

Today we especially honour those who died in the two great wars of the last century. We honour their huge sacrifices, their bravery and endurance in extreme circumstances. May we learn lessons from these brave people as we continue to deal with our current threat of the global pandemic. Amen

Sunday November 8th, 2020.

Due to this second lockdown, church services are again suspended until further notice.

However, this Remembrance Sunday the following will take place:

10.40am – Outdoors Service of Remembrance in Great Paxton churchyard.

Please observe social distancing.

This week's You Tube video will feature an Act of Remembrance from each of our four churches.

**The link will be found on the benefice Facebook page:
@thePaxtonsBenefice**

Or on You Tube, search for Annette Reed and you should find it.

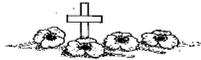
Both Southoe Church and Diddington Church will remain open during the pandemic for private prayer.

Great Paxton church will be shut from November 9th until early December due to repair work inside and outside.

Words from the traditional Act of Remembrance.

They shall grow not old as we that are left to grow
old: age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
we shall remember them.

When you go home, tell them of us and say, "for your
tomorrow, we gave our today" (Kohima Epitaph)



Almighty and Eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day; fulfil in them the purpose of thy love; and bring us all, with them, to thine eternal joy; through Jesus Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**

FOUR

**The Benefice of the Paxtons with Diddington and Southoe
Sunday November 8th, 2020 - Remembrance Sunday
"Keeping in Touch" Edition 33**



Lest we forget.

Annette writes:

Patience is a virtue. It is a phrase which dates back to a 5th century poem written in Latin referring to one of the seven heavenly virtues. The poem was very popular in medieval times and this particular phrase reminds us how important in life patience can be, whatever era we live in.

As I write, it is Wednesday and we don't as yet know the outcome of the USA election. Many are counselling patience as some results may not be known for a few days. By the time you read this, we could be surer of this crucial result for the USA and indeed the whole world.

Many of us have had to be patient this week as we waited to find out if any Remembrance Sunday services could take place outdoors. We now know that we can gather round war memorials for carefully staged commemorations and so there will be a service at Great Paxton this Sunday around the memorial in the churchyard.

How we all need to be patient too as we go into a second national lockdown, hoping that before long many of the restrictions we need to live with can be lifted. We need to be patient for a vaccine, patient for an effective track and trace system, patient with those who have to make such difficult decisions.

Patience was something our forebears needed in abundance as they lived through the two great wars of the 20th century. They faced so much hardship and uncertainty for months on end, some never knowing if they would see their loved ones again. I remember reading too that so many of those on active service abroad spent long periods of time just waiting for something to happen in combat, never knowing what the outcome might be.

Let's do our best to continue to foster patience and hopefully a calm spirit in these difficult days

With love and prayers, Annette. 01480 211048.

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ONE

Readings for Remembrance Sunday.

Words from the prophet Micah Chapter 4 v 1-5

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised up above the hills.

Peoples shall stream to it, and many nations shall come and say:

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

He shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore; but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

Gospel Reading John Chapter 15 Verses 9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

You did not choose me, but I chose you and I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.

I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

A Prayer for Remembrance Sunday

God, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease, and poverty and pain shall end, that the earth may know the peace of heaven. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

TWO

Reflections from Annette – embracing the season of Remembrance

Last Sunday we celebrated All Saints Day, recalling countless human beings who have, in a special way, allowed the light of God to shine through their lives, selflessly bringing hope and healing to others. Throughout the pandemic this year, there are many who in some way have cared for others in extraordinary circumstances. They wouldn't look for praise or want to be called saintly – but we know the depth of their caring hearts and give thanks.

On November 2nd the church celebrated All Souls, inviting us to take time out to especially give thanks for all those who we love but see no longer. The image of falling leaves is one which sits well with the remembering of those who have passed away, as in our prayers we let them go into God's mercy and love.

I'd like to invite you all to reflect on the idea that despite the passing of summer, this is the season when the seeds and fruits of trees and plants are shed abroad and silently begin the new cycle of life.

The theme of new life following on from decay is vividly captured in the famous poem about poppies flourishing in Flanders Fields written in May 1915 by the Canadian Military Doctor Major John McCrae:

*In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place and, in the sky,
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

Ironically, it was only because the earth was so badly churned up from warfare that the corn poppy seeds grew in the field of conflict; they can lay dormant for many years until they are disturbed and find sunlight and moisture. The vibrant image of the poppy gave and gives people both a sense of remembering those who have fallen and how new life can flourish despite all the odds.

The heart of the Christian Gospel is about new life following on from death. Resurrection is at the heart of nature and at the heart of the human soul. Jesus' life, death and resurrection point us beyond endings to new beginnings wrought in God's love and power.

Remembrance is good and necessary, and I hope these days, of recalling those gone before us, are full of comfort and hope.

/Cont.

THREE