

YES-vember

I don't know about you, but I find that November is my least favourite month of the year. The days are getting shorter and it is more difficult to get enthusiastic about going out and doing things. This poem by Thomas Hood about November sums up how I feel as winter comes upon us:

*No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds! -
November.*

November seems a sombre month because it is a time of Remembrance when we think especially of those who have given their lives in the service of their country over the years and also our own dear departed family members and friends.

On 22nd November we will have our own Memorial Service to remember our dearly departed loved ones. It is right and proper that we should remember, with thanksgiving, all who have gone before us in this life and honour the sacrifices that they made for us. But this shouldn't prevent us giving thanks for all the good things in our lives and rejoicing in the beauty of God's creation which is all around us even during the darkest months.

How often do we really count our blessings? It seems to be something deep in the British psyche that we find it easier to complain than to say thank you. Yet a few kind words and a smile can make all the difference to someone's day. How often do we get so wrapped up in our own lives that we fail to notice the needs of others?

Jesus tells us that we should love our neighbour as ourselves...but who is our neighbour? Not just the people who live close to us but everybody we meet as we go about our daily lives and all the people we have known in the past but may perhaps have lost contact with for whatever reason.

Perhaps this year we could use November to remember not only those who are no

longer with us because they have passed on but also those we think about often but never quite manage to contact. A phone call or letter or email can make such a difference and may rekindle a once treasured friendship.

Most importantly we can spend some time during the winter months keeping an eye on our friends and neighbours who are less able than ourselves. A regular visit or an invitation to share a cup of tea can make all the difference to somebody who is feeling isolated. If you know of somebody who will be alone on Christmas Day please contact me so that we can include them in the annual Christmas Day party at Sele School.

Let's try this year to make November a time for making plans and bringing light into the lives of all in our community, rather than a dark and dreary month which we just have to get through before Christmas.

May God bless you all, Janet B

All Saints Church • Hertford

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2015

Family Eucharist
10.00am
Followed by Activities

Messy Church Tea and Fireworks
4.00pm
St John's Hall (Adjacent to the Church)

Choral Evensong - 6.30pm



ALL SAINTS CHURCH
Queens Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire SG13 8AE

For All Services Please Visit www.allsaintshertford.org