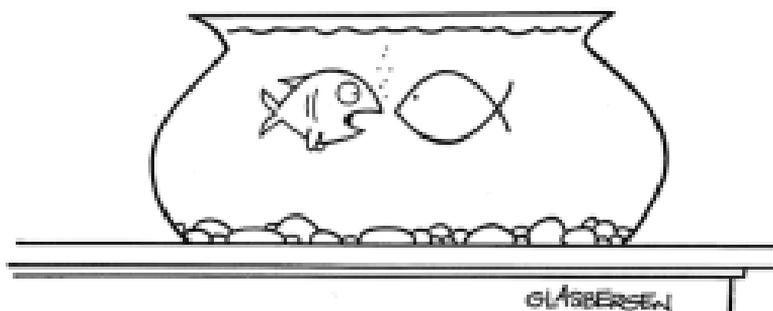


The magazine of
the Week St Mary Circle of Churches

Together

November 2017

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**“Can't we talk about something
besides religion for a change?”**



United we stand

From the Rectory

There's something amazingly appropriate about the way November is *the* season for remembrance. The weather is getting colder, most of the leaves have fallen – and there's a sombre quality about the days, as the hours of daylight diminish.

Long before the Christian era, the peoples of northern Europe believed that, as the winter nights grew longer and darkness prevailed, evil spirits became stronger. In the Celtic countries, especially Scotland and Ireland, 31st October was celebrated as 'Samhain' ('summer's end') – a day midway between the autumn equinox and winter solstice.

Sacrifices were offered in thanksgiving for the harvest, and bonfires were lit (a custom that survived into the 20th century). The ancient Celts also saw Samhain as a time for communion with the spirits of the departed, as the veil between the worlds of the living and the dead was said to be at its thinnest at this time. The dead were invited to return to feast with their loved ones, and food was put out for them.

It's against this background that the Church has for over a thousand years kept All Saints' Day (sometimes called 'All Hallows' Day', from 'to hallow' meaning 'to make holy') on **1st November** – as a celebration of those whose lives have expressed their faith in particularly attractive ways. It meant that the Church was able to harness and counteract the pagan Samhain customs of the previous day of 'All Hallows' Eve' – or 'Hallowe'en' for short.

2nd November has long been kept as All Souls' Day, when the lives of departed family and friends were celebrated. As with Samhain, food was often put on family graves – especially cakes. Over the years, the custom changed, and people would go 'a-souling' – visiting the larger houses in the area, and asking for 'soul cakes'.

5th November is when the discovery of the Gunpowder Plot is marked (and is also an opportunity for unhealthy anti-Catholic feelings to be expressed – with the burning of 'guys' itself being a bizarre celebration of the horrendous torture and slow death to which the conspirators were condemned).

And then comes Remembrance Day on **11th November** – with the custom being to transfer it to the nearest Sunday. This, for most people, is what the season of remembrance is really all about. And although none of the combatants of the 1914-18 are still alive (as is barely anyone with any memory at all of those years), the occasion is marked in as solemn a way as it ever has been.

Partly this is because the dead of all later wars are also included in the remembrance, which is obviously particularly poignant and meaningful for those who lost loved ones between 1939-45. And although there are rapidly diminishing numbers of them, there is no suggestion that it's time to abandon Remembrance Day.

And that's because the sheer act of coming together, once a year, to acknowledge the horror and futility of war, is a way for communities to lament the loss of so many young lives, lives that had barely got going. The sacrifice (a word with all sorts of religious associations) involved was so absolute – that it should never be made light of, or taken for granted. All we can do is stand silently alongside one another, at war memorials across the country (and across the world) and listen as the names are read. Long, long lists of those who never came home, young men whose wives and children (and parents and wider families) would never see them again.

It's such a desperately sad and solemn and serious occasion – but one that's always in danger of lapsing into jingoism. It's clearly right to remember those who have fallen in war – and we somehow need to include those on all sides in all conflicts. Bringing about the deliberate death of another human being should never be a cause for celebration. And the best way of marking Remembrance Day, is to resolve to settle human differences by non-military means.

