



THE BENEFICE OF ST MARY'S CHURCH, BRIDGWATER & HOLY TRINITY, CHILTON TRINITY

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2020

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Dear All

As we start another four weeks of lockdown I want to encourage you with the ways in which we can stay connected online.

This Sunday is remembrance Sunday and it will look slightly different to the following weeks. **At 10am grab yourself a coffee** and, as you are able, join us online for our zoom coffee morning followed by a **recorded service which starts at 10.30am** which will include two minutes of silence

at 11am.

For the following Sundays you can join in with a communion service from 9.30am followed by virtual coffee on Zoom at 10.30am. I will send out reminder details of this next week so don't worry if you forget! For those of you who have never used zoom— head to the website zoom.us and pop in the details below to join. If you have any questions drop me an email or give me a call.

Also, the church will remain open on Thursdays for individual prayer between 9.30—12noon. We hope in coming weeks to also open on a Tuesday if we can do so safely for both stewards and those wanting to come in and pray. Please do stay in touch and let us know any news / prayer requests so we can continue to support one another and our community.

Love and prayers, Suse

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. Amen

REMEMBRANCE

READINGS: JOHN 15:9-17 / 1 THESS 4:13-END

Coming up this week:

SUNDAY 8th

10am—Zoom coffee catchup ([link below](#))

10.30am—Online recorded remembrance service on our website / fb / youtube channel ([see links below](#))

WEDNESDAY 11th

11am [Remembrance two min silence](#)

THURSDAY 12th

9.30—12noon—[St Mary's open for individual prayer](#)

SUNDAY 15th

10am — Recorded service

10.45am —Zoom coffee

ZOOM COFFEE MTG



9.30am Sunday

Meeting ID: 342 838 4531

Passcode: Church

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE 10.30am

[Saintmary Bridgwater](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwRkq227MBKcN55WSkbET4A)
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwRkq227MBKcN55WSkbET4A>

[@stmaryschurchbridgwater](#)

Website: www.stmarysbridgwater.org

People to hold in prayer this week:

- Bishop Peter Hancock
- Jess Grandfield
- Wendy Harris

If you would like to have a prayer request in the bulletin then

200 Club Winners

1st Dr Tottle

2nd Roy & Mary Porter

3rd Lesley Griffin

4th Richard Philpott for Isabel

Drawn on 5th November

Jonathans homily— All Saints Day

Someone once wrote to me to say that “the Lord Jesus Christ demands perfection from his servants”, before listing the ways in which something I’d written fell short. I didn’t react well; why, if the Lord needed a perfect servant, would he want me?

But despite my instinctive dislike of demands for perfection, it may be a good word to express what All Saints Day is about.

The letter to the Hebrews includes an impressive gallery of the Old Testament heroes and heroines of faith, who’d held onto God’s promises in difficult times, who’d persevered against the odds. But the writer holds back from saying they’d passed the finishing line:

... all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, without us, be made perfect.

What is it to be *made perfect*? Mainly it means simply to be the finished article. A picture of this for me is the sight some of us got a year ago of the casting of some of our new bells at the foundry in Loughborough. Later we saw enough to understand some of the further processes each bell would have to go through before it was properly finished.

God’s people are perfected—finished-- through the work of the Spirit, who does it in many ways. Suffering being one of them. This letter to the Hebrews uses that of Jesus himself—he was made perfect through suffering. Given that it is unlikely that we could be made perfect without a measure of the same. This isn’t just for a special saintly few: God will finish—perfect—his work in you, in me, in anyone open to him. He won’t leave us half finished. I find this to be of great comfort; but of course it is also a risk to be in God’s hands like this, because you don’t know how he is going to do it, and how much it may cost you. There’s another aspect to this perfection. One beautifully struck bell is fine—but it’s of limited value without the whole peal.

God’s work is not perfect, his purposes are not fulfilled, until ALL those within the scope of his love are brought to be all that he in his love has destined them to be. The saints who’ve gone ahead of us, who held to the promises of God in times of testing; even they won’t be complete without those coming after them—us; as Hebrews says, *without us they could not be perfect.*

Perfection means the whole of the vast span and grasp of the love of God. All Saints Day lifts our eyes to the breadth and the depth and the height of God’s loving purposes. When the news seems depressing on all sides, when we feel the walls of lockdown about to close around us once again: all the more reason to lift our eyes. To the loving Father who will bring to completion *all* his loving purposes for us. This isn’t about you or I achieving our individual goals, nor even just about us being all that God wants us to be. It cannot be separated from the whole of which we are a tiny part.

All Saints-tide reminds us of that great company, which no one could number, which spans every age of the world, every race, every land ... all being perfected by the love of God.

Samaritan’s Purse 2020-

Operation Christmas Child

St Mary’s did very well last year, sending nearly 40 boxes, I do hope we can do something similar this year. Please drop off boxes at The alive Christian Ministry, **58 Salmon Parade**, not far from the Fire Station.

Boxes can be left there from **10am to 4pm Monday 9th to Sat 14th November and from 1pm to 4pm Sunday 15th**

November.

If you would like to, please do take one of the ready to fill boxes from the church porch on a Thursday. I have more at home if we need them. Thank you very much. *Frances Pearce*

Christmas presents for our link parish in Zambia

We would love to bless the children in our link parish in Zambia with a small gift of a rainbow wristband to let them know we are thinking and praying for them.

If you would like to make a contribution then a donation of 50p would cover one wristband and postage. Please drop through the church letterbox in a sealed envelope marked Zambia. We hope to send the wristbands off by mid November. Many thanks

Frances Webb