

Rev. J. Allan Taylor

Dear Friends

November, as we all know, is the season of Remembrance. I'm reminded of the phrase which comes from Shakespeare's Hamlet. Ophelia says: 'There's rosemary, that's for remembrance. Pray you, love, remember.'

The month begins with All Saints Day and, as Methodists, we remember that one of the distinctive doctrines of Methodism is that of Christian Perfection or Full Sanctification. John Wesley believed that, although unlikely, reaching perfection in this life is possible. He never claimed it for himself, but he did think that one of his friends and one of the early Methodists, John William Fletcher vicar of Madeley, came very close to it. That is why Fletcher of Madeley is often called 'the saint of Methodism'. (There is a primary school named after our saint...John Fletcher of Madeley Primary School in Madeley near Telford in Shropshire.)

All Saints Day is followed by All Souls, a day of prayer and remembrance of the faithful departed. Next Bonfire Night: 'Remember, remember, the 5th of November, gunpowder, treason and plot. I see no reason why gunpowder treason should ever be forgot.'

And so on until we reach eleven o'clock on the eleventh day of the eleventh month and the two minutes silence, as we remember all those who have lost their lives in conflict and war. We come together as a nation to be still and silent as we give thanks and reflect.

To jump back to Ophelia's phrase, rosemary is an ancient symbol of fidelity and remembrance. The aromatic herb grows wild on the Gallipoli peninsula in Turkey where the original Anzacs served in World War 1 and Australians traditionally wear sprigs of rosemary as a symbol of remembrance on Anzac Day or Remembrance Day.

And speaking of remembrance, the words of the thief crucified next to Jesus come to mind...'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' A prayer each one of us might like to say.

Blessings

Allan

Resources/Good News

Carers Rights Day - Thursday 23rd November

Carer's Rights Day is a national event when unpaid carers are encouraged to learn about their rights and ensure they get all the support they need.

Across the week around Carers Rights Day, Action for Carers Surrey are running Carer Information Fairs which are drop-in events at Carer Hubs in locations across Surrey.

Please visit [Action for Carers Information Fairs](#) to learn more. There are fairs taking place in some of our church locations, including Woking, Cranleigh, Addlestone and Guildford. If you scroll to the bottom of the webpage, you will find links to posters you may wish to display on your church noticeboards.

“Pudding and Praise”- Café Style Worship Service

Venue: Walton on Thames MC

Date: Sunday 26 November at 4.00pm (please note the earlier start)

Service Timings: 4:00pm for Pudding! 4:30pm to 5:30pm for Praise!

Theme: **“What lights your Fire?”**

Service Led by Dave Paterson with worship by Breeze.