

# holy trinity church

## parish magazine

### November 2015



30p

Remembrance Sunday - 8th November



War Memorials at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire

## Words to Remember *By Daphne Kitching* (John 16:33)

*"We will remember them"*

The years of remembering go by,  
Accumulating name after name  
As wars and conflicts continue  
In a world, deaf to the lessons of history.  
But through the negativity of November  
A different remembering brings hope and meaning.  
Words of the world's creator,  
Words to make sense of chaos  
And bring order and peace in the end.

*"In this world you will have trouble,  
But take heart!  
I have overcome the world."*

Words of Jesus.

We will remember them.

## Prayer at Remembrance Time *By Daphne Kitching*

Loving Father,

When we watch the news or read the papers, we can feel overwhelmed by the tragedy of lives lost or affected by war or terrorism. And our Remembrance Day Services and anniversaries just seem to emphasise that continuing suffering.

Help us Lord, to switch our focus from what self-centred people do in their pursuit of power, to what you have done in Jesus, who gave his life so that the brokenness of creation might be restored to wholeness - and that we might have your peace in our hearts, even while the world rages about us. Help us to remember the important thing – to put our trust in Jesus, your Son.

In his name, we pray. **Amen.**

# Inside This Month

- 4 Pause for Thought - Revd. Richard Coles
- 5 The Sense of a Goose - parish window
- 6/7 Prayer Focus - The Persecuted and Remembrance
- 8 The trigger of Remembrance - parish pump
- 9 When they talk about austerity now.. - parish pump
- 10/11 When Life Went On - parish window
- 11 Unwanted Visitor
- 12/13 The Way I See It - The Fifth of November - parish pump
- 13 Samaritan's Purse - launches 'One in A million' Operation Christmas Child campaign
- 14/15 Devotional - "Joy" - Richard Sibbes - Raj Sangha
- 15 Your prayers are needed - parish pump
- 16/17 The message of Advent - history is going somewhere
- 17 The Wit of Churchill - John Pegler
- 18 J. C. Royle - "First Bishop of Liverpool" - Raj Sangha
- 19 Faith before the firing squad - parish pump
- 20 Memorable dates down the year - November
- 21/23 People, Remembrance and News
- 24 Forthcoming Events

Apologies, no Letter from Vicarage this month. Revd. Robbie is on holiday in Scotland for a week. However I have included a thought from the Rev'd Richard Coles broadcast on BBC 2 radio on Friday 23rd October as "Pause for Thought" on Chris Evan's show. **Richard Coles** is an English musician, journalist and Church of England priest and vicar of St Mary the Virgin at Finedon, Northants. He is known for having been the multi-instrumentalist who partnered Jimmy Somerville in the 1980s band the Communards. which achieved three Top Ten hits, including the Number 1 record and best-selling single of 1986, a club/dance version of "Don't Leave Me This Way".

# Pause for Thought - Rev'd Richard Coles



For Faith in the World Week here on R2, we've been exploring growing up in multi-faith Britain, but when I was growing up in the seventies in Kettering it was not a particularly multicultural experience. It was only when the Corby steelworkers down the road moved there en masse from Glasgow that the exotic note of square sausage was added to the general scene.

Multi faith was even rarer. This was an era when people lowered their voices to say 'Roman Catholic' and I remember a friend of mine from school, with a Jewish background, came to stay and my mum asked him, a bit too breezily, if he liked ..."sausages and bacon and that sort of thing?"

How different today, when you can buy in Kettering's supermarkets Gujarati ghee, Polish pieroggi, Hungarian Hooka, and nine kinds of quinoa. It's not only how we eat that's changed, its how we worship too. Minarets are as common as steeples in many British cities, in some places the turban is more often seen than the flat cap, and in Catholic churches from Cornwall to Cumbria you are just as likely to find a Mass in Polish as in English.

In time, most of us adapt to a changing world. But what if that change runs ahead of people's expectations, and the exotic note suddenly sounds too loud, too shrill?

It would be daft to claim multi faith, multi cultural Britain is an unqualified triumph: daft too not to look at religion without wondering if it intensifies rather than calms fear and suspicion and hostility. We're only a click or two away from barbarism in HD uploaded from Iraq to the Internet.

