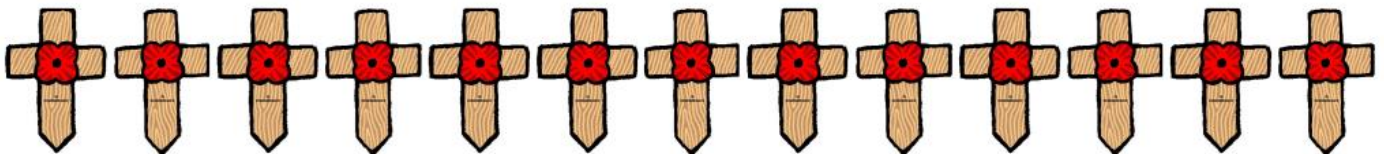
Revd John Crew – considers an historic moment in history

This year is the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain – when the horrors of the Luftwaffe bombs were heavy over British skies. On this Remembrance Day we can only imagine the terror of living in Coventry, in Liverpool, in London during those months, 80 years ago. It must have seemed like the beginning of the end of the world.

It is a good time to stop and thank God that in the end, evil did *not* prevail. Hitler did not win the battle to dominate Europe. His expected ‘rule of a 1000 years’ lasted a mere 12 years (1933 to 1945). And we can thank God for the courage and endurance of our fathers and grandfathers, our mothers and grandmothers, in the midst of such towering darkness and destruction.

Sadly, 80 years on, the world is still at war. Man’s greed, arrogance and desire for domination have not gone away. There are still battles to be fought for our land, major problems to be solved. Coronavirus, economic uncertainty, terrorism, climate warming... the threats are different from Hitler, but our need for courage, endurance and perseverance is the same.

It is a good time to pray for our nation and ourselves, to turn to God in repentance and in faith, to ‘walk more nearly’ and ‘follow Him more clearly’. It is a good time to be ready to serve our God and serve our neighbour in whatever ways lie open before us.



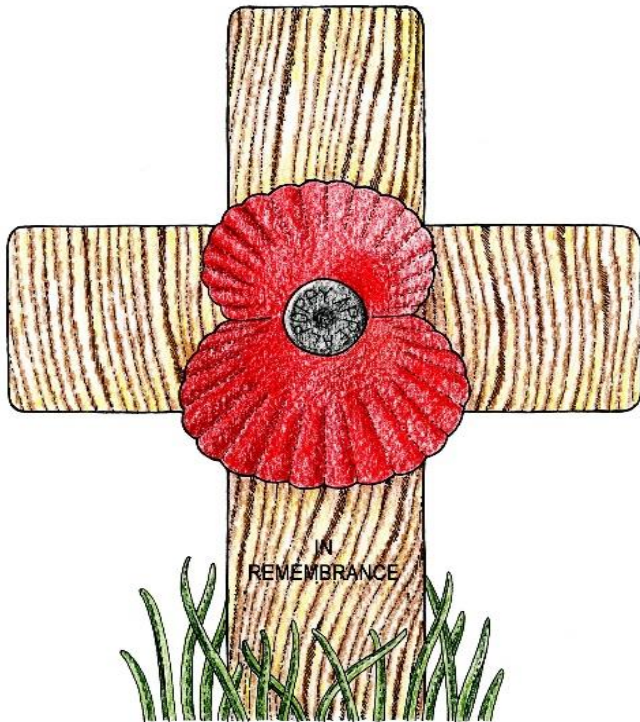


11th November is Remembrance Day...

War and Peace

War is not a new thing
It's been here from the start,
When Cain slew brother Abel
And their lives were torn apart.

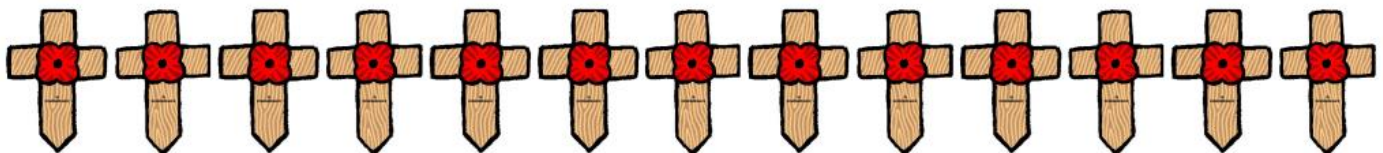
Brother still fights brother
And nations go to war,
It seems these things will never end
Perhaps we need to ask 'what for?'



Man has chosen his own path
Where might and power tell,
But God desires a better way
Where harmony and peace can dwell.

And so a time will come at last
When all man's rule will cease,
Emmanuel will come to reign,
Our Lord and Saviour, Prince of Peace.

By Megan Carter



*For all the saints who from their labours rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Author: William Walsham How

This has to be one of the finest processional hymns - it was adopted as particularly suitable for Remembrance ceremonies, but it is in fact more general in its intention, to commemorate the saints of the church in general, taking its images from the book of Revelation.

We can't cover "all saints" here today, but we can look at those who are especially remembered in the month of November:

1st November: All Saints' Day – the feast day of all the redeemed All Saints, or All Hallows, is the feast of all the redeemed, known and unknown, who are now in heaven. When the English Reformation took place, the number of saints in the calendar was drastically reduced, with the result that All Saints' Day stood out with a prominence that it had never had before. This feast day first began in the East, perhaps as early as the 5th century, as commemorating 'the martyrs of the whole world'. A Northern English 9th century calendar named All Hallows as a principal feast, and such it has remained. Down the centuries devotional writers have seen in it the fulfilment of Pentecost and indeed of Christ's redemptive sacrifice and resurrection. The saints do not belong to any religious tradition, and their lives and witness to Christ can be appreciated by all Christians. Richard Baxter, writing in the 17th century, wrote the following:

*He wants not friends that hath thy love,
And made converse and walk with thee,
And with thy saints here and above,
With whom for ever I must be...*

*As for my friends, they are not lost;
The several vessels of thy fleet,
Though parted now, by tempests tost,
Shall safely in thy haven meet....*

*The heavenly hosts, world without end,
Shall be my company above;
And thou, my best and surest Friend,
Who shall divide me from thy love?**

**(Maurice Frost (ed.), Historical Companion
to Hymns Ancient and Modern (London: Clowes, 1962)
no. 274, verses 1,3,6.*

1,255 ancient English churches were dedicated to All Saints – a number only surpassed by those dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

Of course, very many of the early 'saints' were also martyrs, and so...

1st November: The first martyrs – the 'seed' of the Christian Church The first martyrs of Rome are recorded in the old Roman Martyrology, which states that: 'At Rome, the birthday is celebrated of very many martyrs, who under the Emperor Nero were falsely charged with the burning of the city and by him were ordered to be slain by various kinds of cruel death; some were covered with the skin of wild beasts, and cast to the dogs to be torn asunder; others were crucified, and then when daylight failed used as torches to illuminate the night. All these were disciples of the apostles and the first fruits of the martyrs whom the Holy Roman Church sent to their Lord before the apostles' death.'

2nd November: All Souls' Day – a time of reckoning with the past The early Church was slow to dedicate a liturgical day to offering prayers and masses to commemorate the faithful departed. But in time prayers were offered on behalf of dead monks, that they might attain 'the Beatific Vision' through purification, which the Church later described as Purgatory. Odilo, the powerful abbot of Cluny, (d 1049) decreed that All Souls' Day should follow the feast of All Saints' Day. At least four ancient English dedications are known, the most famous of which are All Souls College, Oxford and the church in Langham Place in London. In bygone centuries All Souls' Day was certainly uncomfortable for anyone who had wronged a person who had then died. For it was believed that souls in purgatory could appear on earth on this day, in the form of ghosts, witches or toads, to haunt anyone who had wronged them in life. On a more cheerful note, it was also believed that you could help the dead on this day by almsgiving in cash or in kind. Some of these beliefs seem to have been caught up in the popular customs of Hallowe'en. When the Reformation came, the Protestants disregarded the idea of Purgatory, and this feast day remained with the Roman Catholic Church.

3rd November: Hubert and the stag The morality of hunting has made the headlines in recent years, but here at least was one man who was converted while hunting. Hubert (bishop, d 727 AD) was out on Good Friday hunting stag when he came across a stag with a crucifix between its antlers. This so shook him that he converted to Christianity, and then went on to become Bishop of Tongres-Maestricht. History does not tell us if he killed the stag or not, or if he ever hunted stag again.

4th November: Charles Borromeo – the un-ordained archbishop Why should being a 'lay' person stop you from as full a ministry as being ordained? Here is a saint for all lay people who suspect they can do as good a job.... Charles Borromeo was an Italian who lived in Milan from 1538 to 1584. His uncle, Pope Pius IV, made him Archbishop of Milan three years before Charles even became a priest, let alone a bishop. Charles, however, was one of the ablest and most compassionate Christian leaders of his age. He established theological colleges to train future clergy, encouraged children to be taught the Christian faith, and increased the help given to the poor.

