



# Connection

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020**  
**Remembrance Sunday**



## **Minister's message**

Hello and welcome to this week's Connection. It is a few months since I last wrote an article for a Bredon Hill Group church weekly publication, but given the news this week, I felt that I needed to write, once again, and share a few thoughts with you in these strange times we are living through.

I am sure that most people reading this message will already be feeling a sense of disappointment, uncertainty and maybe fear, as we enter a second national Lockdown in England. It is an event that we were of course hoping would not be necessary, but as levels of Corona Virus cases rise, and government restrictions became more and more necessary in a rising number of places across the country, there was perhaps an inevitability to the situation we now find ourselves in.

However, unlike the first Lockdown, we know now what this will entail, and although many of us will not be required to shield and schools and essential shops and businesses will remain open, we recognise that this second period is likely to be more challenging as it takes place in the season of autumn when we have longer dark nights and when any daily exercise and walks outside become less easy or pleasurable due to unpredictable and colder weather. Further, the timing of this Lockdown affects, and makes uncertain, many of our hopes and plans for the Advent and Christmas season, when we traditionally come together, with our families and friends, in a time of celebration.

It is also a great personal sadness, and one expressed in letters by the Archbishops of York and Canterbury, and the bishops of Worcester and Dudley, that we again have to close the doors of our churches for public worship, even though this time around we will be allowed an encouraged to use them for private prayers on the days designated by each church. Nevertheless, regrettably most services of Remembrance, which were due to take place this Sunday will not be able to happen as planned; And so instead both myself, and the Royal British Legion, are encouraging households to stand on their door step at 11.00am on Sunday to mark with a two minute silence, the memory of all those who have lost and sacrificed their lives in conflicts of the past, for the sake of their country.

This year all acts of remembrance are particularly poignant, as alongside those who have died in wars and conflicts, we will also reflect on the loss of life and the sacrifice of others as we continue the fight against an unseen enemy, that of the Corona virus. Some of the people we will mourn will be people we were unable to say goodbye to in a way we would have wished to, in other and more normal circumstances. But as we remember those who have died, those who are currently affected by illness, and those who are coping with the ongoing implications of the virus, both because of the effect on the country's economy and on individual's financial, social and educational wellbeing, we know that there will also be people across the country, especially key workers, who will be doing their utmost to minimise the effects of this most terrible of enemies. So, even in these challenging circumstances, let us give thanks for all those who in the coming weeks and months who will be making sacrifices to help us get through these times together.

In a letter to clergy from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, we have been asked to use the Lockdown as a time of prayer and fasting. The letter states *"Bearing in mind our primary vocation as the Church of Jesus Christ is to pray and to serve, we call upon the Church of England to make this month of lockdown a **month of prayer**. More than anything else, whatever the nation thinks, we know that we are in the faithful hands of the risen Christ who knows our weaknesses, tiredness and struggles and whose steadfast love endures for ever. Above all we recall people to some of the fundamental spiritual disciplines that shape our Christian life. How we do this is up to each congregation and clergy person. During the first lockdown we cheered for the NHS every Thursday. During this second lockdown we invite you to fast in a way appropriate to you as well as pray for our nation every Thursday, for its leaders, its health and essential services and all those who suffer."*

The letter continues with a call for everyone to maintain courage, calm and compassion, and refers to a passage of the New Testament, where Paul says to those who follow Christ that their *"love must be genuine, that they hate what is evil and hold fast to what is good."* He asks them to *"serve the lord"*, exhorting them to *"rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers."* (See Romans 12.9-12.)

Now we know that this will not be easy, and so in the coming weeks I encourage you to pray regularly and consistently, and where possible, to think about fasting as a way of expressing our faith and trust in God. For our hope is in Christ alone, and He will bring into being new and good things in the fulness of time. However, until then, may God bless, strengthen and uphold you, and all whom you love and care for, throughout this Lockdown, and let us look forward with hope to being able to share Christ's light and peace which as members of His children and Christian church community, we will celebrate at Christmas.

With love in Christ,

Allison



## **An Act of Remembrance**

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary  
they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40: 31

As we meet in the presence of God,  
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 and pain  
continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.  
Let us remember before God, and commend to his sure keeping, those who have died for their country in war;  
those whom we knew and whose memory we treasure;  
and all who have lived and died in the service of humanity.

*We remember now those who lost their lives in the service of their country, :-*

They shall not grow 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 affirm: We will remember them.**

**Followed by two minutes silence**

*The Kohima Epitaph is said:*

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



Almighty and eternal God,  
from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life:  
hear our prayers and thanksgiving for all whom we remember this day;  
fulfil in them the purpose of your love and bring us, with them, to your  
eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Reading: 2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5, 13-end**

As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you? But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

**Reading: Luke 20: 27-38**

Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus, and asked him a question, 'Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless; then the second and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. Finally the woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.' Jesus said to them, 'Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. Indeed they cannot die any more, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.'

## Intercessions

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

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

May God give peace

**God give peace**

For those who love them in death as in life,  
offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss;

May God give peace

**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

**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

**God give peace**

For peace-makers and peace-keepers,  
who seek to keep this world secure and free;

May God give peace

**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 the search for reconciliation and peace.

May God give peace

**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, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

We join together in saying the prayer Jesus taught us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be 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**

## **Requests for Prayers**

If there is someone or something that you would like to pray for please email us at [eckingtonvicarage@hotmail.com](mailto:eckingtonvicarage@hotmail.com)



**Please continue to pray for** the ill and isolated, frontline, hospital and medical staff and for all those who are in any kind of need. Pray for those lost during wartime and help heal the pain of grief in those left behind. We give thanks for all who work to ensure we never forget their sacrifice.

**Those who are sick:** Roy and Margaret Putnam, Richard Clements, Christopher Frith, Edward Bunn, Brian Bolam, Alison Edwards

**We continue to pray for:** Don Dufty, Percy and Sharon Blizzard, Jackie Pickford, Clive Hunt, Mary Doney

**Those in residential care:** Sheila Bigland-Gibbons, Barbara Milton, Rita Sheppy

**Those who have died and their families:** Brian Druce, Charles Brazier, Nils Wilkes, Simon Flynn, Doreen Byrd

**Anniversary of a death:** Please pray for those who have lost loved ones

## **News from the Diocese**

Prayers and diocesan news can be found at [www.cofe-worcester.org.uk](http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk)



The Prayer Diary is produced by the Communications Team as a monthly PDF and posted each day on the homepage and our social media channels. Download the Prayer Diary (PDF) - [November](#)

### **Reverend Allison Davies**

Vicar of Eckington, Defford with Besford and Hill Group



Associate Priest for the churches of the Bredon