Maybe the cure for this sort of madness comes not from outside faith but from within? I would say that, wouldn't I, flying the flag of the C of E limply from the sidelines. But all of us who follow in the tradition of Abraham - Christian, Jew and Muslim (in Mecca, or Jerusalem, or Dibley) - inherit the same fundamental truth: God made us all the same, granted to us all an irreducible, unerasable, non-negotiable dignity. Perhaps, if we practiced what we preached, and treated one another accordingly, we might begin to look less like the problem, and more like the answer.



# The sense of a Goose



When you see geese on their annual migrations flying in a "V" formation, you might consider what science has discovered as to why they fly that way. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds at least 71 percent greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.



*People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily, because they are travelling on the thrust of one another.*

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front.  
*If we have the sense of a goose, we will stay in formation with those people who are heading the same way we are.*

When the head goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point.  
*It is sensible to take turns doing demanding jobs, whether with people or with geese flying south.*  
Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

*What message do we give when we honk from behind?*

Finally - and this is important - when a goose gets sick or injured and falls out of the formation, two other geese fall out with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen goose until it is able to fly or until it dies; and only then do they launch out on their own or with another formation to catch up with their own group.

*If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by each other like that.*

Author not known

# Prayer Focus - The Persecuted Church and Remembrance



*'Others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection. Some were jeered at ... and others were ... destitute and oppressed and mistreated. They were too good for this world.'* HEBREWS 11:35-38 (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)

Loving Lord Jesus, we intercede for our brothers and sisters all over the world who suffer because of their love for You. Reveal to them the reality of Your promised presence and help them to be courageous in the face of harassment, injustice, imprisonment, torture and even death. **Amen.**

Remember the many Christian believers who are among the over 130,000 refugees fleeing violence and oppression in countries such as Syria, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Somalia, Nigeria, Iraq and Sudan. Pray that those in authority will implement compassionate solutions to this terrible situation.

Intercede for the thousands incarcerated in prison camps in North Korea, which is the world's most dangerous country for Christian believers. Praise God that the church there is not only surviving, but growing, despite the danger of arrest, disappearance, torture, or public execution.

Father, we lift to You every organisation engaged in highlighting the plight of persecuted Christians, working for their freedom and giving practical aid. Thank You for everyone involved in this ministry of justice and mercy. **Amen.**

Remember the work of Baroness Berridge, a Christian peer who chairs the All Party Parliamentary Group for International Freedom of Religion or Belief, which upholds the human rights of those facing hostility because of their faith.

**THANKSGIVING:** for growing evidence of unprecedented numbers of people turning to Christ from Islam within majority Muslim countries in Africa, the Middle East and across Asia. Pray for these often secret believers to grow in their faith and receive wisdom from God.

Pray that many churches will mark the International Days of Prayer for the Persecuted Church on 1 and 8 November, with fervent intercessions for the 200 million Christians in 60 countries who are denied fundamental human rights, solely because of their faith.

# Remembrance

Loving Father, today as we remember those who died in the service of their country during two world wars and every conflict since, please comfort all who mourn. Grant healing and peace to those who have been wounded in mind and body. **Amen.**



Ask God to continue to prosper the thousands of churches working together to bring support and hope to vulnerable people in their communities. Pray for new projects starting up, especially as a result of the work of the Cinnamon Network. ([www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk](http://www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk))

Give thanks for those who bear the considerable responsibility of acting as trustees for charities throughout the UK. Pray that these individuals on 200,000 boards, including many churches and Christian organisations, will continue to act with faith, wisdom and integrity.

Lord, please strengthen and encourage the 6.5 million people in Britain who voluntarily care at home for those who are disabled, ill, frail or elderly. Please draw near to them, and to others who support vulnerable children and adults. **Amen.**

Pray that many more would join the 15 million people in the UK who volunteer once a month or more: in charity shops, education and vocational projects, mentoring, environmental schemes, helping refugees and others in need and many other areas.

**THANKSGIVING:** for the generosity of those who give to the BBC Children in Need Appeal each November, which over the years has raised over £740 million. Pray for continuing success for all such fundraising initiatives and for wisdom to those responsible for distributing this money.