5th November: Guy Fawkes – an early terrorist Back in 1605 Guy Fawkes managed to stow a good few barrels of gunpowder under the House of Lords without anybody noticing. He was part of a Roman Catholic plot to murder James 1 of England and his parliament at the state opening. Fortunately, Guy Fawkes was found – and stopped – in time.

5th November: The Kea to toothache? Kea was an early Christian and a monk from a good family who left Glastonbury to work in Devon and Cornwall, where Landkey (Devon) and Kea (Cornwall) bear his name. He founded several Christian centres in the area before going on to Brittany to become the saint known there as 'Saint-Quay'. It seems that Kea may also have tried a bit of early dentistry, as down the centuries since he has been invoked over the problems of toothaches.

6th November: William Temple – Archbishop of Canterbury During the Second World War, Winston Churchill was Britain's Prime Minister. At the same time, William Temple was Archbishop of Canterbury. While Churchill led the country against Germany, Temple encouraged the British people to trust the Lord for their deliverance and strength. Like Churchill, Temple was a great leader, a gifted orator and a prolific writer. He was also a theologian and social activist. Temple was born on 15th October 1881 in Exeter, Devon. He was educated at Rugby School and Balliol College, Oxford, from 1900 to 1904. He loved the music of Bach; the poetry of Browning and Shelley, and Shakespeare. He was an avid reader and possessed a near-photographic memory. He became president of the Oxford Union and after graduation, was a lecturer in philosophy at Queen's College, Oxford. He was a member of the debating society and was a skilled and balanced debater. Following his ordination in 1909, and priesting in 1910, Temple was headmaster of Repton School for four years. He married Frances Anson in 1916. They were childless. From 1921-29 Temple was Bishop of Manchester. During this time he was seen as a pioneer of the Ecumenical Movement and gradually became a national figure. In 1926 he urged the British government to seek a negotiated agreement to the General Strike. Temple excelled as a moderator; a teacher and a preacher and his appointment as Archbishop of York (1929-40) was a popular one. His influence also led to the formation of the British Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches. During the 2nd World War he jointly founded the Council of Christians and Jews to combat anti-Semitism and other forms of prejudice in Britain. As Archbishop of Canterbury (1942-44) Temple became an outspoken advocate of social reform and became involved in the campaign against unemployment, poverty and poor housing. He believed in the rights of all people, whether rich or poor, and was a leading force for social justice. He was grounded in the problems of the working man and in his book *Christianity and Social Order* (1942) he shared his vision for all to have access to healthcare, education and decent housing. His radical thinking and activism played a foundational role in the formation of the British Welfare State. Temple died aged 63 at Westgate-on-Sea, Kent on 26th October 1944. He was the first Primate of All England to be cremated and his ashes were buried in the cloister garden of Canterbury Cathedral. He is the last Archbishop of Canterbury to have died while in office.

6th November: Illtud – patron saint of NGOs? Not many people have heard of Illtud, but perhaps we should make him the patron saint of all Christian NGOs (Non-Government Organisations) who work in emergency and famine relief. Illtud did not set out to be an action hero – he was a gentle and learned abbot heading up a monastery in Glamorgan. Illtud spent his days reading the Scriptures and philosophy. Yet the year that famine struck the coast of Brittany, Illtud put down his parchments and became a man of action. Illtud issued what must have been one of the earliest 'emergency relief appeals', and was able to collect a great deal of corn. Illtud loaded this corn onto several small ships, and set off across the perilous Channel in order to save the people of Brittany. Perhaps he had in mind the words of Christ: "I was hungry and you fed me..." (Matthew 25:35) Certainly, the people of Brittany never forgot Illtud's kindness towards them: even today some Breton churches and villages bear his name. Many churches in Wales are also dedicated to this compassionate man.

6th November: The Martyrs of Vietnam 'The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.' The early Church Father Tertullian wrote that in the second century, but he could have been writing about Vietnam from 1745 onwards. For, during the first 200 years of Christianity in Vietnam/Indo-China, a staggering 100,000 Christians are believed to have been martyred for their faith. We know nothing of most of them; no historical records were kept. But we do know of 117 Christian martyrs in Vietnam, who died in the three Vietnamese kingdoms of Tonkin, Annam, and Cochin China. (1745 – 1862) They included eight bishops, 50 priests, and 59 laymen. The early ones we know of were Spanish Dominicans, who were imprisoned and killed. In 1798 the first Vietnamese diocesan priests, John Dat and Emmanuel Nguyen, were martyred. During the first 20 years of the 19th century the Church grew steadily, only to face dire persecutions under the Annamite kings Minh-Mang (1820-41) and Tu Duc (1847-83). All foreign missionaries were thrown out, and Vietnamese Christians were ordered to renounce Christianity by trampling on the crucifix. Churches were destroyed and all mention of Christianity forbidden. They was hunger, thirst, imprisonment and worse, but still the Church grew in Vietnam. Finally, in June 1862 a treaty between France and Annam guaranteed religious freedom. This marked the beginning of the end of the persecutions, and today the Church in Vietnam continues its witness.

7th November: Willibrord of York – apostle of Frisia Did you know that the Netherlands first learned Christianity from a Yorkshireman? Willibrord was born in 658, to devout parents, and joined the Benedictines. In 678 he went Ireland to study at the Abbey of Rathmelsigi (a centre of European learning in the 7th century). 12 years later, in 690, Willibrord felt God had given him a daunting ‘call’ – to take Christianity to Frisia, (now mostly modern-day Netherlands). Willibrord was not just courageous, but also prepared well. He took 12 companions to help him, and he had the support of both Pope Sergius and also the ruler of the region, Pippin II. The mission was successful, and five years later, Willibrord was given another challenge: to do for Frisia what Augustine had done for England – establish a metropolitan see at Utrecht, build a cathedral, and appoint the first suffragan bishops. And so Willibrord became the first archbishop of Utrecht. He went on to establish an important monastery at Echternach (now in Luxembourg). It was not all plain sailing – in 714 Willibrord and the Christians faced persecution from the new pagan Frisia king. Churches were burnt and priests were killed. But Willibrord did not give up easily, and by 719 the king was dead and the church in Frisia continued to grow. Willibrord even ventured up into Denmark, bought 30 slave-boys and educated them as Christians. At Walcheren, he destroyed a pagan idol, at the risk of his life. Alcuin (historian) described Willibrord’s apostolate as based on energetic preaching and ministry. ‘Willibrord was always venerable, gracious and full of joy’. Certainly, he inaugurated 100 years of English Christian influence on the Continent, and thoroughly deserves his title of patron of Holland. When he died at 81, in 739, he was immediately venerated as a saint.

8th November: Four Crowned Martyrs Has your boss ever tried to get you to do something that is against your Christian faith? If so, here are some saints for you. They chose to make a Christian ‘stand’ at work, even though it really irritated their boss. Claudius, Nicostratus, Simpronian and Castorius were simple stonemasons in early 4th century Rome. They worked in the imperial quarries and workshops of Sirmium. They made a number of carvings for the Emperor Diocletian, who had a passion for building. Then Diocletian decided he wanted a statue of Aesculapius, the ancient Greek god of medicine. Here Claudius, Nicostratus, Simpronian and Castorius hesitated: they were Christians, and not comfortable about making a ‘god’. They demurred. Their line manager Lampadius was furious, and soon had them imprisoned for refusing to sacrifice to the gods. Claudius and his friends were in bad trouble – and then it got worse. Lampadius suddenly died. His family were distraught, and so blamed the stonemasons. Claudius and his companions were killed by drowning. The courage of these four simple stonemasons to risk everything rather than make a stone statue of a god, was a great inspiration in the early Church. Their story was told and retold down the centuries.... eventually Claudius and his friends became the patron saints of guilds of stonemasons in England.

Sudoku

		4	1					
		9	4				2	
		2	6			3		8
	6		8	4	3		9	
2	8	5				4	3	1
4	9		2	1	5		8	
3		6			9	5		
	2				1	9		
					4	8		

10th November: Leo the Great – Pope who rescued doctrine of the Incarnation How do you think of Jesus? As the Lord of lords in glory? Or as a human baby soon to be born in Bethlehem? November brings the glorious climax of the church year with the Sunday of Christ the King at the end of November – only to begin a new ‘year’ a week later, with Advent. So, the ways in which the Church speaks of Jesus this month could not be more dramatically different. How can Jesus be both God and Man? Trying to get your head around the Incarnation is not easy, and so this is a good month to remember Leo the Great (d 461). In the 5th century, he ‘rescued’ the doctrine of the Incarnation at a time when the Church was really struggling with the onslaught of various attacks. Leo, a deacon of Tuscan descent, became Pope at a time when Rome was reeling under repeated assault by the barbarians. As well as trying to patch up the material and spiritual damage they had done, Leo faced an even more deadly attack: the Church was being torn apart on the inside. There were various heresies raging, each trying to claim that their view of the person of Christ was the only right one. Between the barbarians on the outside and the distortions of Manichaeism, Priscillianism, and Pelagianism on the inside, Leo was not in for an easy time. Yet this man of indomitable energy and devotion to duty pressed on. Leo was pope for 20 tumultuous years, but undoubtedly the most important contribution that he made was at a famous church council. It was the Council of Chalcedon, in 451 – often regarded as a critical moment in Christian history. Leo presented a dogmatic letter (or Tome) to the Council. He wrote with remarkable clarity of thought and understanding. Jesus Christ, said Leo, is one Person, the Divine Word. In Jesus the two natures, the divine and the human, are permanently united without confusion or mixture. When the Council read this document, it was exclaimed: ‘Peter has spoken by Leo.’ Leo’s understanding was seen to encompass all the Bible teaching on the subject of who Jesus was. It became thenceforth part of the official teaching of the Christian Church.