As with many of Jesus's teachings, such an idea appears completely and utterly impractical. But until it becomes at least an *aspiration*, the same old cycle of slaughter will remain dreadfully legitimised. And the lessons of war – just forgotten.

Rev'd Tony

DIARY DATES

For Church services see centre pages. For more details see the page listed.

OCTOBER

- Tue 31** Mother & Toddler Coffee Pot Club, WSM Parish Hall, 10-12 (p 5)
Tue 31 Adventure Church, 4.30pm (p 4)

NOVEMBER

- Wed 1** Summerhouse Study Group, Widemouth Bay, 2.15 pm (p 11)
Thur 2 All Souls Service at Week St Mary 7pm (p 9)
Mon 6 Meet & Eat, WSM Parish Hall (p 5)
Tue 7 Mother & Toddler Coffee Pot Club, WSM Parish Hall, 10-12 (p 5)
Tue 7 Adventure Church, 4.30pm (p 4)
Tue 7 Deanery Synod, Otterham Hall 6.30 for 7pm start
Wed 8 Summerhouse Study Group, Widemouth Bay, 2.15 pm (p 11)
Fri 10 Summerhouse Activity, Widemouth Bay, 2.00 pm (p 11)
Sun 12 Jacobstow Remembrance, Church 9.30 am
Sun 12 Poundstock Remembrance, War Memorial, 10.45 am
Sun 12 Whitstone Remembrance, Church, 11.00 am
Sun 12 Week St Mary Remembrance, Square 10.45 am, then Chapel
Sun 12 Warbstow Remembrance, Bugler at Warbstow Cross 12.00 pm
Sun 12 St Gennys Remembrance, Church, 15.00 pm
Tue 14 Mother & Toddler Coffee Pot Club, WSM Parish Hall, 10-12 (p 5)
Tue 14 Adventure Church, 4.30 pm (p 4)
Wed 15 Summerhouse Study Group, Widemouth Bay, 2.15 pm (p 11)
Fri 17 CAMEO, Wyke House, Week St Mary, 2.30 pm (p 5)
Tue 21 Adventure Church, 4.30 pm (p 4)
Tue 21 Mother & Toddler Coffee Pot Club, WSM Parish Hall, 10-12 (p 5)
Wed 22 Summerhouse Study Group, Widemouth Bay, 2.15 pm (p 11)
Fri 24 Summerhouse Activity, Widemouth Bay, 2.00 pm (p 11)
Sat 25 Jacobstow Church Coffee Morning with various stalls, Parish Hall 10.00 am to 12.00 pm (p 10)
Tue 28 Mother & Toddler Coffee Pot Club, WSM Parish Hall, 10-12 (p 5)
Tue 28 Adventure Church, 4.30 pm (p 4)
Wed 29 Summerhouse Study Group, Widemouth Bay, 2.15 pm (p 11)

DECEMBER

- Sun 3** Advent Carols, Songs of Praise, Week St Mary Church 6.30 pm



WEEK ST MARY ADVENTURE CHURCH

Adventure Church has spent a lot of time outdoors in this autumn term, we followed our orienteering with a magnificent potato harvest after which we cooked and ate our own produce.

There followed a session of team building with parachute play and then we went on a long hike around the village learning to use maps and compasses. We packed Samaran's Purse Shoeboxes on 16 October and then after half term will be carving Pumpkins for our Halloween Party. The children have learned new skills in our all age sessions and have learned to work together as well.



Next Half Term we plan sessions of Crafts and Christmas activities and will be learning some Christmas Songs to perform in a Church Christmas Concert during Advent, details to follow.

Please ask to join our Facebook Group page : Week St Mary Adventure Church, if you want to keep up with our activities or are thinking of joining in. We cater for all ages but most members are between 5 and 12 years old at present.

Thank you 01288 341221

Jacobstow and St Gennys Winter Evensong Time Changes

From NOVEMBER evensong time at Jacobstow Church will be 4pm and at St Gennys Church it will be 4.30 pm throughout the winter instead of 6.30 pm

Meet 'n' Eat

Usually held in WSM Parish Hall at 12.30pm
on the first Monday of each month (next is 6 Nov)

Everyone is most Welcome



CAMEO

Come And Meet Each Other

Next meeting Friday 17 November at Wyke House,
Week St Mary

2.30pm Everyone most welcome.