Pray for PRISONS WEEK – ‘A New and Living Way’ from 15 to 21 November, that many will take time to intercede for the spiritual, health, social, educational and practical needs of the UK’s 86,000 prisoners and the staff responsible for them. ([www.prisonweek.org](http://www.prisonweek.org))

*‘Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness or abilities that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.’*

*(William Penn, 17th century Quaker, who promoted ideas of democracy and religious freedom)*

## The trigger of Remembrance

*'Lest we forget'....* Remembrance Sunday acts as a *trigger* for so many emotions; gratitude... grief... pride... indignation ... guilt, and questioning. Take the questioning of suffering Job:

CAN I BE REMEMBERED? - *'Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll' (Job 19:24)*. Job's thoughts were in turmoil. He speaks not only for himself, but for all who have suffered the loss of honoured close ones – in the desire that emotive memories shall be *'engraved in rock for ever.'*

Can they be remembered? The last Spitfire pilot, the last soldier who fought at Alamein – the last of a platoon ever to sing with Vera Lynn *We'll meet again....* there's a desire to hold onto them. But here's another question:

WHOM SHALL I REMEMBER? - Further words from Job – *"I know that my Redeemer liveth"* have become incorporated into the greatest oratorio ever composed, Handel's Messiah. From the early days of the human race there was a perception, by this godly man, of a living Redeemer who, as he puts it, would *'in the end stand upon the earth.'*

Thus the comfort Job looked for in all his troubles - the focal point that he wanted to remember – lay not in his three cliché-ridden companions, but in this divine Redeemer, in whom he prophetically discerned *the prospect of resurrection*. It is an experience that is common to millions – to look out for something.... Someone of permanence whom we can remember and hold onto in an unstable world. A third question:

WILL HE (the Redeemer) REMEMBER ME? - The biblical world-view is altogether solid and trustworthy. If a dying thief from the dregs of society can find it in him to say to the crucified Christ next to him, "Remember me," then *anyone* can; be they an unknown warrior – one day to lie in an unmarked grave in Flanders, Vietnam or Iraq; or someone caught in the swirling tides of bereavement.

For Job it was a settled conviction! He had reached the point when he was triggered into the personal affirmation that can be anybody's: "I KNOW that my Redeemer liveth." You may find the following reading to be helpful: *Job 19: 23-27a*

*David Winter remembers the end of the Second World War...*

## When they talk about austerity now..

This year we have marked the 70th anniversary of VE Day and VJ Day, memorable days of celebration as the Second World War came to an end. What some of us are now remembering, however, is what followed. It was certainly no instant transfer from the arduous years of war to the joys of peace. Indeed, for many ordinary people in Britain the immediate post-war years were times of acute struggle. It was lovely to welcome back the men and women who had served in the Forces, but – speaking as a teenager at the time – the fruits of victory were hard to identify (though we did get our first bananas!).

Our cities were pockmarked with ugly bomb-sites. There was still rationing of food, clothes and ‘luxuries’. Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, could promise no immediate relief – he was dubbed ‘Austerity Cripps’. Fuel was often in short supply, and we had a couple of very cold winters. If this was what it was like to be the winners, how must it have been for the losers? We learnt later the answer: no worse, and in some cases a bit better!

When politicians speak now of ‘austerity’, we children of the post-war age are tempted to reply: ‘You don’t know what austerity is’.





# When Life Went On



On the Home Front World War II

When we think of times of war, we tend to think of soldiers on the battlefield, ships and submarines or battles in the air and so we should, but whilst this was going on people were at home trying to bring up children in as normal a life as possible.

Can you imagine it though?

I'll draw here on my own parents. My father, at the outbreak of war went along to the recruiting office to enlist. "Sorry they told him, we've got you down as a reserved occupation." Some years before, between jobs, he drove a bus and had a PSV license.

They decided that they might need him for 'special duties'. So he joined the Auxiliary Fire Service instead. He had a younger brother in the navy and a brother in law in the merchant navy both of whom were later killed, whilst my mother had two brothers to worry about, one an Eighth Army Sergeant and one a C.P.O. in the submarine service, her other brother was a farmer and therefore reasonably safe. They also had two children, my older sister and of course me.

