

CUTTING EDGE CAMELOT, No 181

Remembrance Sunday 13th November 2022

‘Virtually Church but with some way to go...’

Welcome

Welcome to Cutting Edge Camelot on this Remembrance Sunday.

*‘When you go home, tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow, we gave our today.’*

Kohima Epitaph

Scripture Passages

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;

³ he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name’s sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff –
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

Ephesians 5: 8-9, 15-20

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light -- ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

¹⁵ Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰ giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

This year the death of the Queen has marked the passing of a generation. Though some are still with us, the Queen's death reminds us that fewer and fewer remain of the generation who saw active service during the Second World War.

And for the Queen memories of her wartime experiences remained strong and vivid right to the end of her life. When she addressed the nation on the 75th anniversary of VE Day her subaltern's hat was on her desk. And then there is the famous photograph of her working as a mechanic on an armoured vehicle. She wanted to serve during wartime, to share the experiences of others and not to be seen as an exception because of her rank.

And this spirit was constant throughout her life. It was exactly the same when the funeral of Prince Philip came in lockdown. She was offered special treatment in terms of relaxed regulations but she refused it.

And in her relatively recent message at the onset of the Covid lockdowns, memories of her wartime experience were again to the fore when she quoted the words of a famous wartime song sung by Vera Lynn (who has also since died) 'We'll meet again'.

The Archbishop of Canterbury took up this message in his sermon on the occasion of the Queen's funeral suggesting that there could have been a more profound meaning of those words in the sense that death is not the end but that through sharing in Christ's resurrection we will indeed meet again.

So if we see the Queen as representing that generation who saw active service in the Second World War it is right to look back with thanksgiving at all they gave and sacrificed for us.

But, as well as looking backwards, remembrance is also about looking around and looking forwards.

This year as we look around on this occasion of Remembrance Sunday what most immediately springs to mind is no doubt Russia's invasion of the Ukraine and all the fresh suffering and conflict that this has unleashed.

Suddenly our world seems a more threatening and less stable place with new threats that we cannot control or even in some cases foresee. Indeed it has been said that the world is less safe than it has ever been since the end of the Second World War.

We are not in a comfortable place. And so on this occasion the well known and often quoted words, 'The price of freedom is eternal vigilance' seem particularly appropriate.

But what does vigilance mean? Clearly it has a national meaning in the sense of being prepared to meet fresh threats to freedom.

On the other hand, the call to vigilance is also deeply relevant at a personal level. Are we in our own lifestyle demonstrating vigilance? How are we using the freedoms that others have given their lives for?

In our reading from the letter to Ephesians we are made aware of the contrast and indeed struggle between darkness and light. The contrast is clear, 'For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light.' And then comes a call to live in accordance with this truth, 'Live as children of light-for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.'

This is a call to an inner strength of character. And we can find this strength as Christ's light becomes our own.

And even though we are called as individuals to be people of light, we should not overlook the impact that we can have on the life of our nation as we faithfully live out our calling in Christ. We are called to be salt and light in our communities.

So we need to be careful in the way we live and to be wise. We all have a limited time given to us on this earth. Those who have sacrificed their lives in the various conflicts which we remember had their time cut short. We each need to make the most of whatever time we have.

And how do we do that? We need to live with a purpose, to 'understand what the will of the Lord is.' For God has made us for a purpose and we need to find out what that purpose for our lives might be.

There is a contrast between a self-indulgent life of the senses and the life of the Spirit which Jesus offers us. The life of the Spirit is one of constant thanksgiving and praise in which we celebrate God's faithfulness. While a self-centred life will weaken both ourselves and society in which we live, a life which is centred on Christ and the Spirit will be a source of strength both to ourselves and to others.

The world, as I have said, is a place of new threats and uncertainties. How do we respond to such threats and uncertainties at a personal level? The psalms are deeply resonant in speaking to such circumstances. Indeed, Psalm 23, the Lord is my shepherd, is particularly resonant.

This psalm answers to the extremities of life and of death, 'Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me;'

After the terrorist attacks of 9/11, people were fleeing down the burning staircases of high rise buildings desperately trying to reach the ground before the fire engulfed them. Some of them made it but others did not. However, as they fled down those staircases many were reciting from memory the words of the 23rd Psalm, the Lord is my shepherd.

Everyone at some point or other has the experience of walking through the valley of the shadow of death but it is an experience that is particularly sharp and immediate for those who are or have been engaged in armed conflict.

The way of faith is not a way of escape from the dangers of the world but a way through such dangers marked by a continual trust in God. Psalm 23 is entitled a psalm of David. David was a king who constantly encountered many dangers and difficulties. And although his own actions caused some of these troubles, nevertheless David can be seen as a model of someone who trusted in God's protection and mercy in all circumstances. The closing

line of the Psalm is, 'Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.'

For David these were not glib words but realities which were deeply rooted and discovered within his own experience. May this be so for us as well.

Tristram

Prayers for Remembrance Sunday

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict,
and ask that God may give us peace:
for the service men and women
who have died in the violence of war,
each one remembered by and known to God;
Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

For those who love them in death as in life,
offering the distress of our grief
and the sadness of our loss;
Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

For all members of the armed forces
who are in danger this day,
remembering family, friends
and all who pray for their safe return.
Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

For civilian men, women and children
whose lives are disfigured by war or terror,
calling to mind in penitence
the anger and hatreds of humanity;
Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

For peacemakers and peacekeepers,
who seek to keep this world secure and free;
Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership,
political, military and spiritual;
asking for gifts of wisdom and discernment
in the search for reconciliation and peace;
Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Loving Father,
we hold before you those whose memory we cherish,
and those whose names we will never know.
Help us to lift our eyes above the brokenness of this world,
and grant us the grace to pray for our enemies.
As we honour the past,
may we put our faith in your future;
for you are the source of life and hope,
now and for ever.

Amen.

Hymn

A well known hymn which we sing on Remembrance Sunday is ‘O God our help in ages past.’

Services for this week and next

Sunday 13 th November	10.50 am Remembrance Day Service North Cadbury
Sunday 13 th November	10.50 am Remembrance Day Service Yarlington
Sunday 13 th November	10.50 am Remembrance Day Service South Cadbury
Sunday 13 th November	10.50 am Remembrance Day Service Blackford
Sunday 13 th November	10.50 am Remembrance Day Service Maperton
Sunday 13 th November	10.50 am Remembrance Day Service Holton
Sunday 13 th November	10.50 am Remembrance Day Service North Cheriton
Sunday 20 th November	9.30 am Communion, Compton Pauncefoot
Sunday 20 th November	11.00 am Communion, Maperton
Sunday 20 th November	11.00 am Sunday Worship, North Cadbury
Sunday 20 th November	4.00 pm Evensong, Yarlington

Excalibur

Excalibur is back in paper form. It contains details of Camelot people, a record of baptisms, weddings and funerals undertaken through the church

in the Camelot Parishes. The November edition of Excalibur has now been published online at camelotparishes.co.uk.

The Parish Office

If Rob is not in the Office during normal office hours please contact him via email (office@camelotparishes.org.uk) or on 01749 850934.

Growing as a worshipper, a servant and a family

*We pray that 'we might live in love,
as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us'*

(Ephesians 5: 2)