Contact: Linda Cobbledick (01288 341468).



MOTHER* & TODDLER COFFEE POT CLUB

Meets every Tuesday from 10.00 to 12.00 in Week St
Mary Parish Hall. Contact Emma Woolfe or Kathy Jeffrey
(Search for Coffeepots in Facebook Groups)

* Grannies, Grandads, Aunties, Carers etc all welcome!



STRATTON DEANERY BOOK CLUB

In October & November we will be discussing:

Tom Wright's 'Bible Study Guide to Romans'

First Monday of each month at 14 Monterey Close, Bude,
EX23 8DX at 7.30pm

Gail Brace: 01288 352412 New members always welcome.

Persecuted Christians in Sri Lanka, Nov 2017

Sri Lanka has had a turbulent history. From multiple invasions and colonial rule to growing nationalism and ethnic conflict, this small island nation has seen it all.

With a population of about 20 million, 70% Buddhist, 14% Hindu, and 8% each Christian and Muslim, there has been plenty of tension among the various groups, with frequent outbreaks of violence.

The most recent was the 30 year war between the majority Sinhalese ethnic group who are mostly Buddhist and the minority Tamil Tiger rebels who are mostly Hindu. This ended with terrible bloodshed in 2009, and the victorious Buddhist majority then targeted the Christian minority regardless of ethnicity, viewing Christianity as a tool of Western Imperialism and a betrayal of Sri Lankan identity. Following the election of a new president in 2015 it was hoped that the situation would improve. Sadly this has proved to be a false hope.

While official persecution has now taken a new course, by way of legal restrictions and harassment carried out by local government officials, there has been a continuing rise in the amount of local violent attacks by mobs often led by Buddhist monks. Sadly the local police seem to be powerless or simply disinterested in doing anything about it. Churches and prayer groups have been forced to close. Christian burials have been prevented. Pastors in particular have been targeted and Christians literature destroyed.

One of the main problems faced by our Christian brothers and sisters is that Sri Lanka's constitution states that Buddhism shall have the "foremost place". This leads to ideas of superiority and then harassment by mobs of the Buddhist majority.

They claim that churches have to be registered to operate. In fact this is not a legal requirement, but does little to stop the persecution going on. On top of this many Sri Lankan Christians are very poor, living in rural areas and working on tea plantations, where they are easily exploited.

Prayers

- Thank God for the Sri Lankan Church and its continued growth.
- Pray for a strengthening of faith in the face of persecution.
- Pray for protection and guidance for pastors and church workers.
- Pray for a lessening of the harassment and persecution from the civil authorities.
- Pray for the police to be more sympathetic and proactive in dealing with mob violence.
- Pray that Christians freedom to worship will not be restricted, and that churches and church activities will be allowed to take place unhindered

Week St Mary Circle Services November 2017

(**AMW**: Revd Tony Windross, **RD**: Revd Canon Rob Dickenson, **RY**: Revd Rob Yeomans, **PJ**: Revd Peter Judson, **MM**: Methodist Minister, **GS**: Gloria Street, **CG**: Carol Goundry, **DP**: Drue Pratt, **AA**: Audrey Atkin, **WT**: Worship Team **HC**: Holy Communion, **MP**: Morning Prayer, **ES**: Evening Service; **FS**: Family Service, **AM**: Anglo-Methodist Service, **COMP**: Compline, **UBS**: United Benefice Service)

Wednesday 1 st November	0830	Widemouth B	HC	RD
Thursday 2nd November	1900	Week St Mary	ALL SOULS	AMW
Thursday 2 nd November	1100	St Anne's	HC	RD

5th November

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

white	0800	Widemouth B	HC	AMW
	0930	Week St Mary	FS	WT
Revelation 7: 9-end;	0930	Poundstock	HC	AMW
1 John 3: 1-3;	1100	St Gennys	HC	AMW
Matthew 5: 1-12;	1600	Jacobstow	ES	DP
Psalms 34: 1-10	1830	Whitstone	COMP	RD

Wednesday 8 th November	0830	Widemouth B	HC	AMW
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12th November