For a good part of the war she had her army brother's wife living with us, as living in a small village near the coast and worrying daily about her husband, she didn't want to be alone. But mum and dad, and millions of other people just carried on as near normal lives as possible. I remember being tucked up in my nice warm bed and read stories at night, though I only remember waking up in my own bed on one or two occasions. I have more memories of waking in our Anderson shelter, where at the air raid's warning, I had been plucked from my bed and taken to its relative safety. I also remember when I was a bit older, in the middle of the night, making my mum stand in the doorway of the Anderson and shoot down the enemy aircraft with my toy gun.

What must have been going through her mind? She had just taken my sister and me from our beds, she had closed the back door, would she ever open it again, or would there be no house left? How much sleep did she have? I don't think she ever missed a warning. My aunt would never come down to the shelter, another worry for mum. Would she still be alive in the morning?

She would go shopping, I wonder if she ever thought as she budgeted her ration coupons that the shop she was in might not be there tomorrow. Many weren't. But life went on.

Birthdays and Christmases looking for presents. What could they buy? Very little. My mum and dad used to make ours.

Then dad, going out sometimes during a bombing raid fighting fires, knowing mum was at home on her own with my sister and me to look after. I often wonder how he felt when he freed a small boy and his younger sister he found trapped behind a load of furniture in a recently bombed building.

The little boy, no tears as he put his arm round his sister just said, "Thanks mister, we knew you'd come." I wonder if he thought then of his own children, my sister and me?

Yes, life went on.

Roger Stapenhill

## Unwanted Visitor

A man down on his luck, went into a church which catered to the "uppity". Spotting the man's dirty clothes a deacon, worried about the churches image, went to the man and asked him if he needed help. The man said, "*I was praying and the Lord told me to come to this church.*"

The deacon suggested that the man go pray some more and possibly he might get a different answer. The next Sunday the man returned. The deacon asked. "*Did you get a different answer?*"

The man replied, " Yes I did. I told the Lord that they didn't want me in that church and the Lord said. "*Don't worry about it my son, I've been trying for years and haven't made it yet*"

*Bonfire night is on the way...David Winter considers the history of it all...*

## The Way I See It - The Fifth of November

Until fairly recent years 5<sup>th</sup> November in England was well known for foggy evenings as bonfires were lit all over the country. On many of them a 'guy' would be burnt – usually a couple of old pillows and some cast-off clothes in the rough shape of a man.



The 'guy' was, historically speaking, Guy Fawkes, one of the chief conspirators in a plot by Roman Catholic zealots to blow up the Palace of Westminster at the State Opening of Parliament on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1606, thus removing James I from the throne.

Fawkes was arrested as he stood guard over a massive collection of gunpowder in an undercroft beneath the House of Lords. Under torture he revealed the names of the other conspirators, and they were hanged, drawn and quartered on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1607, though Fawkes jumped from the scaffold and broke his neck, thus avoiding the actual execution.

The previous sixty years had seen unprecedented religious strife in England, following the breakaway of the Church of England from Rome under Henry VIII. Hundreds of priests loyal to Rome were hunted down and many put to death, often under the accusation of 'treason'. During the brief reign of a Catholic monarch, Mary, there were many Protestants who were similarly executed. Years of strife, often over verbal definitions, were testimony to the bitterness of feelings which religious conviction can inspire.

There is still plenty of religious strife in the world, as we all know, though little now between different groups of Christians. 5<sup>th</sup> November might be a good day on which to pray to the one and only God that the world might see an end to the blasphemy of any killing in His Name.

From a story in the Telegraph 9 things maybe you didn't know about  
Guy Fawkes

1. Guy Fawkes did not die from being hung, drawn and quartered
2. Guy Fawkes was not the Gunpowder Plot's ringleader
3. Guy Fawkes won the unlikely admiration of King James I
4. Guy Fawkes was actually Protestant by birth
5. Guy Fawkes has an island named after him
6. Guy Fawkes liked to be called by an Italian nickname
7. The Houses of Parliament are still searched once a year to make sure there are no conspirators hiding with explosives
8. The cellar that Fawkes tried to blow up no longer exists
9. The gunpowder would have done little damage to Parliament

## Samaritan's Purse launches 'One in A million' Operation Christmas Child campaign

Samaritan's Purse is calling on people across the UK to be 'One in a Million' and pack a gift-filled shoebox this Christmas.

