

Community Help Initiative:

If you need help during this difficult time contact:

for Wilden	Martin & Susie Cooper wildennews@hotmail.com
for Colmworth	Jeremy & Gillian Freedman j.freedman@sky.com
for Ravensden	< ravensdenhelpline@gmail.com > or phone 772230
for Keysoe	Laura Barry PcllrLaura@outlook.com
for Bolnhurst	Jane Browning janebrowning50@gmail.com

From the Registers

Burial:

Mrs Esther Simpson Deacon's funeral took place on **28th September 2020** at Bedford Crematorium where those gathered paid tribute to a lovely lady. Our prayers and thoughts are with those who mourn.

Notices

Junior Choir on Zoom Wednesdays 5:45-6:15 For Zoom links contact us via the Website www.wcrchurches.org

A big **“Thank You”** to those members of the Benefice Choir who are recording in their own homes to help bring music to our “Words of Hope” on line services.

Don't forget to go on line and participate in our “Words of Hope” service each Sunday. www.wcrchurches.org

We also have a 'Zoom gathering' every Wednesday at 7.30 p.m. Leave a message on the website or email Tim for the Zoom link or join by phone. All welcome to join us.

Circumstances change very quickly during this trying time so do check on the website which is kept up-to-date.

Editors: Revd. Timothy Wilson revtimwilson@wcrchurches.org
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Wilden with Colmworth & Ravensden St Mary Keysoe with St Dunstan Bolnhurst

www.wcrchurches.org

NEWSLETTER

November 2020

Remembering – the dead

November is well known as a time of remembering. Whilst 5th November Gunpowder Plot is hardly even marked these days, Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday seem increasingly key times in our national conscience as present Wars as well as long remembered Wars are sadly ever with us. In the Church, All Saints Day on 1st November and All Souls Day on 2nd are also special times as we have ‘In Loving Memory’ services thinking of and naming those no longer with us from recent and perhaps long-ago times. And whilst we live in difficult times with all the COVID restrictions, these times and events are still being marked this year in ways that will be quite unique and therefore probably will be especially memorable.

But all this Remembering is not primarily about historical facts and dates. Yes, 11th November was the date the Armistice was signed to end the first World War, but it is a date now used to remember all Wars. But what we actually remember - and whom we name - is the dead. And that is because we are all people affected by death and we know death will someday come to us all.

The early Christians were quite remarkable in that they didn't fear death and even welcomed it when it came their way. The word ‘Cemetery’ literally means ‘sleeping place’, as death was and still is seen by Christians as a state of rest and peace. This has stayed in our culture using language like ‘they're now at peace; at rest; their pain is over; they're reunited with their loved ones’. We've all heard it and probably said it about others ourselves.

This pandemic has of course brought death into the lives of many people and loved ones are reeling from it. And whilst Christians are frequently asked to pray for those who are ill and suffering, many request prayers for those who have died. When I've asked children if there's anything they'd like us to pray for, its often a pet that's died, or granny, or some other experience of death that upsets us all - young and old alike.

Praying for the dead has always been contentious throughout the history of the church, and different Christian denominations and traditions have held opposing views - sometimes very strongly on both sides. But down the ages we've believed that our time is in God's hands, and He gives us life and in death we leave our loved ones in His safe keeping. An anthem often sung at Remembrance time from other sources at the time of the Old Testament runs ‘the souls of the righteous are in the hands of God. There shall no torment touch them.’ So this November we shall as usual remember and give thanks for the dead, and I pray we will also entrust them to our loving heavenly Father who has cared for them and us throughout this life.

Timothy Wilson