

POCKLINGTON GROUP OF CHURCHES

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THE BULLETIN - READINGS

Sunday 12 November, 3rd Sunday before Advent

Collect for Remembrance Sunday

Almighty Father,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of all:
govern the hearts and minds
of those in authority
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart
by the ravages of sin,
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Shorter Collect for 3rd Sunday before Advent

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

Amos 5: 18-24: The Day of the LORD a Dark Day

Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-end: The Coming of the Lord

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to

meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Matthew 25:1-13: The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

‘Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, “Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.” Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, “Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.” But the wise replied, “No! There will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.” And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, “Lord, Lord, open to us.” But he replied, “Truly I tell you, I do not know you.” Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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| <p>Readings for 19 November, 2nd Sunday before Advent, are: Zephaniah 1:7,12-end; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30</p> |
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Remembrance popularity *by Rodney Nicholson*

I am intrigued by the large numbers who attend Remembrance services, many of whom do not come to church at any other time. Of course, everyone is welcome. The church is for the whole community. I am simply interested in the growing popularity of Remembrance Sunday.

One answer is that families want to remember loved ones who have died in conflict, whenever that conflict happened, or

perhaps to remember family members serving in the Armed Forces now. I would have thought, however, that such a personal connection would only apply to a minority. I have thought about the question myself and asked one or two others for their views, and these are some suggestions.

First, school and uniformed groups, like the Scouts and Guides, emphasise Remembrance. This last week, for example, I shall have led a special act of worship for Warter school, in the church. The children will have produced some prayers and a reading and chosen the songs, leaving me to give a short talk. Later in the morning I shall have gone to Bishop Wilton for an act of remembrance with the school at the war memorial.

Second, today's technology can bring past and present conflicts to life in ways that inform and inspire. The Festival of Remembrance from the Royal Albert Hall uses film and personal testimony to tell people's stories with a high quality of presentation which was not possible years ago. In the Falklands conflict (sometimes called the Malvinas) the live broadcasts were "hit and miss". Today's television quality is superb. Maybe the slick presentation which we now take for granted adds extra interest, by way of contrast, to the old grainy film taken during World War I.

A third factor could be the war museums, such as Eden Camp at Malton, which children from Warter school, along with over 400 others, visited the other day. The various war graves also keep memory alive, along with grandfather's or great-great-grandfather's medals which some children proudly view. My own father took part in World War 2 but had no interest in Remembrance. The military had no appeal for him, and he just wanted to forget a six-year blot on his life. Well, we're all different, but we would all share in our hopes and prayers for peace, which must be the focus of Remembrance Sunday.