10th November: Justus – leading the Church in troubled times Does this sound familiar? An Archbishop of Canterbury tries to bring unity and calm to a Church split down the middle over seemingly irreconcilable differences, and all the while to promote the Gospel to the wider non-Christian society, in the face of widespread ignorance and even hostility towards Christianity. This isn’t Justin Welby, though. It was Justus, a 7th century archbishop of Canterbury. Like Justin Welby, he had a passion for mission – he began as one of the Roman missionaries sent in 601 by Pope Gregory the Great – to reinforce Augustine. Once in England, he was quickly put to work – becoming the first ever Bishop of Rochester, in 604. It was then that he joined with other church leaders to urge the Irish and British (Celtic) Christians to repair the great church divide of the time – to conform their customs to those of Rome. (They were largely ignored.) In 616 things got worse. There was a pagan reaction in Kent and Essex, and without any support from the pagan King Edbald, Justus and Mellitus knew it was time to get out – quick. They escaped to France, and the whole English mission seemed in peril. Then – an unexpected breakthrough occurred – the king was converted. So back came Justus, to become Archbishop of Canterbury in 624. Pope Boniface V had faith in his ability and courage – he bestowed on him both the pallium and the power to consecrate bishops in England. When Justus died in 627, he was buried at St Augustine’s monastery. Then, in the 11th century, Justus was moved to a site in Canterbury Cathedral, behind the high altar.



11th November: Martin of Tours – pioneer of western monasticism This winter, when you next see someone who looks both poor and cold, think of Martin of Tours (316 – 397). This monk bishop, born in Pannonia (now Hungary) became one of the most popular saints of the Middle Ages. Martin's father was a pagan officer in the Roman Army, and Martin was intended for the army as well. But from an early age Martin wanted to be a Christian, and he felt that as a Christian he could not serve the Roman Empire. Martin was imprisoned for this early 'conscientious objection', and not released until 357, when he was nearly 40. One day Martin met a nearly naked beggar at Amiens. He took off his cloak, cut it in half and gave the half to the beggar. Soon after this, he had a dream in which Christ appeared to him, wearing the half of the cloak which Martin had given away. Martin was the pioneer of western monasticism: he founded the first monastery in the whole of Gaul about 360. He was made bishop of Tours in 372 – by popular demand of both his clergy and his people. As bishop, Martin continued his simple life as a monk, – and evangelist. Christianity had been largely confined to the urban centres of population, but Martin went further, and took Christianity to the *pagani* (country-men). For the next 25 years this greatly loved bishop travelled his diocese by donkey and by boat, preaching the good news of Jesus Christ, and helping his people to tear down their heathen temples and sacred trees. He was sought out for his healing prayers for the sick, and also his defence of the faith from heretics. Martin's emblem in English art is often that of a goose, whose annual migration is about this time of year. 'St Martin's Summer' in England is a spell of fine weather that sometimes occurs around 11th November.

13th November: Frances Xavier Cabrini – first 'saint' of New York City In the aftermath of the terrorist attack on America in 2001, many Americans were seen to be 'saintly' in their brave attempts to help save lives. But Frances (1850 – 1917) was the first citizen of the United States to be officially canonised as a saint – by Pope Pius XII in 1946. She founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, and worked among orphans, children and the sick of New York.

17th November: Gregory of Tours – compassion in dangerous times Danger of torture, assassination, lootings, floods, famines and epidemics... life in France in the 6th century was as turbulent and violent as many of the world's hot spots are today. In the midst of all this Gregory (539 – 94) was born into a senatorial family who lived in the Auvergne. He grew up seeing how the Church responded to all this social chaos at first hand: his family numbered several bishops, as well as saints (the two are not necessarily the same thing!). In due course Gregory decided to devote his life also to the Church, and so was ordained deacon in 563 and elected bishop of Tours in 573. Gregory should be the patron saint of anyone who climbs to a powerful and privileged position – and then uses it in order to do great good. As a bishop of Merovingian Gaul, he became an expounder and defender of the Christian faith and of public morality. He practised charity and compassion on a large scale. He repaired churches, including the great Tours cathedral, destroyed by fire, and built new ones. He restored the tombs of martyrs and saints. He visited monasteries and nunneries, and also founded schools. In addition to all this, Gregory was a prodigious author of books. His ten volume History of the Franks is his most famous work, but he wrote on saints as well. He had an advantage on other medieval historians such as Bede in that he had first-hand experience of the court-life of his time. Courts were treacherous places, and Gregory had to deal with four civil rulers of Tours during his 21 years as bishop. He must have earned their respect: he was sent on diplomatic missions to other Frankish kings. Gregory made the most of every opportunity he had to bring Christian standards of living into those dark days in France. He was greatly loved, and long remembered.

18th November: Elizabeth of Hungary Here is a saint for any young person who has a generous heart and a desire to please God, but who gets rather badly used by adults who should know better. Elizabeth was born in 1207, a princess in the kingdom of Hungary. When she was four, she was sent to the court of the rulers of Thuringia in central Germany, to be betrothed to Louis IV. At 14 she was married to Louis, and in 1223, then she was 16, some Franciscan friars arrived at the court. Elizabeth was inspired by them, and she became known for her many acts of charity. When flood, famine and plague hit Thuringia in 1226, Elizabeth distributed alms to the starving, and personally nursed many of the ill. Elizabeth is best known for the miracle of the roses. She was taking bread to the poor one day when she met her husband out on a hunting party. The gentry were suspicious that she was stealing treasure from the castle, and so her husband asked her to reveal what was hidden under her cloak. Her cloak fell open, and a vision of white and red roses could be seen, which proved to her husband that God's protecting hand was over his wife. Hers was the first of many miracles that associate Christian saints with roses. So far, so good, but then Konrad von Marburg, a priest and later inquisitor, was appointed Elizabeth's confessor, and began to gain considerable influence over her. When in 1227 Louis was sent off to join the Sixth Crusade, Konrad's power over Elizabeth grew. Then in September of that year, news came that Louis had died of a fever in Italy, just a few weeks before the birth of another child. Elizabeth reportedly said: 'He is dead. He is dead. It is to me as if the whole world died today.' Certainly Elizabeth's world changed. She left the court and moved to Marburg. By now she had made solemn vows to Konrad, similar to those of a nun, promising him total obedience. He then treated her very harshly, setting severe restrictions on what she could eat, ordering physical beatings, and sending her three children away. Elizabeth used her dowry money to build another hospital, this time at Marburg, and to personally care for the poor and sick. But not for long. Worn down by the harshness of Konrad's regime over her, and exposed to the many diseases of the poor, she died in 1231, aged only 24. But she left behind many poor people who loved her, and who owed their lives to her.

***NEW 19th November: Hilda – Abbess of Whitby**

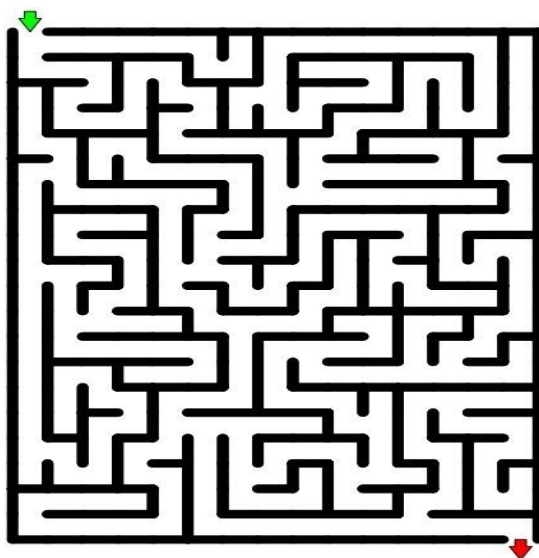
Hilda played a key role in the early English Christian church, and she may even have been the first to encourage the writing of Christian poetry.

She was born a princess, into the Deiran (Northumbrian) dynasty, and her sister became Queen of the East Angles, with whom the Deiran had connections. In those days East Anglia had close ties with the Gallic Church, and because of her sister, Hilda came under that influence. She was actually on her way to take her monastic vows near Paris when the Bishop of Lindisfarne, Aidan, called her back to Northumbria. Back home, she went into seclusion for a time, before being sent to be abbess of a religious house in Hartlepool in 649. Eight years later, Hilda felt moved to establish a religious community at Streasnaeshalch (later renamed Whitby). Her community was a royal establishment, a double monastery (both men and women) and became famous for its learning, with even five bishops trained there. Whitby was also, of course, the venue for the famous Synod of Whitby in 664. With Hilda acting as hostess, the Synod met to decide upon the date of Easter. The issue at stake was greater than that, though, for the decision would sway the Church in Britain to adapt either the Celtic or Roman traditions. Although Hilda defended the Celtic church customs, she accepted with grace the decision of the Synod to accept the Roman date for Easter, and she then worked to unite the Church throughout the land.