The organization is hoping to send a million shoe boxes from the UK this year. A spokesman explains: "It's a great way for all of us to make a difference in a child's life and to share the true meaning of Christmas with children around the world, about the birth of Jesus Christ." Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child (worldwide) has delivered gift-filled shoeboxes to more than 124 million children in over 150 countries.

And in the meantime, if you have ever packed a shoebox, Samaritan's Purse wants to hear your story. Where and when did you pack it? What did you include? Was there something particularly special you remember about your shoebox?

Samaritan's Purse invites people to "Help us encourage others to be 'one in a million' and get involved in this year's campaign - pack a shoebox this year and tell us your story at [www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/yourshoeboxstory](http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/yourshoeboxstory)."

# Devotional - “Joy” from the late preacher Richard Sibbes

## Joy

The bitterest things in religion are sweet - there is a sweetness even in reproofs, when God meets with our corruptions and whispers unto us such and such things are dangerous, and that if we cherish them they will bring us to hell. The Word of God is sweet to a Christian that has his heart under its influence. Is not pardon sweet to a condemned man, and riches sweet to a poor man, and favour sweet to a man in disgrace, and liberty sweet to a man in captivity? So all that comes from God is sweet to a Christian that has his heart touched with the sense of sin.



A Christian's joy is right when it proceeds from right principles, from judgment and conscience, not from fancy and imagination; when judgment and conscience will bear him out; when there is fellowship between them both, for our joy must spring from peace, "Being justified by faith, we have peace with God" (Romans 5:2). The Apostles began their Epistles with mercy, grace and peace; mercy in forgiveness, grace to renew our natures, and peace of conscience.

These are things to be gloried in. If we find our sins pardoned, our persons accepted, and our nature renewed; we may comfort ourselves in health, in wealth, in wife, in children, in anything, because all come from the favor of God. We may joy in afflictions because there is a blessing in the worst things to further our eternal happiness. Though we cannot joy in affliction itself as being contrary to our nature, yet we may in the outcome; so that we rejoice aright when, having interest in God, we glory in the testimony of a good conscience; when looking inward, we find all at peace; when each of us can say upon good grounds that God is mine, and therefore all is mine, both life and death and all things, so far as they may serve for my truest good.

The religious affections of God's people are mixed, for they mingle their joy with weeping, and their weeping with joy; whereas a carnal man's are all simple; if he rejoices, he is mad; if he is sorrowful (unless it be restrained) it sinks him; but grace always tempers the joy and sorrow of a Christian, because he has always something to joy in, and something for which to grieve. What a poorness of spirit is it to be over-joyful or overmuch grieved, when all things are fading and vanish so soon away. Let us therefore bear continually in our minds that all things here below are subordinate to the upper world.

*If your church is Methodist, you could encourage your readers to seriously try and think of some prayers. You could promise to run them in your magazine, even if they don't make the national handbook...*

## Your prayers are needed

The editor of the Methodist Prayer Handbook is on the lookout for new prayers. These should be up to 120 words or 12 lines long, and ideally related to specific Methodist topics or for particular countries or needs.

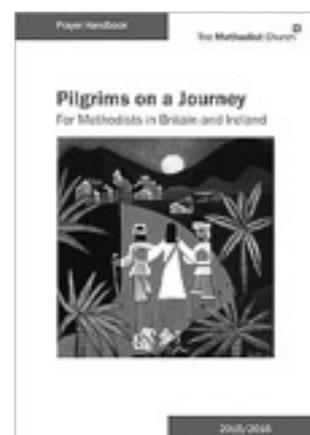
The theme of the 2016/2017 handbook is 'Freedoms to share', which looks at how we find freedom in Christ and share the freedoms He gives us with others, by listening, learning and responding. We remember not only those fragile lives crying out for shelter from persecution, fear and suffering, but also those ensnared by materialism, selfishness and sin. The title comes from Graham Kendrick's hymn 'God of the poor' (Beauty for Brokenness) (Singing the Faith 693).

