

Wilden with Colmworth & Ravensden St Mary Keysoe with St Dunstan Bolnhurst

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NEWSLETTER

November 2021

November, a time for remembrance.

November, a time for reflection and memories. The warmth and green of summer changes to the golds and reds of autumn, which change to the browns and barrenness of winter. The days shorten, the clocks go back.

Our thoughts can also be drawn back to times of joy and sadness. The pandemic has had an impact on us all, affecting everyone in different ways. Life was changed. Even births and deaths were different with both celebrations and sombre gatherings under restriction.

Throughout the month of November we have times of remembrance. 1st November is All Saints Day, a day when the church remembers all those who have died over the last year or so, their names are spoken and candles are lit in remembrance of their life. It is also a time for those who wish their loved ones names to be remembered at our In Loving Memory Service, a time to give hope and comfort to all those who mourn, for Jesus said "blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted".

On 11th November at 11am the whole nation stands as one in silence, respect and sorrow for all who gave their lives, not just in the 1st World War, but in all conflicts since so that we can have a peaceful future and respond "we will remember them". On 14th November, Remembrance Sunday, our churches gather to call the names of those lost from each parish and to remember the service and sacrifice they made to defend our freedoms and protect our way of life.

We don't need a special day or even a special event to remember our loved ones. I recall visiting a very elderly lady who told me that remembering past people and events helped her to stay young and to focus on the future, because she wanted to make more memories to recall.

There are those whose memories can no longer be recalled, which is frightening for them and devastating for close family and friends. It is then that it becomes important that their memories, stories and events are recalled by others. Memories can make us smile, laugh and weep. Sharing a memory or reflection with those around you lifts the heart, revives the spirit and reminds us that we are not alone with those memories.

Jesus asked his disciples, which includes all of us, to remember Him every time we break bread, every time we sit down to eat and to take up our lives and live in memory of Him. The wonderful thing is that He did not remain dead, therefore Jesus is with us every single moment of our lives, planting hope, love and mercy. Jesus promised that He would be with us always, in our past, present and future. He is part of our memories and our hope, whether we know it or not.

God's blessings, Geraldine.