



Sunday 19th November

**COMMON SENSE IS
NOT SO COMMON**

I hope you have had a good week. Seeing so many people at the Remembrance Day Service was so good. Seeing so many young women and children, especially from the Uniformed Organisations, was encouraging and an excellent way to pass on and celebrate the memories of those who died, not only in the Great Wars but in all wars and acts of violence ever since. Suppose there was any need for a reminder that wars never resolve conflict. In that case, the recent wars in Ukraine and Gaza, the death and suffering of many, especially women and children, have been ongoing for days and months and may continue for some time. If it ends, the end will probably not achieve the declared aims and will not bring back the lives lost or heal the sufferings inflicted. Why on God's good earth do we go to war? More often than not, it is clearly because of the absence of grace, compassion and a willingness to apply common sense. Common sense, that ability to do what is for the greatest good of all, seems increasingly absent in our world. My Dad, bless his soul, would always say that 'common sense is not common'. I suppose our Prime Minister will agree as he has just appointed a Minister for Common Sense. I would love to meet the new Minister and ask about her job! I will let you know when I have done so. I want to say something about what Common Sense means to us as Christians. For us, this means adherence to the teachings of Christ. In addition to his command to love God and love our neighbours, one of his most famous teachings is His Sermon on the Mount, also called the Beatitudes. They are found in Matthew's gospel and are as follows (Matthew Chapter 5)

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.

Blessed are they who mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice: for they shall have their fill.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice's sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Each starts with a blessing; they give us a way to live our lives in a way that honours our calling as His disciples. They are His Common Sense teachings, and of course, His Common Sense is not that of the world, the same way His peace is not the same as the one the world gives. I will encourage each one of us to read again the Beatitudes and seek to apply them to our lives. This Sunday we will meet at 8 and 10 am. There will be refreshments after the 10 am Service. We will also meet at 4 pm for the Family Praise Service, and Hot Tea or toasted sandwiches will be available. On Wednesday, we will meet at 10:30am for the Holy Communion service. Please join us at any of these services. Whatever you do, may you know God's peace, who passes all understanding and his love, from which nothing can separate us. Amen. The Revd Folli Olokose. Vicar. vicar@oatlandschurch.org.uk 01932 840077.

This Week's Bible Readings: Zeph 1: 7, 12-end, 1 Thes 5: 1-11 & Mt 25: 14-30.

Our Prayers this week: We pray especially for the people of the Middle East, Morocco and Libya, for all those who have lost friends, families and livelihoods as a result of war, earthquake and flooding. We continue to pray for peace in Ukraine, Sudan, and so many other places. For all refugees and displaced people and all who welcome and support them. For families, individuals and businesses who are suffering from the impact of the increased cost of living. **Please remember our Mission Partners:** The Food Bank and Rentstart.

From the Diocesan Calendar of Prayer: CofE Calendar: Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, 680, and Mechtild, Béguine of Magdeburg, Mystic, 1280. **Anglican Church:** The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma). **Parish:** West Byfleet Incumbent Keith Elwood LLMs Rosalind Cyphus, Di Manthorpe (PTO) **School:** West Byfleet Primary School.

Prayer requests: Develop a relationship with New Haw; grow and develop a new children's choir; bless the development of the community fridge. **Please pray for** Zara and her family, who is being baptised on Sunday 19th Nov and for Kaecee and her family who is being baptised on 26th Nov. **We pray for the sick in our parish:** especially remembering all who suffer from mental ill health and are victims of abuse and discrimination. **We Remember the Recently Departed:** Ian Ferris, Philip Brown, Deborah Rees, Caroline Hemingway, Wyndham Powell, John Reeves and Pauline Cooper. **From the Memorial Book at their year's mind:** Bertie Laming, Ronald Fairlamb, Dorothy Archer, Brenda Banes, Jean Vickery, Beryl Sawyer and Sylvia Jones. **Activities and Events at St Mary Oatlands** **Funeral:** The funeral of Pauline Cooper will take place on Tuesday 5th Dec at 11am here at St Mary Oatlands. **St Mary Oatlands Annual Winter Fair** Sat 25th Nov 11am-2pm. We cannot wait to see you! If you are able to help in any way please sign up to help for an hour on the signup sheets in the vestry. We are still welcoming donations. We would love the following: any books, puzzles, games, toys, toiletries, unwanted gifts. donations of bottles for the bottle tombola - this can be wine, lemonade, vinegar, ketchup, bubble bath (any bottle) tubs of chocolates such as Celebrations, Heroes, Quality Street. If anyone is a keen baker and would be happy to bake cakes, there is a signup sheet at the back of the church. Please bring them to church either the Fri before or the morning of the fair. Finally, if anyone can help in the morning from 9am to set up or has a spare table or gazebo, please let Claire Goodfellow know on 07956 590665 or clairegoodfellow@hotmail.co.uk Raffle tickets will be on sale in church from 19th November. **Samaritans Purse Shoe Box Appeal 2023** Please return the filled boxes to the Church by Sun 19th Nov. **December 1st Dec 7pm** St Mary Oatlands. Come and support our Mission Partner Rentsart. Christmas Concert with Harmonia Voices and Cleves School Senior Choir. Seasonal refreshments afterwards. Retiring Collection. Contact 01372 477167 for more details. **Walton Charity** is teaming up again with Stripey Stork to ensure that some of the **thousands of children living in poverty** across Elmbridge have a gift to open on Christmas Day. Thanks to the generous support of our local community, in 2022 the appeal funded gifts and stocking fillers for **593 local children**. This Christmas, demand for help is expected to be even higher as local families face a challenging winter with the cost-of-living crisis still hitting hard. **Double your donation! Walton Charity will match all donations made to the appeal pound for pound.**

Visit <https://www.waltoncharity.org.uk/santastork2023>

Light Up The Church The floodlighting of the Church this week has been sponsored 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.' also sponsored by **Jane Lewis** 'In loving memory of our Dad, Dennis 'John' Hucker Loved and Remembered always' Jane and Jenny.

If you would like to sponsor the lights for an anniversary or other special occasion, please contact: parishoffice@oatlandschurch.org.uk 01932 231274