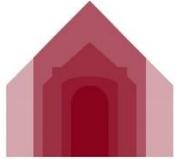


Welcoming - Worshipping - Serving



## The Parish Church of St John the Baptist West Byfleet



### A TIME OF REFLECTION FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2020

Officiant: *The Revd Chris Hollingshurst*

Preacher: *The Revd Clive Kirk*

*Greater love hath no man than this,  
that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

### **The Vicar writes...**

*May I welcome you to this on-line Parish gathering for Remembrance Sunday. Doubtless you will share my frustration that the present public health crisis requires us to commemorate this occasion differently this year, but as always I invite us to share with our neighbours across this parish and wider local community in commemorating the Fallen and praying for peace.*

*Whatever the constraints, this is always such a significant poignant event in a local community. As I reflect on the privilege of having officiated here as on Remembrance Sunday for a number of years - and as I prepare to move shortly to a new post - I pray for God's peace to sanctify and sustain the collective memory of West Byfleet, and for the peace of Christ to touch all of our hearts.*

**Chris Hollingshurst**

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### **The Gathering**

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

*Psalm 46.1*

We commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between the nations, that all people may, together, live in freedom, justice and peace.

We pray for all who in bereavement, disability or pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.

We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives, in world wars and other conflicts past and present, have been given or taken away.

## Act of Penitence

Let us confess to God the sins and shortcomings of the world;  
its pride, its selfishness, its greed; its evil divisions and hatreds.

Let us confess our share in what is wrong,  
and our failure to seek and establish peace.

**All**    **Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned in thought word and  
deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbour as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you our God. Amen.**

*We hear of God's forgiveness.*

May Almighty God,  
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,  
bring you his pardon and his peace,  
now and for ever.

**All**    **Amen.**

## The Lesson

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

*John 15.9-17*

## Homily

### Praying together

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict and ask that God may give us peace:

For the service of men and women  
who have died in the violence of war,  
each one remembered by and known to God;  
may God give peace.

**All**    **God give peace.**

For those who loved them in death as in life,  
offering the distress of our grief  
and the sadness of our loss;  
may God give peace.

**All**    **God give peace.**

For all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day,  
remembering family, friends  
and all who pray for their safe return;  
may God give peace.

**All**    **God give peace.**

For civilian women, children and men whose lives are disfigured by  
war or terror,  
calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity;  
may God give peace.

**All**    **God give peace.**

For peacemakers and peacekeepers  
who seek to keep this world secure and free;  
may God give peace.

**All**    **God give peace.**

For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership,  
political, military and religious;  
asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in search of reconciliation and  
peace;  
may God give peace.

**All**    **God give peace.**

O God of truth and justice  
we hold before you those whose memory we cherish,  
and those whose names we will never know.  
Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world,  
and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm.  
As we honour the past,  
may we put our faith in your future;  
for you are the source of life and hope.

**All**    **Amen.**

Almighty God,  
from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed:  
kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all, the true love of peace  
and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom  
those who take counsel for the nations of the earth,  
that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward,  
till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All**    **Amen.**

## **Act of Remembrance**

Let us remember before God,  
and commend to his sure keeping:  
those who have died for the country in war;  
those whom we knew and whose memory we treasure -  
including from West Byfleet 36 during the First World War  
and 21 during the Second World War -  
and all who have lived and died in the service of humanity.

*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.*

**All**    **We will remember them.**

## **THE SILENCE**

*When you go home tell them of us,  
for your tomorrow we gave our today.*

Most merciful and ever-living God,  
we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of  
war into the peace of your presence:  
Grant that we, being faithful till death,  
May receive with them the crown of life that never fades,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** Amen.

### Act of Commitment

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and humanity;  
that we may help, encourage and comfort others, and support  
those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and  
welfare of the nations.

**All** Lord God our Father,  
we pledge ourselves to serve you and all your peoples,  
in the cause of peace,  
for the relief of want and suffering,  
and for the praise of your name.  
Guide us by your Spirit:  
give us wisdom; give us courage; give us hope;  
and keep us faithful now and always.  
Amen.

Merciful God, we offer to you the fears in us  
that have not yet been cast out by love:  
may we accept the hope  
you have placed in the hearts of all people,  
and live lives of justice, courage and mercy;  
through Jesus Christ our risen redeemer.

**All** Amen.

### The Lord's Prayer

**All** Our Father,  
who art in heaven,  
hallowed by thy name;  
thy Kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

### The National Anthem

#### The Blessing

God grant to the living grace,  
to the departed rest,  
to the Church, the Queen,  
the Commonwealth, and all people,  
peace and concord:  
and to all God's servants, life everlasting;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All** Amen.