

Prayers: June Matthews has recently moved into James Wilks House and is currently not enjoying good health. Pray for June as she adjusts to life in her new flat and enters a community locked down due to Covid.

Christmas Choir

Christmas will be different; let's do what we can!

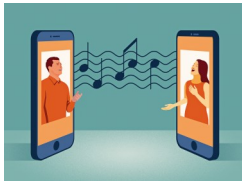
We can't have our usual choir this year, but that doesn't mean we can't have an unusual choir. Alison has plans for a virtual choir using the same method as for 'O God our Help' in the service today. We hope for 2 choir carols and 3 carols to lead the congregation.

There will be 2 zoom meetings to explain the technical side, to teach the songs and to do some singing. You can just come to find out- no commitment.

Weds 18th Nov 7.30 pm

Weds 25th Nov 7.30 pm

Anyone is welcome as long as you can sing in tune. If you have been in the Christmas choir before or helped with 'Oh God our help' it will be a bit easier for you. If you are interested please email Alison, alison.adams40@ntlworld.com and come to the zoom meeting (link in next week's bulletin).



Sunday November 8 Remembrance Sunday



Captain Francis Grenfell VC
9th Lancers: Western Front 1915



Private Archibald Baxter
Conscientious Objector: Western Front 1917

**Those
who
fought**

**Those
who
refused**

Please pray for our church family

Mon	Loretta Francis
Tue	June Freeman
Wed	Linda Frost
Thurs	Alan and Colleen Futter
Fri	Mick and Sheila Galvin
Sat	Andy and Liz Gardner
Sun	Libby Gash

**The church will
remain open for
private prayer
on Wednesdays
from 12 noon
until 1.30 pm.**

Services Next Week

November 15	11am	Online Communion	Raymond Adams
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Time	Service	Sermon	Readings
11.00am	Online All Age Remembrance	Raymond Adams	Matthew 5:43-48

Remembrance Sunday

Many of us have family members who lost their lives in the service of this country. Their hopes of a family of their own and of future happiness ended in a burning tank, a shot-down Lancaster or, more frequently, in a muddy shell hole in Flanders. Their graves today are dignified, peaceful and well cared for. Marked with a simple cross, they lie in France or Germany or the Far East. We are proud of them and grateful to them, as we are grateful to those who protect us today.

But what if we had a conscientious objector in our family? We probably would not advertise that fact too much. Perhaps we would even feel ashamed of them on Remembrance Sunday.

This year, we think about those who refused to fight, not out of cowardice but out of principle. Some Christians could not accept that killing others was right in any circumstances.

Today in New Zealand there is a statue in honour of **Archibald Baxter** a 33 year old farmer who suffered unimaginably for his pacifism after being sent to France in 1917. His fellow soldiers, who initially despised him as a conscientious objector, came to admire his personal courage as he endured the dreaded *Field Punishment No 1* day after day. He was tightly bound to a pole for hours each day in the freezing cold. He would have been released, the moment he agreed to carry a gun. He never did. This statue portrays only one part of his suffering.



It reminds us that courage comes in many forms.

Bishop's Appeal for Uganda

+Viv's second letter is important and urgent.

She writes: *"I recently met with Archbishop of Uganda, Stephen Kaziimba over Zoom and, amongst other things, we discussed the impact of Covid-19 in Uganda. The Archbishop expressed his deep concern for the struggles of many clergy who have been particularly affected by the pandemic. Through this appeal we will raise money to go to the Archbishop's Emergency Fund."*



Archbishop Stephen leads a church under pressure

The appeal will run until Sunday 29 November and offerings need to be returned to the DBF by Monday December 7th so that we can send it to Uganda in good time for Christmas.

Archdeacon Godfrey Kasana explains some of the social background to the current Covid 19 crisis: *Clergy have been particularly badly hit by the Covid 19 crisis as they rely on offerings from their congregation to support them but Covid has closed churches for months. Times have been very hard for many people.*

What difference can we make? In the attached letter you will find a link to the Diocesan website where that question is answered. Next week we will show a video where Ugandan clergy tell their own story. Please send gifts to the treasurer.

St John's PCC Sortcode 40 52 40 Account No 00018582

A Message to You From Bishop Viv

+ Viv is seeking a new vision for the diocese. She writes: *"In the midst of the pandemic, it is clear that we must make time to reach towards the future God in Christ desires for us all. We are now beginning a process to seek together what Christ is calling us to be and to do in the coming years."*

In January we will begin a conversation to help shape a new vision, listening to and talking with lots of different people, both within the church and outside - with communities, congregations, clergy, and church leaders."



You can read the full letter on the attached pdf or go on **youtube** and search for **"Transforming church. A message from the Bishop of Bristol"**.

News from Jenny Robertson About Wiltshire Christians at Work

Jenny writes: *"Through my Christians at Work group, I've been made aware of a networking event for Christians in Wiltshire. It's for Christians who lead or are interested to start leading Christian groups in their workplace. It's run by Transform Work UK, an organisation which supports Christians to meet, grow in faith, and evangelise in the workplace."*

It's on 26 November in the evening, you can find more https://www.transformworkuk.org/Articles/591233/Transform_Work_UK/Equip/Events/Transform_Work_events/Wiltshire_Christian_Workplace.aspx



The focus will be "sharing experiences and praying into opportunities, on the themes of connecting in a time of disconnection, and breaking new ground".