



Praying Together



Prayer for the Nation

November 2020

Dear Friends,

Our picture this week is taken from our Lychgate with the soldier silhouette photographed by Hannah Owen. I hope

many of you managed to watch or listen to some of the Acts of Remembrance held this weekend on the television and radio. I stayed up much later than usual to watch the commemoration from the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday night. A wonderful tribute to all those who gave their lives and to those who continue to serve us in the Armed Forces today. A particularly moving tribute was given to those members of the nursing profession and medical staff who have been such a help to our National Health Service throughout this Covid-19 crisis.

Of course, with churches closed for public worship again, (although remaining open for private prayer), we did not have our usual service at St Michael's. I hope some of you managed to watch Harry Paton-Smith reading the names on our Memorial Plaque in the Church and listened, or read, the Sermon from Rev. Mike Rogers - well worth taking a few minutes of your time to do so. On Sunday morning at 11 am a few of us were at the Lychgate to St Michael's to hear the Last Post and Reveille played from the top of the church tower. The addition of a half-muffled bell and the cold misty morning added to the sombre atmosphere as the sound floated across the village. We did remember them, each in our own way.

This week I would like to draw your attention to the Church of England's 'Prayer for the Nation' initiative, some of you may have already heard of it. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York and senior church leaders have called a month of Prayer for the Nation during this second lockdown. The suggestion is that as many of us as possible unite to do this at 6pm each day. There are prayer suggestions on the link below, and there is a different prayer for each day. This you can download and print out, if you are able, but for those who receive this through the post, I will add a few of the prayers, as I usually do here, so you can join in. Perhaps at 6 o'clock we could all light a candle and spend a few moments in prayer together.

Here is the link, should you wish to follow the booklet:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/PftN%20Booklet%20spreads.pdf>

From the Bible:

Matthew Chapter 7 verses 7 - 11

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

Which one of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, bad as you are, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”

Prayer for the Nation:

Loving God, you know us and all that we are facing.

We thank you that we can come to you as we are – with all our fears and concerns, our difficulties and challenges.

Please draw close to each of us and those we remember before you now.

Bring to us your peace and comfort.

And fill us with your Spirit that we may be bearers of your grace and hope to others.

As a country protect us, encourage us and keep us.

In the name of your Son Jesus we pray. Amen.

Loving God,
at this time of crisis
when so many are suffering,
we pray for our nation and our world.
Give our leaders wisdom,
our Health Service strength,
and our people hope.
Lead us through these difficult days
to the fresh springs of joy and
comfort that we find in Jesus
Christ our Lord.

Amen.

May God give to you, and to all those you love and pray for, his comfort and his peace....

Ali, on behalf of St Michael's Church, Marbury