

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

During this time of the Coronavirus Pandemic,
please look at our website: www.wcrchurches.org
which will give you the days and times our churches are open.
Each Sunday there will be a short 'Message of Hope' on the
website led by Tim, Geraldine & David

**St. Nicholas Church Wilden is open for Private Prayer on Sundays
(if no service) 10.30 - 11.30 am. and Wednesdays 2 – 3 pm.**

Services and Readings for November

1st November All Saints

10 am Ravensden Holy Communion & 'In Loving Memory' service
Revelation 7.9-17; Psalm 34.1-10; 1 John 3.1-3; Matthew 5.1-12

Collect

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; 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.

Wednesday 4th November

Holy Communion at **Keysoe** at 10 am

8th November Remembrance Sunday.

Services, including the Silence, at all 5 Churches:-

9am **Colmworth** followed by 9:45am at Standing Soldier in the
Country Park

9:30am **Bolnhurst**

10:45am **Keysoe**

10:50am **Ravensden** beginning outside at the War Memorial

6:00pm **Wilden** Evensong

Amos 5.18-24; Psalm 70; 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18

Collect

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

15th November 2nd Before Advent

10am **Keysoe** Holy Communion

Zephaniah 1.7,12-18; Psalm 90.1-12; 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11; Matthew 25.14-30

Collect

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Wednesday 18th November

Holy Communion at **Ravensden** at 11 am

22nd November Christ the King & Stir up Sunday

10am. **Bolnhurst** Morning Prayer

Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24; Psalm 95.1-7; Ephesians 1.15-23; Matthew 25.31-46

Collect

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Additional Collect:

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Wednesday 25th November

Holy Communion at **Colmworth** at 11 am

29th November Advent Sunday

10am **Colmworth** Holy Communion

6 pm **Ravensden Cross Lighting Service (outside).**

Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37;

Collect:

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.