



Sunday 15th November

Dear Friend

I hope you and all your family and friends are well and safe. What a week we've had! On Sunday, we remembered many men and women that have died as a consequence of war. During the service, we heard the story of the Bailey family who lost their three sons, the youngest of who was only 18years old! Their story brings home the atrocities, sadness, despair, and hopelessness of war. During the course of the past week, we were also faced with the fact that over 50000 people have died of COVID in the United Kingdom! This number represents men, women, old and young, some probably from the same family and it brings into focus the reality of the present situation, and the havoc this terrible pandemic is wrecking on our society. In the midst of this terrible realisation, it was heartwarming for us to be given the news of the discovery of a vaccine for COVID, in addition to the results of the American Presidential election, which I am sure does not leave any of us untouched. This is amazing news and I pray and I hope the vaccine will work as expected and many more will be discovered to cover others that might not be covered. I also pray that the result in the USA will be the start of a better relationship between the US and the world as well as between Americans themselves.

In his sermon last Sunday, Hugh Montgomerie reminded us that "*We cannot forget, but we can fail to remember. Our modern age was born on the Somme, and we live with the consequences of great wars in a world still without peace. The neglect of Remembrance-tide is more than a failure in gratitude and sympathy for*

the dead and the bereaved, though it is at least that! It is, above all, a refusal to face our own world as it is, and ourselves as we are now. Such a denial of the recent past which has, for good or ill, shaped our present, is a weakening of the human spirit". I would encourage each one of us to bear these wise words in mind.

We must remember the dead and the past, but also learn to live in the present as we look to the future. This is what Jesus teaches us through many of the parables in the Bible. This Sunday, we will be meeting online for our church service at 10 am. The service will be led by Esther Holley Hunt and I will be speaking on the parable of Talents from Matthew's gospel (Matthew 25:14-30). This passage speaks about the nature of the Kingdom of God and its implication for us especially at a time such as now. Please do read this passage if you can.

On Thursday at 6 pm, if you can, please join us in praying for all work with the NHS, Social Services, and Residential Homes especially in our parish. You might use this opportunity to light a candle of Hope, or join us online (details below), or say this prayer wherever you are

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, our people hope. Lead us through these parched and difficult days to the fresh springs of joy and comfort that we find in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please do take care of yourself and stay safe.

Do not hesitate to call if you need help.

With best wishes

Revd. Folli vicar@oatlandschurch.org.uk / 01932840077

This Week's Bible Readings: Zephaniah 1, 7, 12-15, 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11 and Matthew 25: 14-30

This week, please pray for: Freya Le Hunt, Keiran Chalkley, Christine, Charlotte, Tony Sutton, Doreen Clements, Shirley Rhodes and Bernard Day.

The world especially: The Victims of Covid and other terrible diseases and their families. The American President-elect. All victims of abuse and discrimination.

We remember the recently departed: Raymond Tapp, Sylvia Compton, Barbara Charles, and June Hurdle.

From the Memorial Book: Jean English, Edith Bowden, Eileen Gwyn, Lord Gray, Bertie Laming,

Ronald Fairlamb, Dorothy Archer and Brenda Banes.

The late June Hurdle: The funeral of the late June Hurdle will be on Wed 18th November at 12.30 pm at St Mary Oatlands. To comply with government guidance at this time a maximum of 30 people can attend the service. Four spaces remain available on a first-come-first-serve basis. Please contact the parish office if feel you would like to attend.

Light up the Church: The Lights have been sponsored this week by Vic and Ursula Banes. *"In loving memory of Brenda Banes, a dear wife and mother on her anniversary, 19th November. You are always in our thoughts".*

If you would like more information about sponsoring 'Light up the Church' for anniversaries, birthdays and other occasions please visit our website www.oatlandschurch.org.uk for more information.

Forthcoming activities and events Operation Christmas Child With the current restrictions, the collection will be more difficult than before. Nonetheless, we would still like to give them our support, *especially* in these difficult times. You could also make a donation towards the cost of filling a box. Put such donations in an envelope addressed to the Parish Office labeled "Operation Christmas Child". Further information is available at www.samaritans-purse.org.uk. Please deliver your boxes or donations to the church or Parish Office as soon as possible.

The Lockdown Winter Raffle

A fun lockdown raffle! Please take a look at 'Meeting Point News' inside this newsletter for more information about the raffle prizes and how you can purchase tickets. The raffle will be drawn by Revd Folli on Sunday 6th Dec. Good luck!

Parish Office: If you are emailing us, please could you check that your emails are being sent to the following email address:-

parishoffice@oatlandschurch.org.uk

Some emails are still being sent to our previous email account which is now closed.