

## St David's with St Michael's and All Angels, Mount Dinham, Exeter Newsletter for Sunday 14 November 2021 – Remembrance Sunday

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this week's newsletter.

**Today** we will make a short act of remembrance at the start of our morning services. At St David's we are holding the collection for Angel Tree, the scheme that enables inmates at Exeter Prison to buy presents for their children at Christmas.

Next week (21<sup>st</sup> November) at St David's we will gather in and bless the shoeboxes for Moldova. At St Michael's on 21<sup>st</sup> November we will hold a congregational meeting after 11am Mass to talk about the St Michael's Committee and the options presented last week by Archdeacon Andrew.

In view of the continued high incidence of Covid infections we are keeping our current guidance about social distancing and face coverings at the moment. So please wear a face covering in church if you can and be mindful of keeping a safe distance from others indoors. Please 'mingle' carefully after the service and chat outside rather than inside (weather permitting). Please be mindful not only of your own wellbeing (especially if you're not vaccinated) but also of your neighbours' safety and make sure that you are not sitting directly behind other people especially if you would like to sing.

Please be patient, kind and respect the personal space of other people if they don't wish to get too close!

Our services today are:

**9.30am Parish Communion at St David's** (live streamed on St David's Church Exeter Facebook Page) with laying of a Remembrance Wreath with celebrant and preacher, Nigel Guthrie and deacon Louise Tulloh

**11am Sung Mass at St Michael's** with act of Remembrance, celebrant and preacher, Dominic Cyrus

**4pm Thrive Meeting – Alpha on Zoom**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88685738289?pwd=WEh1dlNCY3NRQTICcXFjK2ZlejR0UT09>  
Meeting ID: 886 8573 8289      Passcode: 159821

Please do join this session of Alpha at Thrive, and invite family, friends, colleagues, neighbours, and more. This week, our placement ordinand Louise Tulloh will be leading a session on prayer.

**6pm Evening Prayer** in St David's Lady Chapel led by Robert Mitchell

### **Services in church and online this week**

Tuesday 16 November, Margaret, Queen and Philanthropist, 9.30am on Zoom

Please join us on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6602261392?pwd=VzdOaU1XUFBjWk9jV0xvMDZWajZBQT09>  
Meeting ID: 660 226 1392      Passcode: 196651

Tuesday 16 November, 6pm Sung Vespers at St Michael's

Wednesday 17 November, Hugh of Lincoln, 9.30am Mattins and 10 Mass at St Michael's

12noon Funeral of Alan John Taylor at St Michael's

Thursday 18 November, Elizabeth of Hungary, 10.30am Holy Communion at St David's Church followed by refreshments

6pm Sung Vespers at St Michael's Church (live streamed on Friends of St Michael's Facebook Page)

Friday 19 November, Hilda, Abbess, 9.30 Morning Prayer at St David's Church (live streamed on St David's Facebook Page)

### **Sunday 21 November – Christ the King**

9.30am Parish Communion at St David's. Celebrant, Ash Leighton Plom and preacher, Howard Friend (live streamed on St David's Exeter Facebook page) with the dedication of shoeboxes for Moldova

11am Sung Mass at St Michael's with celebrant, Nigel Guthrie and preacher, Howard Friend – followed by a congregational meeting

4pm Thrive – Alpha Course - on Zoom

6pm Evening Prayer (said) at St David's

### **Covid-19 Safe for Public Worship**

Please use hand sanitizer on entering and leaving church.

Please wear a face covering in church unless you are exempt.

At St David's we are encouraging people to wear face coverings to come forward to receive Holy Communion and then to consume the host after moving away from the altar rail.

At St Michael's the priest will distribute Holy Communion to people in their seats.

Seating will be distanced to approximately 2 metres. Please sit on the seats where service books are placed. Please do not sit too close to your neighbour unless invited to do so.

Services should be 'no longer than necessary'.

**Please mingle with care before and after services.**

***Please do not attend church if you are feeling ill or are shielding. Although we will do all we can to make the church safe you attend at your own risk.***

### **Fairtrade at St David's**

This week Richard Featherstone will be taking orders for Fairtrade Advent Calendars. They will be available to collect in church on 21 November.

### **Angel Tree Collection at St David's**

We are delighted to be supporting the Angel Tree Project at Exeter Prison again this year. The collection will be **THIS SUNDAY** on 14 November and the money enables inmates to give presents to their children helping to maintain vital family bonds during a time of separation. Thank you for your support.