22nd November: St Cecilia – patron saint of musicians If you are going to any concerts before Christmas, spare a thought for St Cecilia – the patron saint of musicians. Cecilia is one of the most famous of the Roman martyrs of the 2nd century. As far as is known, she was born a noble lady of Rome who, despite her vow of virginity, was forced to marry an older pagan nobleman named Valerian. During the wedding, as the musicians played, Cecilia sat apart singing to God in her heart, and for that she was later declared the saint of musicians. When the time came for her marriage to be consummated, Cecilia told Valerian that watching over her was an angel of the Lord, who would punish him if he sexually violated her but would love him if he respected her virginity. Understandably startled by this, Valerian then asked to see the angel for himself. Cecilia replied that to do so, he must go to the third milestone on the Via Appia and be baptised by the Bishop of Rome. Valerian seems to have been a good-natured husband, because the story goes that he followed her suggestion, was baptised a Christian, and sure enough, saw the angel protecting his wife. Being a Christian in those days was dangerous, and when the next wave of Roman persecutions began, Valerian and Cecilia were among those arrested. It is said that they died at the hands of the Roman prefect Turcius Almachius, perhaps in Sicily sometime between 176 and 180 AD. One story goes that Cecilia was struck on the neck with a sword, and as she lay dying, asked that her house be converted into a church. Certainly, an early Roman Christian church, Santa Cecilia, was founded in the fourth century in the Trastevere section of Rome, reputedly on the site of the house in which she lived. In the centuries since then, a number of musical compositions have been dedicated to her, and her feast day has become the occasion for many concerts and musical festivals. St Cecilia is frequently depicted playing a viola, a small organ, or other musical instrument.

25th November: Catherine of Alexandria – patron saint of young girls and nurses Catherine is thought to have been a noble girl who lived in the 4th century. She was persecuted for her Christianity, and despised marriage with the Emperor because she was a ‘bride of Christ’. According to the legend, Catherine was no push-over intellectually, either: she disputed successfully with 50 philosophers who were called in to convince her of the errors of Christianity. Catherine protested against the persecution of Christians by Maxentius, and then she herself was tortured: broken on a wheel (later called Catherine wheel), but the machine then broke down itself, injuring bystanders. Catherine was then beheaded. This legend strongly appealed to the Middle Age imagination. Catherine became the patron of young girls, students, philosophers, nurses and craftsmen such as wheelwrights, spinners and millers. In England 62 churches were dedicated to her, and 170 medieval bells still bear her name. ‘Lives’, poems, miracle plays, stained-glass windows, panels and paintings have all been done in Catherine’s honour.

Maze



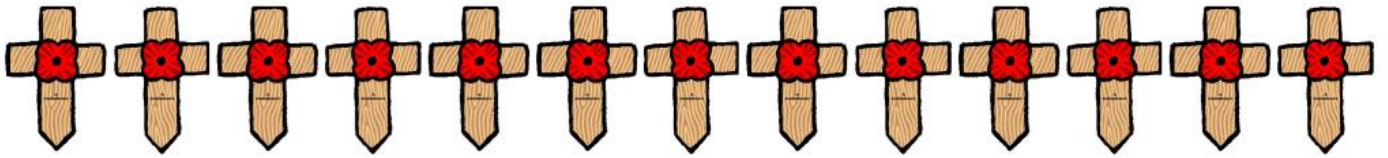
30th November: Andrew – patron saint of Scotland

The apostle Andrew is patron saint of Scotland.

According to the Gospel of Matthew, Andrew and his brother Simon Peter were the very first two disciples whom Jesus called. 'Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.' (Matt 4:18,19) Without more ado, they obeyed. 'At once they left their nets and followed him.' The story is touching for the simple but total faith that they had in Jesus. Whenever the gospels mention the disciples, Andrew's name is always in the first four. Rather than a boisterous leader of men (like Peter), he seems to have been an approachable person who wanted to help people. It was Andrew who helped introduce a group of Greeks to Jesus (John 12:20-2) and Andrew who offered Jesus the five small barley loaves and two small fishes when Jesus challenged them to feed the five thousand. (John 6:8) His faith in Jesus over small things was richly rewarded, and this faithful, kindly Galilean fisherman turned disciple went on to become one of the 12 apostles of the Christian Church. Andrew never settled back in Capernaum by Galilee. Instead, his 'fishing for men' seems to have taken him far. One ancient tradition links him with Greece, where both Scythia and Epirus claimed him as their apostle. Another place in Greece, Patras in Achaia, claimed to be the place where Andrew was eventually martyred, in about AD60. Like Jesus, he was crucified, but the story goes that during the two days it took him to die, he preached earnestly to the people about Jesus. Andrew was not afraid of death on a cross – he had seen it before, and knew one thing for certain: because of Jesus, there was nothing but eternal life ahead of him. In the West, Andrew's feast-day was universal from the 6th century, and hundreds of churches were named after him in Italy, France and England. But how did he end up as patron saint of Scotland? Well, according to one ancient legend, his relics were taken from Patras to Scotland in the 8th century, and ended up in Fife, where a church dedicated to him was built and became a centre for evangelisation and later pilgrimage. As Andrew was the only apostle to make it as far as Scotland, he was chosen as patron saint. But Andrew did not stay in Scotland. After the fall of Constantinople in 1204, it is said that the Crusaders took his relics to Amalfi. From there the despot Thomas Palaeologus sent his head to the pope in Rome in 1461, where it became one of the most treasured possessions of St Peters, until it was sent to the church in Constantinople by Paul VI. In art Andrew is depicted with a normal Latin cross in the most ancient examples. The saltire cross 'X', commonly called St Andrew's Cross, and which represents Scotland on the Union Jack, was associated with him from the 10th century.

& Andrew – first disciple of Jesus

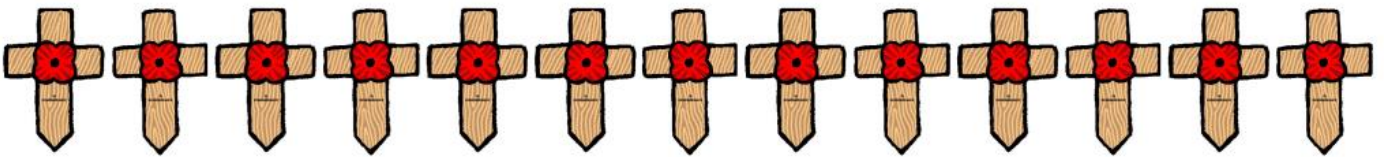
Andrew, whose feast day ends the Christian year on 30th November, is probably best known to us as the patron saint of Scotland, though his only connection with the country is that some of his bones were reputedly transported in the 8th century to Fife and preserved at a church in a place now named St Andrews. In fact, there are so many legends about him all over Europe and the Middle East that it's safest to stick to what the Gospels tell us – though the strong tradition that he was martyred by crucifixion is probably true and is perpetuated in the 'St Andrew's Cross', the 'saltyre' of Scotland. The Gospels record that he was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and the very first to bring someone else to Christ – his own brother. Like many fervent Jews at the time Andrew and an unnamed companion had been drawn to the desert, to be taught by the charismatic prophet known to us as John the Baptist. Many thought that he was the long-promised Messiah, but John insisted that he was not. 'I am the voice crying in the wilderness,' he told the crowds. 'Prepare the way of the Lord! One comes after me who is greater than I am.' So when one day John pointed out Jesus to Andrew and his friend and described him as the 'Lamb of God', the two young men assumed that the next stage of their spiritual search was about to unfold. So, as Jesus made off, they followed him. All the more strange, then (though, on reflection, very true to human nature) that when Jesus turned and asked them what they were 'seeking', all they could come up with was a lame enquiry about his current place of residence: 'where are you staying?' Or, perhaps, they were hinting that what they were seeking could not be dealt with in a brief conversation. If they could come to his lodgings, perhaps their burning questions might be answered. The reply of Jesus was the most straight-forward invitation anyone can receive: 'Come and see'. Come and see what I'm like, what I do, the sort of person I am. What an invitation! The results of their response were in this case life-changing – for themselves, and for many other people. Andrew brought his brother, Peter, to Jesus. The next day Jesus met Philip and called him to 'follow'. Philip then brought Nathaniel. The little apostolic band who would carry the message of Jesus to the whole world was being formed. They came, they saw, they were conquered! And right at the front of the column, as it were, was Andrew, the first disciple of Jesus.