Remembrance Sunday

red	0800	Widemouth B	HC	PJ
	0930	Jacobstow	RS	CG
	1045	Poundstock	RS	PJ
	1100	Whitstone	RS	RD
Amos 5: 18-24;	1045	Week St Mary	RS	AMW
1 Thessalonians 4: 13-end;	1200	Warbstow	RS	AA
Matthew 25: 1-13;	1500	St Gennys	RS	AMW
Psalms 70				

WARBSTOW HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday October 22nd

Warbstow Church's Ecumenical Harvest Festival took place on 22nd



November led by Audrey Atkin and Helen Jeffs. There was a short service with Harvest gifts brought to the altar by the children followed by a Finger Food Harvest Tea in the church

After tea there followed the traditional Cornish Auction of Produce

We had 30+ in our congregation, including four children. Everyone stayed on for the Harvest tea and the auction which followed and we managed to raise £228 to help towards our restoration project

ALL SOULS SERVICE

Rev. Tony will lead a Service for All Souls at Week St Mary this year on Thursday 2nd November at 7 pm Everyone is very welcome.

This will be a quiet opportunity to remember loved ones who have passed way.

Jacobstow Church Coffee Morning.

Saturday 25th
November
10.00am to
12.00.



In the Parish Hall with various Stalls

Onward and Upward at Trenglos

It has been a long growing season, but the generous grant from the Listed Places of Worship fund has started to bear fruit and work is finally underway on the tower roof at Trenglos Church. The aim is to complete the repairs over the coming six months, though the weather may have other ideas. Watch this space.



Advent Sunday at Week St Mary 3rd December



Week St Mary Church will be making a change to the usual pattern of services on Advent Sunday by holding an Evening Advent Carol Service in a Songs of Praise style and during which the Crib Figures will start their Journey around the village. This will replace the usual Family Service but we do hope that families will support the evening which will be centred on All Age Worship and include a variety of activities to get us in the mood for the run up to Christmas. Do please join us if you can, suitable refreshments provided of course!

Together

A new editorial team has been formed for future issues of *Together*. Material for the **December** magazine by **Weds 18th November** please, to: **weekstmarycircle@gmail.com**
This will be the address for all magazine correspondence.



Widemouth Bay Summerhouse Study Group

meet on **Wednesdays at 2.15pm**
Currently reading

The Great Spiritual Migration by **Brian McLaren**
Ring Hilda on 01288 361323 for more details

Do you play a musical instrument?

I play Trumpet, have Grade 2 and now playing at Grade 3–4 level and would like to find a few people to play together for fun and a joint learning experience.

Could share lessons.

Classical, hymns, traditional folk, etc.

Open to suggestions and mistakes forgiven!!!

If interested please phone Pam on

01288 362115

Widemouth Bay area



Widemouth Bay Summerhouse Activities

Every other Friday at 2.00 pm

Friday 10 Nov - Making Christmas cards

Friday 24 Nov - Craft and a chat

All welcome - ring Jann on 01288 361931 for more details

Poundstock Gildhouse



The Gildhouse year has now come to a close. October saw the usual Friends' Evening when there is a get-together for all those who have supported the Gildhouse during the year. It is an opportunity to hear about what has happened over the season, have a meal

and a chat and be entertained. This year the entertainment was provided by a marvellous young singer, Jodi, from Tintagel.

At the end of October we held our annual Craft & Food Fair and Pumpkin Festival. This year's was eventful because it coincided with storm Brian and so on the first morning the road from Treskinnick Cross was blocked by a large bough brought down from a tree in the hedgerow. That was soon cleared but then the other route was blocked when workmen decided to dig a trench across the road! The afternoon was marked by several power-cuts; luckily none were long enough to stop the heating of the pumpkin soup at the refreshment stall.

Storm Brian didn't stop plenty of people coming along to admire the carved pumpkins, buy gifts from the stalls and enjoy the refreshments. The stall holders had a good weekend and the Gildhouse funds were boosted by a good amount. Thanks to all.