*Prayers should be submitted by 12 January 2016.*

If you are interested you can find more information on website

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/prayer-and-worship/methodist-prayer-handbook>

*For queries email - [primi@quantrillmedia.com](mailto:primi@quantrillmedia.com)*



*Richard Bewes considers the beginning of the Church Year...*

## The message of Advent? - history is going somewhere

# ADVENT

*“And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger...” (Luke 2:7)*

*‘They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.’ (Matthew 24:30)*

What a contrast between the humble birth of Jesus in Bethlehem – and his eventual return! No one knows when that day will be, but it will be earth-shaking. In the meantime, Advent reminds us of the last of six great saving actions of God in Jesus Christ.

The Birth of Jesus at Bethlehem was to inaugurate our salvation. The Death of Jesus at Calvary established it – forever. The Resurrection of Jesus at Easter confirmed it. The Ascension of Jesus to heaven celebrated it. The Gift of the Spirit at Pentecost drove it worldwide. And sixthly will come the Return of Jesus at the world’s end – to consummate and complete it.

The message of Advent reminds us that history is not circular or locked into an unending stalemate. Neither can we ever accept a notion of successive reincarnations, for the Bible is clear that *man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment* (Hebrews 9:27).

The Bible has had many pre-runs of that final ‘Day of the Lord.’ Noah’s flood, the overthrow of wicked Babylon; these and other upheavals were but pointers to the final ‘Day of our Lord Jesus Christ’ (1 Corinthians 1:8), when all wrongs will be stopped, and the Lord shall reign with justice.

For the Bible is clear that world history is leading to *a Conclusion*, to the new heaven and the new earth. That will be inaugurated when 'He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.' Christ's return will usher in the final triumph, bringing about the dismantling of the whole apparatus of Evil that has so harassed us across the centuries.

The Cross and Resurrection secured the victory over evil. Christ's return will make it final! Believers echo Paul's words in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 - 'And so we will be with the Lord for ever.' If we have a *strong view of the future, we can be sure it will energise us in the present!*

In the meantime, Advent is coming round once again. It's time to celebrate the first of God's six mighty acts that secured our salvation – and look forward to the future.



## The Wit of Churchill

Until the end of 2015 JP is presenting a series on the Wit of Sir Winston Churchill.



Churchill pronounced on his 75th birthday, 30th November 1949, *'I am ready to meet my Maker. Whether my Maker is ready for the ordeal of meeting me is another matter'*.

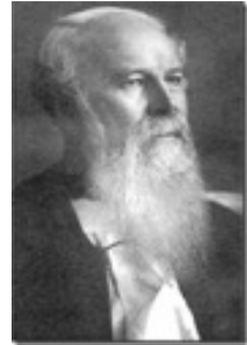
(He didn't meet his Maker until 1965 !)



# J.C.Ryle - “ First Bishop of Liverpool”

This is a very brief biography of the Evangelical Bishop J. C. Ryle:

Thoroughly evangelical in his doctrine and uncompromising in his principles, J.C. Ryle was a prolific writer, vigorous preacher, and faithful pastor. He was born at Macclesfield and educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford.



He was a fine athlete who rowed and played Cricket for Oxford, where he took a first class degree in Modern Greats and was offered a college fellowship (teaching position) which he declined. The son of a wealthy banker, he was destined for a career in politics before answering a call to ordained ministry.

He was spiritually awakened in 1838 while hearing Ephesians 2 read in church. He was ordained by Bishop Sumner at Winchester in 1842. For 38 years he was a parish vicar, first at Helmingham and later at Stradbroke, in Suffolk. He became a leader of the evangelical party in the Church of England and was noted for his doctrinal essays and polemical writings.

In 1880, at age 64, he became the first bishop of Liverpool, at the recommendation of Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli. He retired in 1900 at age 83 and died later the same year.

In his diocese, he exercised a vigorous and straightforward preaching ministry, and was a faithful pastor to his clergy, exercising particular care over ordination retreats. He formed a clergy pension fund for his diocese and built over forty churches. Despite criticism, he put raising clergy salaries ahead of building a cathedral for his new diocese.

Ryle combined his commanding presence and vigorous advocacy of his principles with graciousness and warmth in his personal relations. Vast numbers of working men and women attended his special preaching meetings, and many were led to faith in Christ.

