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From the Church of England Diocese of Bath and Wells ☩ November 2020

A time to remember

With All Soul's, Remembrance Sunday and Armistice all falling in November, it is a time to look back, to mourn, but also to look forward with hope. And, despite the challenges of Covid, church communities will still gather, either online or in person, to remember loved ones lost recently and those who lost their lives in service to their country.

This year in particular, All Souls can offer a space for grieving for those who may not have been able to say farewell in the way they would have chosen; may not have been able to grieve alongside family and friends at a funeral or held a service to give thanks for a life well-lived.

Space to grieve is important as those who sent the names of loved ones to be included in the recent 'From Lamentation to Hope' service at Wells Cathedral said. They expressed their gratitude for the



service which one person said, 'went some way towards beginning to heal the pain of inevitably sparsely attended services'.

The service remains available to watch or share with others on the Diocese of Bath and Wells YouTube channel.

You can also find an All Souls or Remembrance service on the Church of England website on 1 and 8 November. Alternatively, you can find details of local services at AChurchNearYou.com.

News in brief

An 'a-moosing' way to make a difference

Pupils, parents and teachers at Cutcombe and Exford Church of England First School have been having an a-moosing time raising money for their Send a Cow Harvest appeal.

They have been drawing, painting, sticking, colouring and photographing to create a cow gallery. There are more than 80 pictures of fat, thin, tall, short cows in all colours of the rainbow. As well as having lots of fun, they have raised £210 to fund a real cow through the charity which will support a family in rural Africa.

Bishop Ruth, patron of the charity, said: "A lot of thought and creativity has gone into this joyous project. A cow will make a huge difference to a family's lives."



An unexpected blessing

The villages of Wilveliscombe, Milverton and Wellington have new chaplains to walk alongside them. Chaplaincy Adviser Mike Haslam says: "They are all people who would never have imagined taking on the role but are now making a real difference in villages, schools and more."

Email Mike to find out more about chaplaincy.

'A beautiful occasion'

Nine new Readers were licensed by Bishop Ruth last month. As lay people licensed by the bishop they can now return to their parishes and lead certain parts of worship, preach and carry out pastoral and teaching duties. Always a special occasion, this year Covid restrictions meant

that instead of one large celebration at Wells Cathedral, there were two services at the Bishop's Palace Chapel. Reader Mary Udale-Smith said: "It was still very moving, it was really special, a really beautiful occasion and I felt God's Holy Spirit really present in the chapel."

One more step...

By **Bishop Peter**

When I was a vicar, one thing I really enjoyed, even though it seemed to come round rather quickly, was writing the letter for the parish magazine. I know that not all parishes are able to produce a magazine and some find a website a better way to reach people, however, I do appreciate reading them when I can. So I would like to express my thanks to all those involved in writing, editing and producing parish magazines. They are often still an effective way to share what we are doing in our church and also to share with others the good news of the gospel. Recently I was reading one which



had an article by someone recalling a visit made to the north west of the USA some 40 years ago. They spoke about the warmth of their welcome and the joy of being invited to preach in the church. What caught my eye, was they remembered visiting Lake Wallowa where it is said: 'the air is so pure and the sky so clear that one can see the dawn of the day after tomorrow'. What a glorious expression. Of course, the truth is we don't know what the future holds and at the moment things are challenging and uncertain for all of us and indeed for the world.

One night recently when I was in hospital, unable to sleep and waiting for the dawn to break, I found myself singing the words of 'One More Step Along the Way I Go' which has the chorus: 'And it's from the old I travel to the new, Keep me travelling along with you.' Maybe as we look to the future, with the joys and challenges that it will bring, that should be our prayer - Lord help us to travel with you wherever you may be leading.

With my warmest greetings,
Bishop Peter

Serving with the force

Andy Paget has been chaplain to the Avon and Somerset police for almost 25 years. He is also a pastor at Trinity Tabernacle, central Bristol.



Andy Paget, chaplain to the police

Why did you become a chaplain?

I feel if we are not where people are, how can we be relevant? By being a chaplain, people can see I am serving them unconditionally, and that is my passion.

How do you support the police?

We support all police staff and their families with any issue that is important to them. If there is a major

incident, we also head to the scene and offer support to officers on the ground and can be a bridge between the community and the police force.

How have recent events affected you?

At the start of the Covid pandemic, I sent a forcewide message assuring staff that we were still there for them and affirming how much we value the work they do. That's important for people to hear. Police officers have to make decisions quickly without the benefit of hindsight. When their actions are being reviewed, as they were recently following the Black Lives Matter protests in Bristol, we can affirm them in their role and be there for them.

What would you say to anyone thinking of thinking of becoming a police chaplain?

Like many things, the more you put into the role, the more you will get out of it. It requires a real commitment and it is only through that you will see the benefits.

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