Heating System at Week St Mary

Work to install a new heating system is well under way at Week St Mary Church. There has been some disruption to services but it will be well worth all the dust when we switch on some time during November! Thank you everyone for your patience and to St Gennys for taking our turn at the United Benefice Service - we will make it up to you as soon as we can!

WIDEMOUTH BAY HARVEST

We thought that we should

We did the posters and leaflets.

Revd Tony printed the readings and organised the hymns

We had 5 people to read the Bible exerts.

All was set

Seven people came of which five were readers.

At first I felt sad but as we sang all the traditional harvest hymns and listened to the readings it became happier and happier.

People who could not come had left food for the Food Bank and the collection with donations raised £100 for Shelter Box.

Jann had the tea brewing and we all enjoyed each others company

What seemed like disaster grew into the best Harvest service I had ever had. Revd Hawker would have enjoyed it. I know that Harold Tucker certainly would have

I believe Archdeacon Audrey at the Road show asked us to love each other ,

On that day we certainly did.

Sunday, 06:00 on BBC Radio Cornwall 95.2 FM / 103.9 FM
Sunday Breakfast, BBC Cornwall's Faith Programme

Donna Birrell looks at various faiths and ethics across the county and beyond.

BENEFICE WEBSITE www.weekstmarycircleofchurches.org.uk

BENEFICE EMAIL for Magazine etc. weekstmarycircle@gmail.com

The monthly **Diocesan Newsletter**
is available on-line at:

www.trurodiocese.org.uk/about-us/publication-archives

THE CHURCH YEAR: Thoughts for November

The month begins with two days of remembering. We have All Saints Day and All Souls Day. Dates will be in the Together.

All Souls day is when we call to mind those we have loved and are no longer here. It used to seem a sad day but now to me it is a day when I remember all the positive things that the people I have known and are no longer here have taught me. I remember past kindness and helpful advice. I remember the happy days we spent and the joy and love they brought into my life....

On the 11th it is St Martin of Tours who when he was a soldier gave half of his cloak to a beggar, was given a vision of Christ, was Baptised and spent the rest of his life in His service. He became the Bishop of Tours. Many of the Saints were originally soldiers and this meant that they were able to live a disciplined life. They gave themselves wholeheartedly; we so often are weak in our dedication to our Lord.

The 30th of November is St Andrews' Day which the people of Scotland have for their Patron Saint. He was a fisherman, an ordinary man who gave himself to following the teaching of Jesus. Rowan Williams was in Truro Cathedral some years ago and he mentioned being 'ordinary'. Afterwards I asked him if that came from Thomas Merton and he said 'yes'. Merton wrote that until you realize that you are 'ordinary' you cannot begin. All of us who know that we are very ordinary are on the right track. Remember that 'to those that much is given, much will be required'. Andrew gave his life....

The biggest thing to remember is the words of Jesus at the last supper, 'Do this in remembrance of me' which we hear at every Communion, Eucharist, Mass or what ever you like to call it.

There are so many people 'doing good things' but eventually 'doing' is not an option. As we grow old we have to learn to be still and support those who can be out in the world, with our thoughts and prayers.

As winter takes hold and the days 'draw in' find time to sit quietly thanking God for all the wonderful people who loved us and showed us Jesus..

Prayer

As we see and hear of all the suffering in the world,
forgive our complaining

As we face each day
help us to be kind to all we meet

As we remember all who have been welcomed into eternal life,
we thank you for their lives and influence.

We pray for those who are suffering and ask for grace to bear our trials.

Give wisdom to the leaders of the world and strength to those who are working to relieve suffering.

Hilda Walter

The main contacts:

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Reader	Carol Goundry	01840 230 606
Pastoral Coordinator	Joy Farran	01288 341 437 joyfarran@btinternet.com

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St Gennys	01840 230 151 01840 230 006	Mrs Hannah Clifford Mr Robert Andrew
Treneglos	01566 781 421 01566 781 372	Mr Peter Mitchell Mrs Heather French
Warbstow	01566 781 835 01566 781 081	Mrs Audrey Atkin Mrs Helen Jeffs
Week St Mary	01288 341 221 01288 341 348	Mrs Lesley Booker Mr Dick Sowerby
Widemouth Bay	01288 362 254	Miss Judy MacDonald
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