Sunday, 29th November 2020 - The first Sunday in Advent



Common Worship: Year B begins



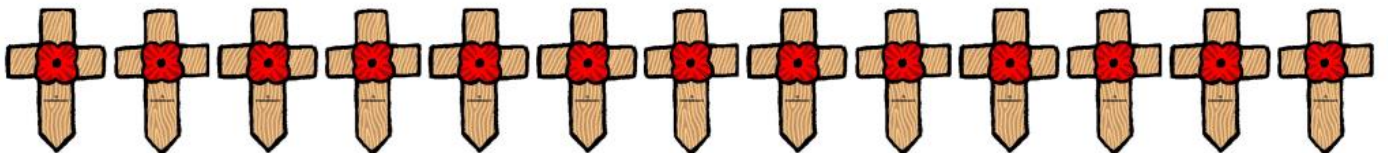
Lord prop us up!



There is a story of an old farmer who always prayed the same prayer at his church meeting. 'Lord, prop us up on our leanin' side'. After hearing this many times, his minister asked him one day quite what he meant.

The farmer replied: "Well, it's like this... I've got an old barn out in one of my fields. It's been there a long time, and gone through a lot of storms. One day a few years ago I noticed that it was leaning to one side a bit. So, I went and got some poles and propped it up on its leaning side, so it wouldn't fall. Then I got to thinking about how much I was like that old barn. I've been around a long time, and seen plenty of storms in life. I was still standing, but I was also leaning a bit. So, I decided to ask the Lord to prop me up, too, on my leaning side.

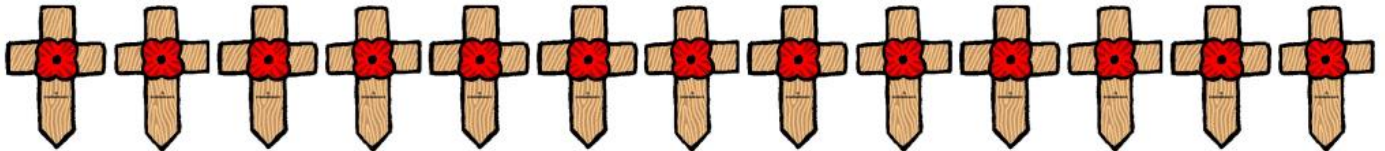
Our 'leaning side' is where we are weakest in ourselves. Sometimes we get to leaning toward anger, bitterness, bleakness in life. Then we too need to pray for God to prop us up, especially on that leaning side. He wants us to stand tall and free, in Him.



Where do you put your parsnips and eggs, and what about the potatoes and onions?

The correct answers, according to new government guidelines, are that the first two below in your fridge and the second two belong in your cupboard.

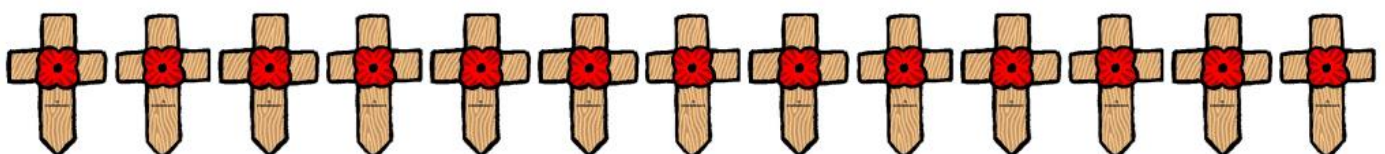
More guidance on storing food safely can now be found on Wrap, the Government's food waste watchdog. The aim is to stop households throwing so much food away. Wrap.org.uk offers advice on storing everything from aubergines to onions, bananas to cheese, fizzy drinks to wine. It could be a good refresher course for many of us, and a lifeline for younger people trying to get the most out of their weekly shop.



Junior wordsearch

e	s	w	k	c	t	b	s	g	c	l	i	i
e	m	o	u	r	n	i	n	g	i	o	a	f
f	l	m	b	e	l	i	e	v	e	r	m	e
x	d	a	u	g	h	t	e	r	x	y	l	e
j	v	n	u	t	j	v	d	i	s	c	k	t
e	c	h	e	g	l	e	k	t	q	o	k	a
s	l	m	k	e	h	e	n	n	z	m	f	a
u	o	s	w	c	h	e	a	l	e	d	a	m
s	a	t	u	a	r	o	d	d	s	l	i	s
x	k	o	j	a	i	r	u	s	e	w	t	o
y	t	o	p	o	z	t	i	s	z	r	h	e
k	g	d	d	p	o	w	e	r	e	k	f	y
t	p	b	a	f	r	a	i	d	d	y	t	t

come	girl	woman
feet	knelt	stood
cloak	twelve	afraid
Jairus	leader	house
power	faith	healed
something	waited	Jesus
mourning	believe	touched
daughter	laughed	parents



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Lk 8:40-56, Mt 9:18-26, Mk 5:21-43


Jairus, a town leader, had a 12 year old daughter who was ill and about to die. He came to Jesus and knelt at his feet...

Please come! If you touch her she will be healed.



Jesus went with him.

In the crowd was a woman who had been ill for 12 years.




If I touch his cloak I will be healed

Jesus felt power go out of him



Who touched me?

Jesus waited...



and the woman knew she had to tell him.

She knelt at Jesus' feet and told him everything



Go, daughter.. Your faith has healed you.



Then Jairus was told his daughter had just died.




But Jesus said




Don't be afraid, just believe and she will be healed.

When they got to Jairus' house, it was filled with people mourning.



She is not dead, but asleep.

They laughed at Jesus. He sent them out of the house.



Little girl, get up!

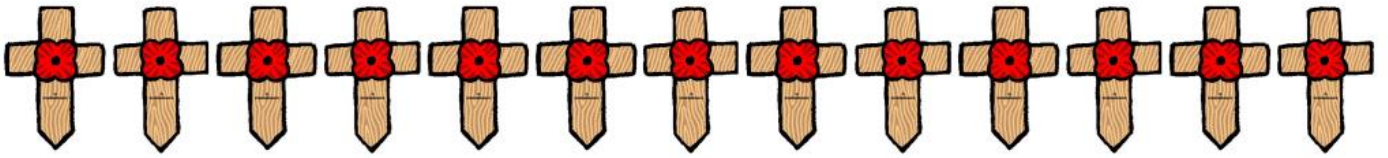


At once she stood up!

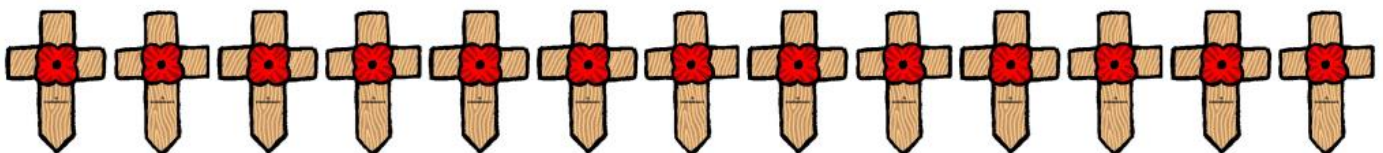
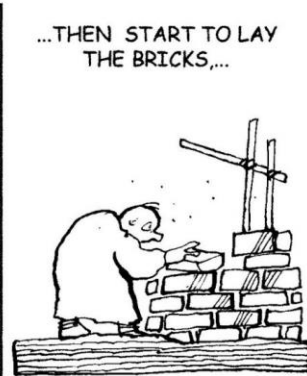
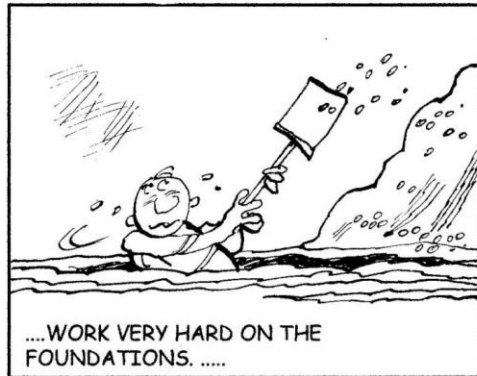
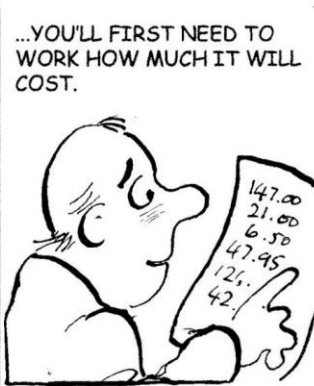
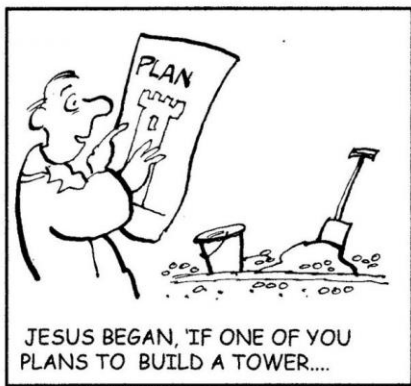
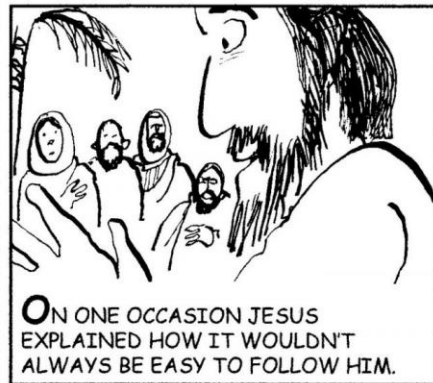
Her parents were amazed.



