

Remember, Remember...

Remember, Remember... That is of course the beginning of the children's rhyme about the gunpowder plot of 1605.

But Remember is a very good summing up word for the month itself.

November brings us a season of remembering, All Saints followed by All Souls as we remember those who have gone before us. The Saints of old whose lives inspire us in our Christian journey and the local, maybe only known to us, souls who have walked with us in faith.

Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day call us to remember the horrors of war so that in remembering we might avoid such actions as lead to these tragedies.

November also marks the end of the Church year and as with every time of ending and beginning we remember what has been and we look to what will be. The church year ends with the Sunday before Advent when we remember what is important to us. We keep it as the feast of Christ the King remembering that it is in Jesus Christ that all things are held together, that it is Jesus who the saints follow and it is the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, laying down his life for us, that inspired those who lay down their life for peace.

That Sunday is also often known as 'Stir up Sunday' from the collect rather than from the Christmas pudding and cake stirring in the kitchen! The Book of Common prayer Collect leads us to pray "Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord."

So in this month of November I pray that we will remember...

Those who lived faithful Christian lives (and do so too), those who we love and see no longer (cherishing our loved ones now), those who sacrifice for peace (and commit ourselves to work for peace) and finally Jesus Christ, God who left the glory of heaven to be one of us.

In our remembering may we be inspired to action, to be stirred up, faithful Christian people known for the fruit of Good Works. Amen.



The Venerable Alison Booker
Archdeacon of Oakham