### **Food for the Vulnerably housed in Exeter**

Working through St Petrock's we are providing 16 packed suppers each week for people who are in transitional accommodation at the Crescent. Thank you to the

small team which has convened to buy and make them. We don't need any additional support at the moment as there is a significant amount in our 'Soup Evening' kitty which can fund this for the time being.

### **Men's Breakfast**

The next Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 10am at the Farmers' Union. Please contact Nigel if you would like to be on a mailing list reminder for this.

### **Shoe Boxes for Moldova (advanced notice)**

We will be sending Christmas Boxes to Moldova again this year. Things are extremely difficult there at the moment, and anything we can do to brighten life is greatly appreciated. The boxes need to be ready for collection from the church by **Sunday November 21st**. All being well Hugh Skudder from Christian Response to Eastern Europe will be with us for the morning service on that day. Any questions, please speak to Ann Watts .

### **Coffee after Church**

It's not too late to volunteer to help on the coffee rota at St David's. If you would be willing to help with this ministry of hospitality please contact Jenny Baker.

### **Help with Churchwarden tasks**

Often Churchwardens pick up tasks which could be done by others. We have already had some kind offers but there are a number of jobs which we will advertise in the coming weeks.

***Would you be willing to help with one of these, please, even if you can't do every week?***

Opening and closing the church on Sunday (weekly)

Clearing up (if needed) the churchyard on Sunday mornings before the service (equipment provided). Thank you!

### **Help with Stained Glass**

The lovely stained glass panels in the south transept are usually changed with the season and John Wakley would like to instruct a few people on how to change them round safely. Please have a word with Nigel if you'd be willing to learn.

### **Green Team**

Thank you also to everyone who has sponsored a fruit tree for St David's Churchyard. These are being ordered and we hope to plant them on the morning of November 27<sup>th</sup> after Men's Breakfast.

### **Exeter Wildlife Gardening Award**

Could you contribute to biodiversity in Exeter by taking part in this award? There are many simple things we can do to give nature a better foothold in our city. Why not have a look at the award and see if you can adapt your garden?

<https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/take-action/garden-wildlife/exeter-wildlife-gardening-award>

### **Parish Magazine – New Leaves**

The magazines for November are now available. Thank you to our dedicated magazine team for their hard work.

### **Phone Networks**

If you would like to be phoned by someone from the church community or would just like to talk, please let Nigel know at [nigel.guthrie1@gmail.com](mailto:nigel.guthrie1@gmail.com) or by ringing him on 01392 660226 or Ash on 07855305519.

### **St Michael's services and prayers**

If you would like to access the service details and prayer list for St Michael's please contact Oliver Nicholson at [virtualsaintmichaels@gmail.com](mailto:virtualsaintmichaels@gmail.com) and he can add you to that weekly mailing.

### **Your Prayers are asked for...**

those participating in our Alpha Course on Zoom

### **Please remember those who are suffering**

all those suffering with Covid.

### **Please remember those who have died recently including:**

Will Shaman, Alan John Taylor, Adam Smethhurst, Mollie Curry

In the **Parish Cycle of Prayer**: Our local Funeral Directors

**Please also pray for:**

the COP26 conference in Glasgow - for purposeful follow-up from the decisions made;  
for our armed forces, especially those on active service;  
the work of the Royal British Legion and other service charities;  
those worried about the rising costs of energy and housing in this country;  
our Members of Parliament and those who monitor their conduct;  
those working to make social media platforms safer and more respectful places;  
the people of Afghanistan, especially girls being denied their right to schooling;  
the refugees from Afghanistan staying in Exmouth and Exeter;  
the people of Ethiopia facing severe food shortages due to the conflict there;  
the worldwide Covid vaccination programme, and the roll-out of booster vaccines;  
those working in care homes, hospitals and hospices;  
those suffering from Covid around the world.

With every blessing,

Nigel Guthrie

### **Prayers, Readings and address for Remembrance Sunday, 14 November 2021**

#### **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.

#### **First Reading – Hebrews 10: 11-14, 15-17, 19-25**

Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, 'he sat down at the right hand of God', and since then has

been waiting 'until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.' For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying,

'This is the covenant that I will make with them

after those days, says the Lord:

I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds',

he also adds, 'I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.'

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

### **Gospel Reading – Mark 13: 1-8**

As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!' Then Jesus asked him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.'