Give her something to eat, and don't tell anyone what has happened.



The tale of the Tower Builder



Tobias, the angel and the dog, by Andrea del Verrochio



'He never makes it his business to inquire whether you are in the right or the wrong, never asks whether you are rich or poor, silly or wise, sinner or saint. You are his pal. That is enough for him.'

Jerome K Jerome was writing there about the special bond between human beings and dogs who offer us those vital gifts of loyalty, companionship and help. We can think of guide dogs, sniffer dogs, and dogs serving with the forces in war torn countries. And dogs who have a special part to play in care homes, prisons, with undergraduates taking exams, and autistic children. Dogs are a reassuring, dependable presence in so many ways.

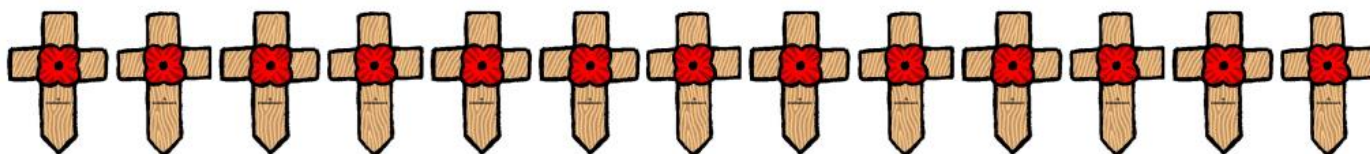
A few years ago Dion Leonard was running an ultra-marathon across the Gobi desert. A stray dog befriended him and together they ran the course. It was an amazing adventure that eventually brought them both back to this land, and they can now be seen exercising in the streets and parks of Edinburgh.

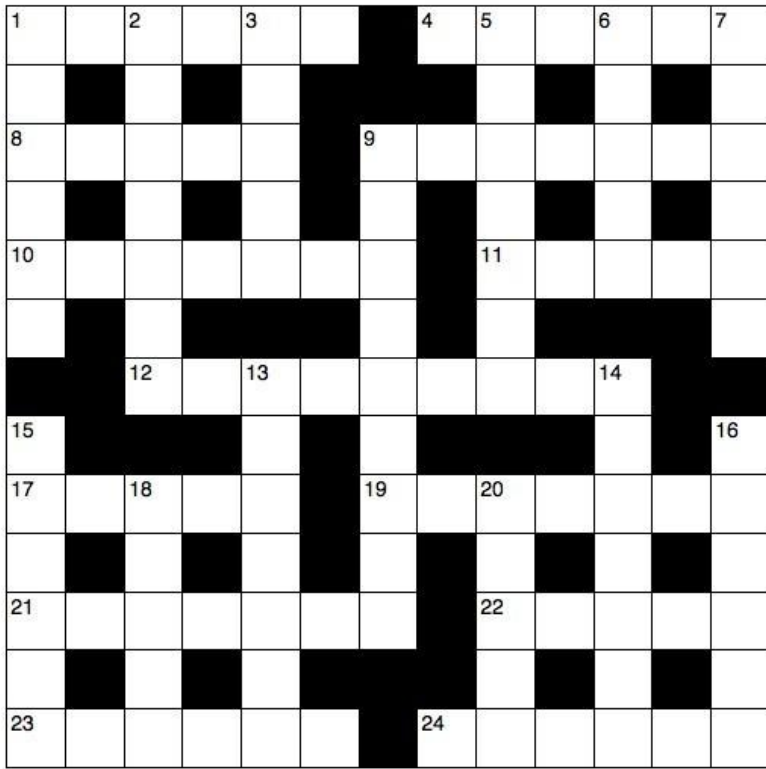
In the book of Tobit in the apocrypha, a dog accompanies his son, Tobias, on another incredible journey. Tobias leaves home with his dog to collect a debt, and Raphael, the angel of healing, is also a companion. It is the theme of this month's painting from the workshop of Andrea del Verrochio which is now in the National Gallery. The studio flourished in the 15th century in Florence, and it is possible that Leonardo da Vinci painted the little dog.

We know that it was not an easy journey and we see the stones along the way. Tobias holds a fish from the river Tigris which will heal his father's blindness. His arm is entwined with the angel's arm, and there at their feet is the faithful dog.

While 'dog' is often a word of contempt in the Bible, here in the apocrypha we meet a dog who provides friendship and security on the journey of life. Dostoevsky wrote 'Love the animals. God has given them the rudiments of thought and untroubled joy.' We know that to be true as we think of the part dogs play in our lives, and as we rejoice in the special gifts they bring us on the journeys we make.

Dating from 1475, Tobias and the Angel is the work of the well-known Renaissance painter, Andrea del Verrochio. It depicts a scene from the canonical Book of Tobit, wherein a young boy, Tobias, is instructed by his father, the merchant Tobit, to go on a long journey to collect a debt. Tobias walks together with the Archangel Raphael. In the original apocryphal story, Tobias was bathing in the River Tigris when a giant fish leapt out of the water. Raphael instructed Tobias to extract the gallbladder, heart and liver of the fish and use them to create a potion that would heal his father. In the painting, Raphael is seen holding a miniature box that carries the cure. A small dog completes the scene.





Crossword Clues for November 2020

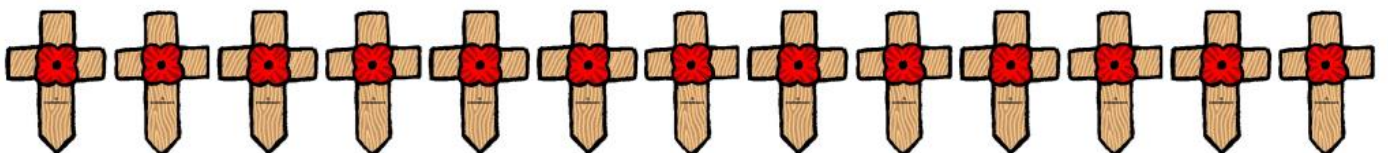
Across

- 1 'The Lord Jesus... took bread, and when He had given — , he broke it' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (6)
- 4 'He has taken me to the banquet hall, and His — over me is love' (Song of Songs 2:4) (6)
- 8 Surrey town that hosts the National Christian Resources Exhibition (5)
- 9 Also known as Abednego (Daniel 1:7) (7)
- 10 Liken (Isaiah 40:18) (7)
- 11 A son of Etam, descendant of Judah (1 Chronicles 4:3) (5)
- 12 A part of the temple where the blood of a young bull was to be smeared (Ezekiel 45:19) (9)

- 17 'They make many promises, take false — and make agreements' (Hosea 10:4) (5)
- 19 Roman province to which Paul returned after evangelizing it on his first missionary journey (Acts 16:6) (7)
- 21 Material used to make baby Moses' basket (Exodus 2:3) (7)
- 22 'And feeble as — , in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail' (5)
- 23 'The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep — to his voice' (John 10:3) (6)
- 24 Stalk carrying the sponge of wine vinegar given to Christ on the cross (John 19:29) (6)

Down

- 1 Elijah dug one round the altar he built on Mount Carmel and filled it with water (1 Kings 18:32) (6)
- 2 'I am not — of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes' (Romans 1:16) (7)
- 3 Buddhist term relating to belief in reincarnation (5)
- 5 Damascus disciple who, at God's command, restored the sight of the blinded Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:12) (7)
- 6 and 16 Horses: their sound (Jeremiah 50:11) (5) and their gait (Joel 2:4) (6)
- 7 A three (anag.) (6)
- 9 Athenian council addressed memorably by Paul (Acts 17:22) (9)
- 13 Abide by (Galatians 3:5) (7)
- 14 Persian princes (Daniel 3:2) (7)
- 15 Force (Galatians 6:12) (6)
- 16 See 6 Down (6)
- 18 Paste (anag.) (5)
- 20 How the cedars of Lebanon are described (Isaiah 2:13) (5)



