

# *The Vicar Writes...*



Summer 2021

Dear Friends,

For many of us as the darkness draws in and the trees stand bare November is the month when we both look back and forward. We look back because November is a month of remembering. On the 2nd we have 'All Souls Day' on which we remember those who have died who were close to us. Then we "*remember, remember the 5th of November*", Guy Fokas day - that's a strange one. This is followed by Remembrance Day, when we remember those who gave their lives in armed conflict, those who experienced great suffering as they fought for the cause of freedom, justice and peace. It's a day when we recall the human cost of war in our own lifetime and in the past.

As the evenings draw in, reminiscences of all kinds can flood in as the seasons of the year lead us to think of the seasons of life. We look back, and we look forward, and our present can be challenging in lots of ways. How we remember and how we look forward is important. It's good to look back so that we learn, and it is good for us to look forward to anticipate, plan, and discover opportunities to grow; in this time of seemingly interminable uncertainty, and confusion, we will survive by valuing and cultivating personal relationships.

The future can be exciting or daunting depending upon our personality, and personal circumstances, but as a connected community that looks out for each other, we can give hope to those who are struggling, and help to those who are pressing forward into new things.

The point of telling the stories of previous generations especially on Remembrance Day is to appreciate the sacrifice, duty and bravery of those who have gone before, not to glorify it, but to be grateful for the freedom we have. Remembering helps to give us a perspective on our present circumstances, and hopefully reminds us of the cost and horrendous realities of war. The purpose of all Saints day is similar. To process our memories of loved ones lost, to give thanks for what they meant to us and gave to us during their lifetime and more. To some of us loved ones lost we're our hero's, the people we looked up to and wanted to emulate.

Many veterans play down their achievements. Humility is a quality that is not valued but some notable leaders today, some top management instruction has rediscovered that the qualities Jesus taught are the road to great leadership. Love, humility, service, encouragement, etc are what nourish the human heart, and free people to achieve their potential.

With mental health so much in the news and media at the moment, I want to encourage us to remember some of these values and principles that Jesus taught, as the road to wholeness. As we remember, we may need to forgive, both ourselves, and others. As we go forward, let us give generously, look after and bless one another, and love one another.

*Rev'd Nicki*