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?' Then Jesus began to say to them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

### **Address for 14 November by Nigel Guthrie**

It is very good to pause on Remembrance Sunday and remember those from our parish who have died in war. The names of those from the two World Wars, beautifully inscribed on the wooden panels at the back of church, bring home to us the dreadful reality of armed conflict, 'the pity of war' as Wilfred Owen named it.

Their experience may seem a long way from our own, yet it is still a forceful reminder of the horror into which the world can quickly descend. And as well as remembering, it's also very good to pause and thank God for the relative peace in which we live and to pray for those who are living in the midst of horrendous conflict and violence today.

Remembrance Sunday has a solemn air to it but today's gospel reading takes the angst to a whole new level. Chapter 13 of St Mark's gospel is one of the most striking examples of apocalyptic writing in the New Testament. It's genre of writing that first appears in the period before the New Testament, as represented by parts of the book of Daniel. And we find its most fully worked out form in the final book of the bible Revelation – which is sometimes known as the apocalypse of St John. I would recommend that you sit down before reading that book – and preferably have a good commentary at hand to help you make sense of it all!

The Cambridge dictionary defines apocalyptic as 'showing or describing the total destruction and end of the world, or extremely bad future events'. Many early Christians thought that the end of the world was coming soon – Jesus himself seems to have shared that belief. Although significantly alongside foretellings of the end of the world there are also warnings, at several places in the New Testament, that no one knows except God knows when it will happen. One of those warnings is later in Mark chapter 13 'about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father' (Mark 13: 32). So even if Jesus did believe that the world might end soon he didn't claim to know when it would happen and you may have noticed that he didn't answer when the disciples asked him about it! We should be very wary of anyone who claims to know the timing of the end of the world, although there are plenty of people on the extensive lunatic fringe of religion who do so.

The construction of Temple of Herod the Great from around 20 BC was an astonishing feat of engineering. Some of the stones which Jesus pointed out were truly massive – around 50 tons in weight. This Temple must have looked awe-inspiring and seemed indestructible. That the temple could be ransacked and left in ruins must have seemed incredible – even though that is exactly when the Romans sacked Jerusalem in AD70 as a response to Jewish revolts. It must have seemed as if the world had come to an end for the Jewish population there. The Temple which



had seemed so solid and permanent was all but destroyed and its treasures were carried off along with the hopes of the people.

So Jesus warns us not to be taken in by that which seems permanent in this world and to live in such a way that we are ready for the Kingdom which is to come. He also warns us to expect wars and rumours of wars, together with earthquakes and famines.

Now you may be finding such language strangely familiar as there have been plenty of apocalyptic images used recently around COP26 summit. And there can be little doubt that if the clauses of climate change are not urgently addressed there will be 'extremely bad future events'. The world itself may not end, but human life is set to become brutally hard in many places and possibly extremely violent as mass migration begins from uninhabitable regions. Indeed, the presence of delegates from many countries who are already suffering the devastating effects of a changing climate has been a moving and hopefully energizing feature of the conference.

The question for Christians is always how we should live best in between the present times with their uncertainties and challenges and the glorious heavenly future which God has prepared for us.

The Letter to the Hebrews refers a lot to the Temple and its sacrifices which were repeated year after year. In this, the most polished piece of writing in the New Testament, the author contrasts the repeated sacrifices made in the Temple with the one sacrifice made by on the cross Jesus. And whereas in the Temple only the High priests enter the inner sanctuary, the sacrifice of Jesus opens the gate of heaven so that all believers can enter. So whether it was written before or after the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple, the letter became significant in allowing Jews who had become Christians to know that the spiritual substance of their old faith could be incorporated and understood within their new belief system.

But alongside this rhetorical argument for the superiority of the Christian faith the writer also describes beautifully and succinctly how we should live in these in-between times: 'Let us consider how to provoke one another to good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.'

So the writer saw the role of Christians as that of encouraging others, by meeting together and urging each other on to do good. I very much warm to that message

because it is very hard to be a Christian on your own. Indeed, is it really possible at all without others? We not only need the encouragement of others in our faith, but also we need their differences so that our own gifts and vision can be tested and honed and used within the body of believers. Thank you for your encouragement and fellowship in our faith, and may God bring you the encouragement and strength you need to live faithfully in these 'between' times.

### **Closing Prayer**

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Do join us next week for our services in church and online!**

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