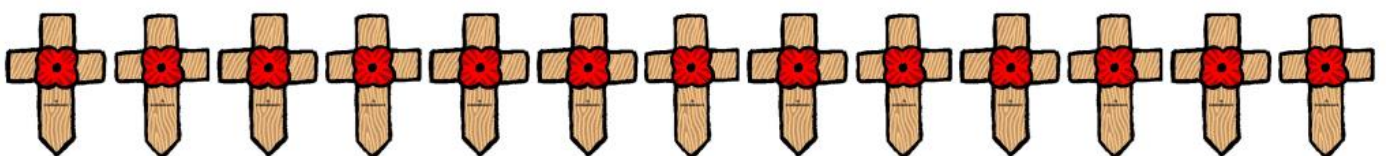


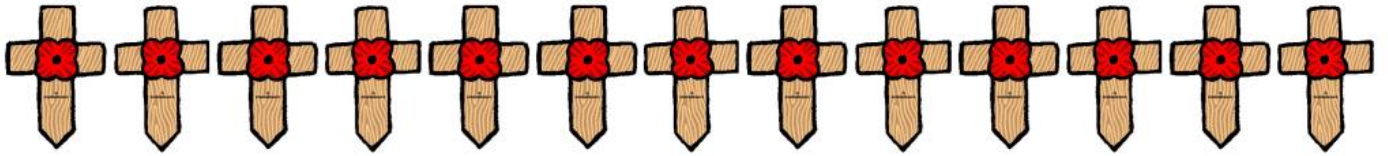
Wordsearch Clues for November 2020

This month Scotland remembers one of the very first disciples of Jesus. St Andrew is honoured not for any mighty deeds of his own, but for his love of introducing people to Jesus. He went straight off and introduced his brother Peter to the Saviour, and followed that up by bringing Nathanael/Bartholomew to Jesus. ‘Better Together’ seems to have been his slogan, too! ‘We have found the Messiah!’, he told them, unable to keep the good news to himself. Andrew’s connection with Scotland dates back to the claimed translation of his remains from Patras in Achaia to Scotland in the eighth century. The church in Fife where these remains were buried became a place of pilgrimage during the tenth century. All of this may be no more than pious legend, but that St Andrew was highly regarded in Scotland and became its patron saint is beyond doubt.

Scotland

Disciples	Jesus	Andrew	honoured	Peter	Nathanael
Bartholomew	Messiah	Saviour	Patras	Archaia	eighth
Remains	translation	Fife	pilgrimage	tenth	pious
Patron	saint	love	introducing	place	





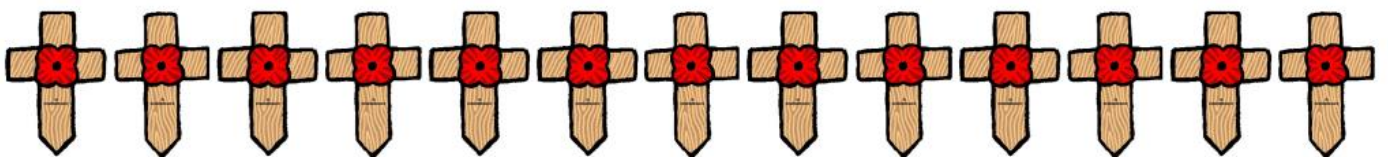
Nigel Beeton writes: Five years ago, in November 2015, the Met office began the practice of naming storms, and the idea seems to have caught on! Apparently, you can even send suggestions to them now. Would you want one named after yourself?!

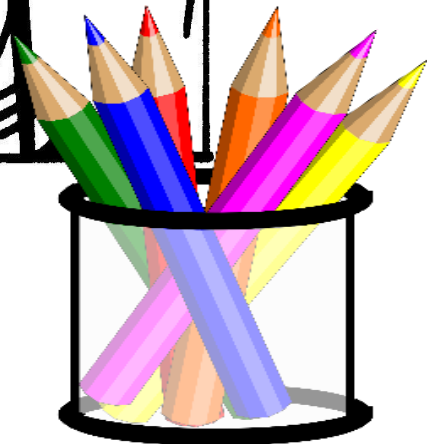
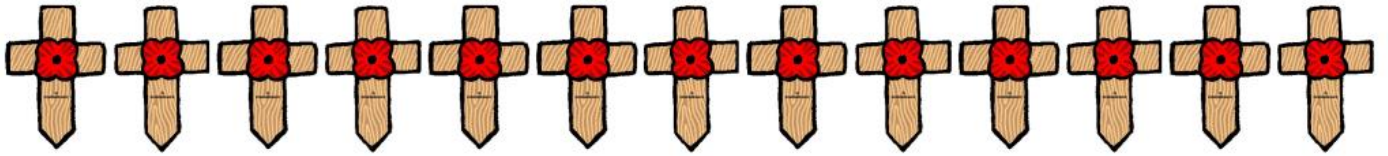
Named Storms

Deirdre, Angus, Katie, Jake
These are names which trouble make;
Gertrude, Doris, Caroline
Bring us weather less than fine!
Desmond, Erik, Imogen
Storms are named, but only when
Just like one named Abigail
They bring wind and rain and hail!

Barney, Clodagh, and Aileen
What, I wonder, does it mean
Barbara, Dylan, Eleanor
If the choice of name is poor?
Ali, Freya, Callum, Ciara
Does it make things any clearer
Jorge and Hannah, Brian too

If they name one after YOU?



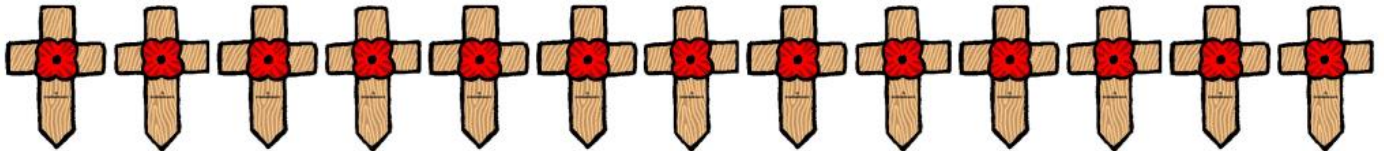




In praise of peanut butter

One quirky change of life under Covid-19 is that for some reason, we are eating more peanut butter. According to a recent report in The Grocer, sales of the stuff rose by 35.5 per cent in the Spring. Peanut butter producer Kirstie Hawkins (Whole Earth brand) is delighted. "Peanut butter offers an easy way to add more nutrition to breakfast and snack choices."

Whatever the reason, sales of peanut butter, at £98.9million in the past year, are now £2million more than those for jam.



Sticky, moist, tasty... traditionally eaten on Bonfire Night celebrating the failure of Yorkshireman Guy Fawkes when he attempted to blow-up the Houses of Parliament in 1605

Easy to make - best to make and leave for a few days.

YORKSHIRE PARKIN

- 8 ounces soft butter 1/2 cup dark brown sugar (soft) 1/4 cup black treacle
- 1 cup golden syrup 1/2 cup medium oatmeal 1 cup self-raising flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder 4 teaspoon ground ginger 2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon mixed spice 2 large eggs (beaten) 2 tablespoons milk (if needed)

Grease an 8 x 8 square cake tin (suggest you line with greaseproof paper) and pop the oven on at 275 F / 140 C (Gas 1)

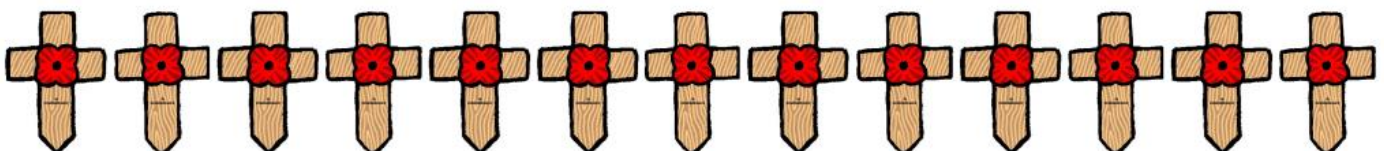
In a large saucepan melt together the butter, sugar, treacle and golden syrup over a gentle heat – don't let it burn!

In an equally large basin/mixing bowl mix together the dry ingredients, then transfer the melted mixture from your pan. Stir well. Beat in your eggs a little at a time and finally mix in your milk if needed (if your mixture is a little thick).

Empty into your prepared cake tin and bake for 1 ½ hours – until firm, set and golden brown. Remove from the oven and cool in the tin.

Now the difficult bit – remove from the tin and store in an air-tight contained for a few days (tempting as it is to eat it earlier – even as it comes out of the tin – your parkin will improve if left two/three days)

Enjoy! Of course if you have treacle, syrup, butter and soft brown sugar left over you may wish to think about making some Bonfire Toffee too



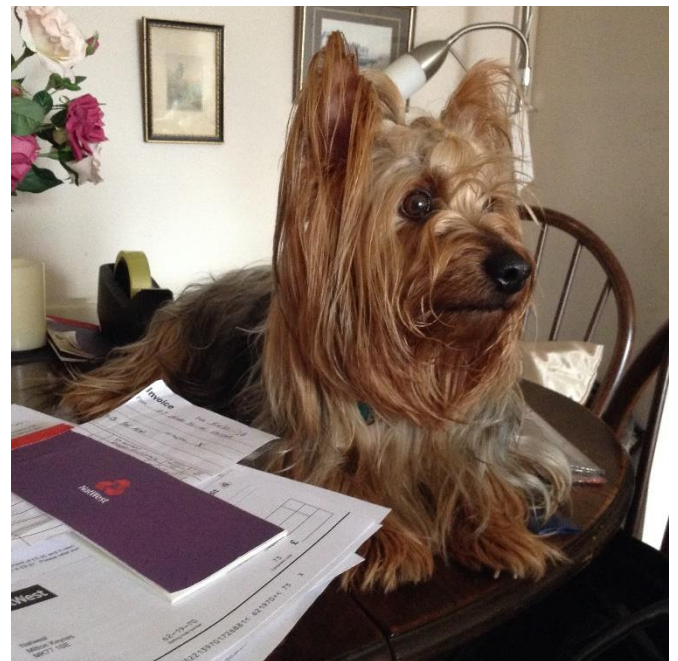


Roggie Dog here...

