

**St Matthias & St George Parish Church.**  
**A member of “Christ the King” team ministry.**  
**Week commencing 8th November 2020, Remembrance Sunday**

*They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war anymore. Micah 4 v 3*

**Fr Glenn Reading – Team Vicar**  
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Mel Beynon, Lay Reader, on placement as a student from Queen’s College, Birmingham until Christmas.

**Important, please read!**

In light of the new lockdown restrictions introduced by the Government, there will be no services held in church until the measures are relaxed post 2<sup>nd</sup> December. More information will be forthcoming nearer that date.

The church, however, will be **open for private prayer each Tuesday morning** between 10 am and 12 noon. A face covering must be worn when attending, though you will not be expected to wear one if there is a legitimate reason not to do so.

However, some services will be streamed online each Sunday.

- This **Sunday at 10.30 am, Mthr Victoria will be streaming Morning Prayer on The Bridge Facebook page which will culminate with an Act of Remembrance.**

- On **Sunday evening at 6 pm, Fr Glenn will stream Evening Prayer on Ss Matthias & George’s website/Facebook page.**

Moreover, Mthr Victoria will be holding #PrayTogether **compline** on her FB / twitter pages every day at 9pm, until the churches are allowed to hold gathered worship once more, and anyone is welcome to join together. She says that ‘The Order of Service is almost always uploaded by the amazing Phil (*Garner*) onto the Ss. M&G website, but also available by email on request to me.’

**Sunday Stars:** There is a new letter on the website from Irene, plus activities to do during November. Go onto the website and click on Sunday Stars. Please pass this information onto any young people with whom you’re in contact.

Please give notices for inclusion in next week’s Spotlight to **Richard Porteous** by next Thursday on 01527 542620 or at

[richardporteous@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:richardporteous@yahoo.co.uk)

Log onto our website for more information

[www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk](http://www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk)

**We pray for those who are sick:** Philippa, Rosie, Alex, Jean, Margaret Emms, Marion, Alexei, Dora, Margaret Savage, Nesta, Hazel, Heather, Carol, Carla, Carole, Tim, Jon & Naomi, Pastor Robin Baker, Colin, Steven, and Margaret Andrew.

**Haribos wanted!:** We’ve been asked to support the charity ‘Home for Good’, based in Worcester, which works in the field of fostering and adoption to support families and children in this area. They are putting together little care packages for children who are 18 and leaving the care system.

Based on their experience from last year, they are asking for specific items and for our parish they have asked if we can provide a range of Haribo sweets which proved very popular last year. If you can, please bring any variety of Haribo sweets to church on either the 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> or drop them off at the Vicarage. Mel Beynon is overseeing the practicalities of liaising with the charity and delivery of the sweets which has a deadline of Friday November 20th.

‘On **Remembrance Sunday** we honour the people who were willing to give up everything, so that we can live together peacefully and respectfully, and where we, too, willingly give up our own little preferences in order to ensure that this country remains a land of peace and harmony, freely choosing its leaders and obeying laws that have been fairly and democratically enacted.

We pray that the day may come when war itself shall be no more, and in order to make reference to the Bible verse above, because swords are no longer available to be converted into ploughshares, then on that day, may armoured land vehicles be turned into combines, fighter jets into passenger aircraft, and battleships into cruise liners.

And in the meantime, let us be thankful for the men and women who sign up for military duty, giving up their own freedom, and risking their bodies and their sanity to protect friends, loved ones, and this peaceful country, from being overrun by the continued brutality of some members of the human species.’

*(The closing lines of a sermon by Canon Tony Harwood –Jones)*