## Faith before the firing squad

This year is the centenary of Edith Cavell's death. Many remember her patriotism. But for Edith, patriotism was not enough. Many saw her as a hero and a martyr; some even think she was a spy. But Edith asked to be remembered '... only as a nurse who tried to do her duty'.

Dozens of books have been written about Edith Cavell, but none answered the question: 'How could she be so calm and confident before the firing squad?' My new book, *Edith Cavell - Faith before the firing squad* (Monarch, £8.99) tells Edith's story. It traces the roots of her calm confidence, her love for others expressed in practical, selfless service to friend and foe alike, as well as her courage helping fugitives from war find freedom.

Self-sacrifice was the hallmark of Nurse Edith Cavell's life. She was executed on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1915 for enabling at least 200 Allied soldiers to escape occupied Belgium into neutral territory, but her care had extended to German and Allied soldiers.

On the night before her execution she told the chaplain who came to give her Holy Communion that she was grateful for the weeks of quiet she had spent in solitary confinement after such a busy life. She said, 'I have seen death so often that it is not strange or fearful to me ... This I would say, standing as I do in view of God and eternity, I realise that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone.'

She knew that the patriotism her fellow prisoners had used in their defence was not enough to enable her to stand in God's presence. Throughout her life she had used the *Book of Common Prayer*, repeating the Lord's Prayer morning and evening, 'forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us'. She knew that she couldn't hold on to hatred or bitterness. She needed to forgive others, just as she had been forgiven.

After they had shared communion, they said together the words of the hymn 'Abide With Me', and they talked about heaven. As he left her cell, she took the chaplain's hand and said with confidence in her eternal future, 'We shall meet again.' She was executed by firing squad at dawn the next morning.

*We continue our column that looks at memorable dates in the month (this time, November) down the years. Here is a range from which to pick and choose, as your space allows.*

# Memorable dates down the years - November

300 years ago:- on 24 Nov 1715 (until 9 Feb 1716) that the River Thames in London froze over and a frost fair was held.

250 years ago:- on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 1765 that The Stamp Act (a British tax on the colonies of North America) went into effect. It became one of the key grievances that led to the American Revolution.

200 years ago:- on 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 1815 that Grace Darling was born. She famously rescued survivors of a shipwreck off Northumberland in 1838. She and her father used a rowing boat as the sea was too rough for a lifeboat.

150 years ago:- on 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 1865 that Lewis Carroll's novel 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' was published.

80 years ago:- on 6<sup>th</sup> Nov 1935 that Britain's Hawker Hurricane fighter plane made its first flight. It played a major role in WW2, especially during the Battle of Britain.

75 years ago:- on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 1940 that the German Luftwaffe bombers virtually destroyed the city of Coventry, including the medieval cathedral.

50 years ago:- on 9<sup>th</sup> Nov 1965 that the death penalty was abolished in the UK.

40 years ago:- on 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov 1975 that Britain's first North Sea oil pipeline was officially opened.

30 years ago:- on 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 1985 that the Anglo-Irish Agreement was signed in Dublin by Margaret Thatcher and Irish President Garret Fitzgerald. It gave the Irish Government a consultative role in the affairs of Northern Ireland.

15 years ago:- on 27<sup>th</sup> Nov 2000 that Nigerian schoolboy Damilola Taylor, aged 10, died after being stabbed in the leg by a gang of hooded attackers near his home in South London.

# People and News

## Birthday Celebrations - November 2015

19th **Christine**

*Happy Birthday to you  
Happy Birthday to you  
May God Bless you and keep you  
Happy Birthday to you.*



*Happy Birthday to you  
To Jesus be true  
May the Lord bless you richly  
In all that you do*

## Remembrance - November 2015

**1st Dennigan** - In loving memory of William Thomas and Clara. *Bill, Brenda, Reg and Doreen.*

**8th Gray** - In loving memory of Albert John and beloved wife Ann nee Stocking. A couple devoted to God and each other.

**15th Plimmer** - In loving memory of my dear father and mother Joseph Edward Plimmer and Lois Lilian Plimmer nee Wills. Rest in peace.

**22nd Mrs H Benin** - In loving memory of Annie Emily Bynion from MU and YME with grateful thanks for her generous bequest.