I asked Mummy if I could return to work soon – having borrowed one of her masks – but apparently I’m to continue working from home. That’s fine (quite nice really) as Mummy continues to work from home too, it has become our new “normal”. We only go into our office at St Andrew’s when the Monday – Friday “day-time” hirers have gone home or on a Saturday – just to collect the post and ensure all is well. Mummy says that I can’t be messing around down there chasing my ball round when people are attending classes. It’s a shame really, I did like to run round and slide on the floor – but we must all make sacrifices to keep others safe and in my case not to be a nuisance!

Me a nuisance – surely not”

Mummy doesn’t take me to the bank either these days, she says it is easier to go on her own. Well, using the “quick deposit box” no queuing up for the counter – no queuing up at the counter means no hand-outs from the staff. No hand-outs means NO doggie biscuits. I did enjoy them making a fuss of me and feeding me biscuits from the special doggie jar – may be one day I can go and visit (I think the stock of the special deposit bags is running a bit low). Still I can help pay the bills, so here I am at the table writing out the cheques to pay some invoices – but I don’t think the bank will accept my paw prints.



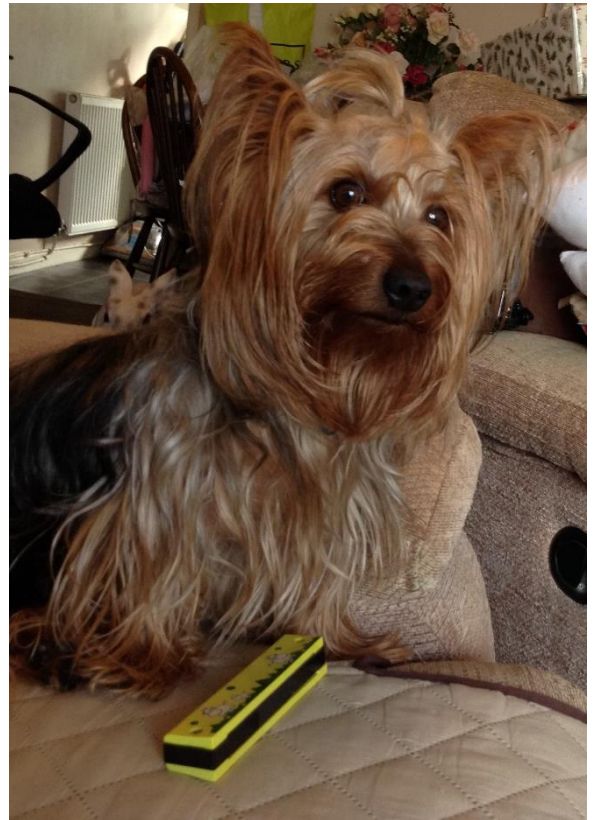
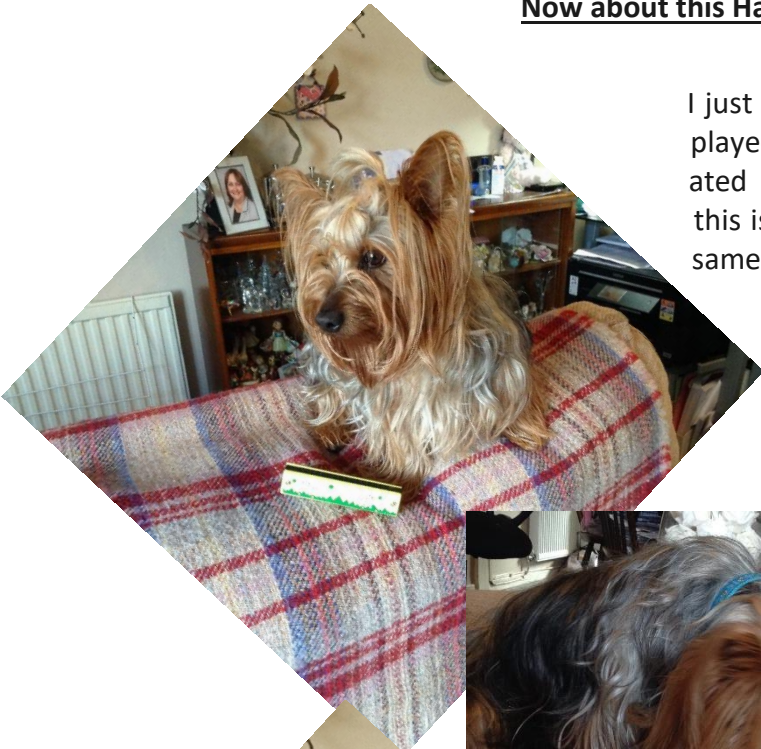
I was able to help pack a shoe-box gift – although there was a yellow ball in there which I rather liked – but no they are for children in need of a special Christmas gift so I didn’t attempt to nick it! I quite fancied having a go at playing one of the musical instruments Mummy bought – I must have a go (we have a spare one we don’t need for the shoe boxes).

It is lovely helping Mummy – it is so exciting when she gives me jobs to do.

Now about this Harmonica.

I just don't get it – says on the internet that the Harmonica is played using the lips and tongue to direct air into holes situated along the mouthpiece. I have lips and a long tongue, but this is too heavy for me to hold in my mouth and blow at the same time.

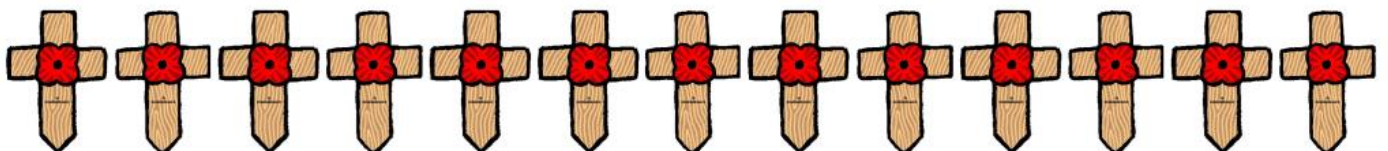
I tried blowing with it sat on the sofa, but that didn't work too well either. I tried with Mummy holding it for me, but I rather think it isn't the instrument for me, maybe something a bit easier please Mum.



I wanted to talk to you about socks today, but Mummy says that I have taken up enough space for one month. I'll tell you about my socks another day.

Be safe on Bonfire Night – I will watch out for fireworks through the window. I expect my neighbours will be having a few in the back garden again this year but for someone my size best to look out of the bedroom window. I'm not frightened of the bangs and flashes of coloured lights – but I do like to bark. Me a nuisance – surely not even then!

Love Roggie Dog

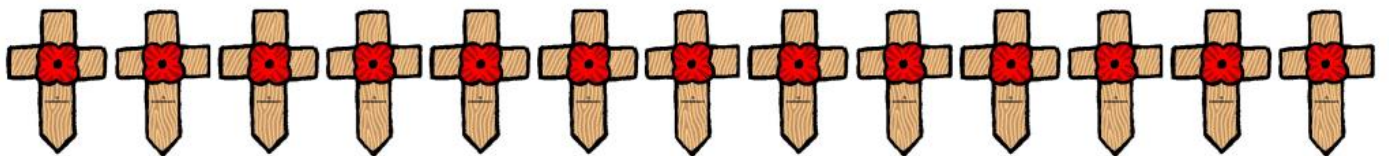


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Contract us at: *St Mary's with St Andrew's Parish Office*
St Andrew's Community Church, Hall Street, Stockport, SK1 4DA.

Telephone: 0161 429 6564 **Mobile:** 07421 000123 (Sue)

Stockport Parish Church *[St Mary's in the Marketplace]*
Churchgate, Stockport, SK1 1YG

Telephone: 0161 480 1815
Website: stmarysinthemarketplace.com
Email: st.marysstockport@gmail.com
Facebook: *Stockport Parish Church - St Marys*

St Thomas' Church, Stockport, Holt Street, Stockport, SK1 3PY.

Telephone: 0161 429 9524
Website: st.thomasstockport.org.uk
Email: info@stthomasstockport.org.uk
Facebook: *St Thomas' Church Stockport*

St Luke's, Northumberland Road, Brinnington, SK5 8LS

Telephone: 0161 406 8160 **Mobile:** 07711 355064 (Linda)
Website: stlukesbrinnington.co.uk
Facebook: *St Luke's Brinnington*

RECTOR: *Rev Lynne Cullens*
St Mary's Rectory, 24 Gorsey Mount Street, Stockport, SK1 4DU Telephone: 0161 477 1938
Email:lynne.cullens@gmail.com

Associate Minister: *Rev Jess Piper*
Curate: *Rev Marie Flint*
Readers: *Brenda Baxendale / Rita Waters*

