

November 2026

November is traditionally the month of the year when we are invited to 'remember'. On November 1st the Church celebrates All Saints' Day when it commemorates all the faithful in heaven, whether or not they have been canonised and on the 2nd November it is All Souls' Day, a day of observance for all the faithful departed.

Moving on to 'Remember, remember, the fifth of November', or 'bonfire night', which commemorates the gunpowder plot planned by Robert Catesby and his cronies – including Guy Fawkes - to blow up Parliament in 1605 during the State opening. The plot failed and in 1606 it was decreed that a special service and mandatory public bonfires be held annually to celebrate the king's survival. The law around this was repealed in 1859 and since then has evolved into a secular community celebration with fireworks.

And then we have Armistice Day on November 11th when at 11am at war memorials up and down the country – and often in supermarkets, offices and schools (including our own in Blakesley) – the country falls silent to remember the fallen in the two World Wars and other conflicts.

As Christians, every time we share in Holy Communion Jesus calls us to 'remember'. At the last supper as he broke bread and shared the cup he commanded; 'Do this, in remembrance of me' (*1 Corinthians 11:24-25*). In a world which more often than not forgets Jesus, is embarrassed by him, or just simply puts him after everything else, this is helpful to remember. As we gather around the table in communion with God and each other, we remember all that Jesus has done for us, before being sent out to be his body in the world and 'to live and work to his praise and glory'.

God bless

Revd Sue

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