

Dear friends

I hope you are well this Remembrance Sunday. It is such an important day, but one that we will be observing very differently this year. We cannot have any services in church, and even an outdoor act of remembrance would not have been possible to arrange in a way that would comply with the conditions laid down. However, churches can be open for private prayer, and also for worship to be recorded in. The usual YouTube link is attached - the difference this time is that I was able to record parts of the service in Kingsbury Church, and it also includes an address by the Bishop of Birmingham, Rt Revd David Urquhart.

Remembrance Sunday is very different this year. Due to lockdown, our usual services cannot take place. But we will still remember those who have died in the service of their country.

You may wish to stand outside your home at 11am to observe the Two Minutes' Silence. Kingsbury Church is open between 10.30am and 12 noon for private prayer and the laying of wreaths.

There is a short video Remembrance Service here, with a reflection by Rt Revd David Urquhart, the Bishop of Birmingham,

<https://youtu.be/WK-3PudWLb0>



### A Service for Remembrance Sunday 2020

A Service for Remembrance Sunday from the Kingsbury and Baxterley Group of Churches, including the Two Minutes Silence and an address by Rt Revd David Urquhart...

[youtu.be](https://youtu.be/WK-3PudWLb0)

Good luck to Sarah, our organist, today as she takes part in a 10k run on behalf of the Royal British Legion. The poppy appeal has been much harder this year; I have included a link to Sarah's fundraising page for any who wish to support her and the British Legion in this way.

<https://www.mypoppyrun.britishlegion.org.uk/fundraising/MyPoppyRun2020-SarahCarter>

Congratulations to Kenneth and Christina, whose wedding duly went ahead on Tuesday, just ahead of the lockdown restrictions. All weddings are special, but in the circumstances this one felt particularly special, and it was a privilege to share in it.

Just to let you all know as well, that from 14 to 28 November I am officially on holiday (deferred from July). Obviously, we won't be going away, as planned, but I'm hoping to get some refreshment at home with a bit more reading and walking and baking than usual. I leave things in the parish in the very capable hands of Revd Carole, Ruth, and the church wardens. However, I realise this won't be the usual kind of holiday, so if you need to contact me, then do, but I will try only to respond to essential matters at this point. I'm sure you understand. I will keep you all posted, especially if there are changes around when services in the buildings can resume - as things stand, our first Sunday back will be 6 December, with services at Merevale at 9.30am and Baxterley at 4.30pm, but we are dependent on further governmental decisions.

There was a very misleading headline on Twitter from the Church Times this week, which annoyed a lot of people, me included. It said "Worship banned". No! We continue to offer our worship and prayers to God, who is faithful, whether we are at home or in church.

The Lord be with you.

John

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