**29th Mrs Brand & Betty** - Memories of a dear husband and father.

Mary Brand - Treasured memories of a dear Mother and Nan.

*Grant unto them eternal rest, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them . May the souls of **all the faithful departed**, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

## SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER TIME

Every Sunday morning at 10.00am before the morning service there is a time for quiet prayer.  
All welcome. Please join us if you are able.



## TUESDAY EVENING PRAYER TIME

Every Tuesday evening at 8.00pm.  
A time time for open intercession or quiet prayer run by Kevin. All welcome. Please join us if you are able.

You may wish to have a look at all of the WW1 centenary projects of the British Legion – they can be found at: [www.britishlegion.org.uk/remembrance/ww1-centenary-projects/](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/remembrance/ww1-centenary-projects/)  
We mention just one of the projects below.

## Time for Remembrance

If you would like to pay your own personal tribute to the soldiers who died during the First World War, then why not consider participating in a very easy project being run by the British Legion? Not only is it commemorative, but it is one which will yield big results for your garden next year!



It is the Centenary Poppy Campaign, in which the Royal British Legion has joined forces with B&Q to encourage the public and local authorities to plant Flanders poppy seeds on their own land. The Flanders poppy seeds can be purchased from B&Q, where a donation of £1 will go towards the work of the Legion. Just visit your B&Q for more details.

## Church Music



Great to see Helen and David leading our music worship over the last two weeks. Be good if one or two more budding musicians/singers would join them.



## Shoe Box Appeal

To help anyone who wishes to take part in this appeal here is a guide:- Toothbrushes, wrapped soap, comb, hairbrush, flannel, pens, pencils, crayons, colouring pencils, writing pads, colouring books, picture books, dolls, yo-yos, skipping ropes, harmonicas, balls, small puzzles, scarves, gloves, sunglasses, hair accessories, jewellery sets, wind up torch, toy trucks, toy cars, stuffed animals.

## League of Friends Sandwell Hospital

**WELCOME THE  
DONATIONS  
of BOOKS and  
MAGAZINES**

**PLEASE KEEP THEM  
COMING**

If you need any further  
information please see  
Madeline Page.  
Thank you all very much  
for your generous



## “Urban Catechism”

Thursdays at 7.30pm and  
Sundays at 4.30pm.

Please see Neil or sign up  
on the list at back of  
church.

## MIDWEEK MORNING PRAYER TIME



## West Bromwich Food Bank

The Food Bank collect and  
stores food ready to freely  
distribute to individuals or  
families in crisis (who cannot  
afford to feed themselves).

\* Milk (UHT or powdered) \*  
Sugar (500g) \* Fruit juice (carton)  
Soup \* Pasta sauces \* Sponge  
pudding (tinned) \* Tomatoes  
(tinned) \* Cereals \* Rice pudding  
(tinned) \* Tea Bags/instant  
coffee \* Instant mash potato \*  
Rice/pasta \* Tinned meat/fish \*  
Tinned fruit \* Jam \* Biscuits or  
snack bars \* Or cash donation



*Catechism:- a summary of the  
principles of Christian religion in  
the form of questions and  
answers, used for religious  
instruction.*

*Urban:- in, relating to, or  
characteristic of a town or city.*

Every Monday and Wednesday  
mornings at 8.00am there is a time  
for quiet prayer. All welcome.  
Please join us if you are able.

# Forthcoming Events

## Sunday 8th November



*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. Robert Laurence Binyon*

## Christmas Choir Practice



Holy Trinity's own Gareth Malone - Paul Wright - is again organising a choir for the Holy Trinity Carol Service. The first practice is Thursday 12th November @ 7.30pm. Please come along if you are interested. Its good fun and Paul will challenge us with not so well known carols and male and female harmonies. All welcome

## Saturday 28th November - 6.30pm

## Christmas Music Concert

*In aid of the homeless*

Featuring David Partridge (violin/piano) and Lauren Storey (horn/vocal)

Admission charge £5.00 and £3.00 concessionary  
Mince pies and refreshment after concert



**Find Holy Trinity  
on Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/  
pages](http://www.facebook.com/pages)

Vicar: The Revd. Neil Robbie

**holy trinity  
church**

**1 burlington road  
west bromwich**

**B70 6LF**

