



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

9.30am Remembrance service, Dunsfold church

10.45am Village war memorial

4pm Funday@4

The Collect

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Please remember in your prayers

The Sick: Marilyn Bailey, Sandra Baxter-Brown, James Field, Jacquie Griffiths, Sheila Jones, Cindy Kennedy, Stacey Medalyer, Christine Miles, Dean Perkins, Jacky Williams and Hazel Wiltshire.

Funday@4

The theme this Sunday is Remembrance... blessed are the peacemakers. Our service specifically designed for children and families will be on the topic of remembrance and peace. The session will include a Bible story, singing, craft work and afternoon tea. Everyone both young and old is welcome to join us.



Thought for the week

This week we pause to remember those who gave their lives. In Scripture, remembering is never just looking back — it's allowing the past to shape how we live now.

Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of me."

True remembrance moves us to gratitude, compassion, and a longing for peace.

As we remember the fallen, may we also commit ourselves to live as peacemakers in our homes, communities, and world.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." — Matthew 5:9

Can you help?

CHURCH WORK PARTY



Sat 29th November @ 10am to Midday

Volunteers needed to help with cleaning, gardening, and serving refreshments

Hot drinks and cake provided to all helpers

Please help us to give Dunsfold church and churchyard a thorough clean and tidy ahead of Christmas

Contact: susansimper88@btinternet.com



Our war dead must not fall into the trenches of our collective failing memory

(Bishop Paul Mason, Catholic Bishop of the Forces)

November is an important month of remembrance. It starts with the solemnity of All Saints followed, by 'The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed' – or All Souls. In many countries families visit graveyards and cemeteries in order to pray for and adorn family graves with votive candles, flowers, pictures and incense. Polish cemeteries are a sight to behold, often described as a 'sea of light' to remember the dead.

At the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, we remember the fallen of our wars. The Armistice, an agreement that ended the fighting of the First World War ahead of peace negotiations, began at 11am on 11 November 1918. Armistice is Latin for to stand (still) arms. We also pay our respects to the Armed Forces family on Remembrance Sunday.

The difference between a myth and a historical account can be seen in the telling: the former usually takes the form "once upon a time" and then proceeds to highlight some generalised truth of the human condition; the latter gives details such as time, place, person and event. Although both offer valuable insights, care should be taken not to conflate them. Hercules is no more historic than Winston Churchill is mythic. Mythologising people from our past simply serves to set them apart as disembodied ideas separate from our own lived and concrete experience. Our Christian history is not immune to this tendency either with those who would reduce Jesus himself to an archetype, expounding common truths like other wise teachers of the past. Remembering names, dates, places, and events helps us to ensure this does not happen. It maintains our solidarity with the past.

All of those who served in the Great War have now died and so remembering them becomes increasingly important. They may be known only unto God, but they are our brothers and sisters as well. The National Memorial Arboretum helps us remember, and does so with much dignity, as do British military cemeteries throughout the world.

One small constituency we may not immediately call to mind, however, is that of military chaplains. In the First World War 179 chaplains paid the ultimate price, 36 of whom were Catholic, including Fr Willie Doyle whose cause for canonisation is still proceeding and, will serve as a beacon of priestly heroism. James Hagerty has documented a history of Catholic chaplaincy in the armed forces, in an attempt to ensure that their bravery and contribution are not forgotten and are not reduced to fireside tales.

During November, the Month of the Holy Souls, we remember names, places, events thereby taking hold of our past, our people, as they risk falling into the trenches of our collective failing memory. The historian Arthur Toynbee described some approaches to history as being nothing more than "just one damn thing after another". When we lose sight of the raw details, the humanity, the suffering and sacrifice then our fallen become one damn soldier after another, one damn chaplain after another. There is a bond of trust between the living and the dead and if we break faith with those who died, we shall not sleep.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

