

SERVICES

All are warmly invited to come and worship on Sundays at 10.30am and all other services.

7 th	November	Morning Prayer
14 th	November	Remembrance Sunday Morning Prayer at 10am followed by Service at the War Memorial
21 st	November	Morning Prayer
28 th	November	Holy Communion
5 th	December	Morning Prayer (Toy Service)
11 th	December	SATURDAY "In the Bleak Mid-Winter"
12 th	December	Holy Communion
19 th	December	No Morning Service 3pm Carol Service
25 th	December	Christmas Day Morning Prayer followed by a short Service of Holy Communion
26 th	December	No Sunday Service
2 nd	January	Morning Prayer
9 th	January	Holy Communion
16 th	January	Morning Prayer
23 rd	January	Holy Communion
30 th	January	Morning Prayer

Children are welcome at all services.

Please check the website www.stjohnsbourneend.org for any changes or updates to services.



Parish Room for Hire

St John's Parish Room is available to hire for events and meetings. Please contact the Treasurer or the Churchwardens to check availability and for more details.

St John's Church Bourne End



NEWSLETTER

November 2021 - January 2022

www.stjohnsbourneend.org

Church Officers:

Vicar	Rebecca Fardell	865100
Churchwardens	Helen King	862327
	John Marshall	219776
Treasurer	Edith Harkins	871040

Message from the Vicar

This season seems to me full of remembering, and this year the remembering feels even more poignant than usual. At harvest we remembered that everything we have comes from God and did so at a time when the seriousness of the climate crisis is ever clearer, and our supply chains are struggling to deliver all we expect to enjoy. On Bonfire Night we remember 'gunpowder, treason and plot', the defeat of a terrorist attack on our Parliament and do so in the wake of the murder of Sir David Amess, an MP seeking to serve God and his community. On Remembrance Sunday we remember the dead of two World Wars and other conflicts since; we do so as the Royal British Legion celebrate their centenary and their work supporting veterans is as vital as ever. Finally, we turn our eyes towards Bethlehem to remember the birth of the Christ Child and to hear the words of hope in a world made dark by the losses and challenges of the past year.

Remembering is important and the Bible is full of encouragements to remember: to remember who God is; to remember God's faithfulness and steadfast love for all he has made; to remember what God has done for us. It is important because when we remember, we are not only reciting history but considering how we might create a better future. King George V understood this; when he visited the war graves in Flanders in 1922, he said:

'I have many times asked myself whether there can be more potent advocates of peace upon earth through the years to come than this massed multitude of silent witnesses to the desolation of war.'

So, remembering Harvest encourages us to work for justice for those who do not have enough to eat. Remembering the failure of the Gunpowder Plot challenges us to think about how we are governed. Remembering those who have suffered and died because of war prompts us to work for peace. Remembering the events of Christmas invites us to reflect on what it means for God to be Immanuel, God with us.

So, this season let's remember well and let's allow our remembering the past affect how we live now.

*Remember the former things, those of long ago;
I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like me.*

Isaiah 46.9

with love and prayers

Rebecca

Dates for Your Diary



Remembrance Sunday 14th November

Following the service at the War Memorial, coffee will kindly be served at The Anchor.

As this year is the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Royal British Legion, the church will stay open until 1pm.



Christmas Bazaar 26th November in the Village Hall

10am to 1pm

"In the Bleak Mid-Winter" Saturday 11th December

The church will be open 10am-3pm to give a quiet space for reflection of losses and sorrows of this year. There will be a short service to help with this at 11am and 2pm.

Pot Luck Lunch



These have been discontinued for the time being due to Covid restrictions.

Coffee Morning



We hope to begin these again in the New Year.

i.e. 28th January. **Please check the website!**

Meet the Vicar

First Thursday of every month between 8 and 10pm.

4th November 2021; 2nd December 2021; 6th January 2022.

Rebecca will be in The Anchor and looks forward to meeting both church members and village residents there.

Village Prayers: Prayers in church each Sunday include ones for the residents in each of the village roads in turn. Please continue to post your prayer requests on the board in the porch and do encourage us by giving us feedback if you can.

