

## Letter from the Vicar - November 2009

### Remembering

November is a month for remembering. It begins on the First of the month with All Saints (or All Hallows) day, a day to remember the Saints of the Christian Church, all those who have inspired and guided other Christians through their prayers, thoughts and writings, which we will mark at all of our Churches on that day. Then the Second is All Soul's day when we remember those we have loved who have died and there will be details elsewhere in the Parishes Paper about our service of thanksgiving and remembering which is being taken by the Revd Anne Mills.

And though more often known for fireworks, bonfires, hot dogs and baked spuds, the Fifth of November is a day which is tied to remembering a troubled time in the history of our country. A time when some sought to make a stand against the prejudice they experienced towards their own church tradition but in turning to violence formulated a plot which failed to destroy king and parliament and were subjected to the most terrible torture and execution for their actions. For those of us who are a part of today's Church we give thanks that the divisions that once existed between different churches in England have now, mostly, been broken down.

Then later, on the 11th November we mark Armistice day, the Anniversary of the end of the first world war. We mark this Anniversary on the 8th November, Remembrance Sunday, which is always the nearest Sunday to that date, and will hold services in each of our Parishes around 11am — see [village events](#) for details. 11am was, as most will know, the time when the original armistice was signed and it is then we have the most poignant part of the act of remembrance, when the words stop and there is simply silence.

Our Remembrance services are the only services that day and I encourage everyone to come and join us at your local Church or memorial for this important occasion. It is easy to forget how much our freedom cost, and these services offer us a chance to reflect on the sacrifices made for us by many brave men and women in two world wars, and in the many conflicts that have been part of our world's recent history. It also gives us a chance to pray particularly for the peace of the world, something we very much need to do at the present time.

So do use this time to remember, and to give thanks to God for all the freedoms we enjoy, and to pray for our world.

**God bless. Alastair**