

# Remembrance

The month of November brings the annual season of tribute, memorial, honouring, celebration, recollection, reminiscing, recalling and as it is generally known, Remembrance.

Whilst it is not a good thing to dwell in the past, there are certainly benefits to be gained from a season in which we dwell on it in the hope of learning from the past, finding inspiration for our present life, and encouragement in our current difficulties.

Such is the Season of Remembrance.

It starts with **All Saints' Tide on 1st November** in which we celebrate the heroes of the Church who lived and died with their faith a shining example of fortitude, love and care and acceptance of suffering in those circumstances where it proved inevitable. We praise the saints and martyrs.

Then hard on its heels comes **All Souls' Tide on 2nd November**, on which we recall the many people of our family and friends who have died. There will be a Sung Mass at 8pm that day. We remember that those who have died still have deep and lasting place in our love, a love which our faith teaches us is never lost or wasted, however long or short it has been experienced, and despite the reality of death. In this season, we remember that God's love is stronger than death, and we are comforted and encouraged to continue in love for them as eternal love is ours too.



The Cenotaph, Whitehall

Then, at Holy Cross Church, we have a **Special Commemoration** for those who have died in the past 12 months, on Sunday 5th November at 3pm in the Old Church. This service is, for many mourners, another opportunity to deal with their grief in a Christian context and hear about God's love again, following the funeral service.

Then comes **Remembrance Sunday on 12th November**, when the nation mourns the fallen of several conflicts, most importantly, the Great War and the Second World War, at both local and National War Memorials. Here in Greenford, there will be the usual large gathering of 1000 people at the Greenford War memorial. We will sing and prayers will be said in proud memorial of those ordinary people who faced up to the realities of war and paid the ultimate price.

The themes of **Remembrance** are ideal introductions to our season of Advent in which we consider the great responsibilities we have as Christians to respond to the generous love of God in our own lives and in the way in which we order our community life to express this love.