

Valerie See

A celebration of Val's life takes place at Great Paxton Church on Tuesday November 16th at 1.30pm. Her family warmly invite you to join them at the service.

Regular dates:

- Tots, Babies, and Carers Group meets every Wednesday in term time in Little Paxton Church from 11.00am to 12.30pm. £1.00 per child.
- Drop in coffee morning at Little Paxton Church every Friday morning, 10.30am – 12noon.
- The Southonian Singers meet every Tuesday evening at Southoe church 7.30pm to 9.00pm to rehearse some lively music in a very informal setting, directed by Stuart McCarthy. New members are always very welcome. We are aiming to put on a Christmas concert at Little Paxton Church on December 17th at 7.30pm. Do email Ang at: Angs409@aol.com for more information.

Sunday November 14th Remembrance Sunday

The 3.00pm service at Little Paxton Church is being recorded and there will be a link sent out by Anita on Sunday evening to those on our email contact list. If you get this as a paper copy but have access to the internet and would like to watch the service recording, please contact Anita as below.



Sunday November 21st Christ the King Sunday.

9.15am Morning Prayer at Little Paxton.
11.00am Morning Prayer at Great Paxton.
11.15am All Age Worship at Diddington

If you don't already receive this "Keeping in Touch" leaflet by email and would like a regular email to be sent to you with this and links to the YouTube services, please do contact Anita: ailbailey@aol.com

Follow us on Facebook@ ThePaxtonsBenefice for updates most days on life around our four churches.

Our Benefice website is: <https://www.thepaxtonsbefice.org>

Sunday November 14th, 2021

The Benefice of the Paxtons with Diddington and Southoe "Keeping in Touch" Edition 84 Remembrance Sunday



Greetings Everyone,

This 84th edition of KIT comes out a little later than usual to those of you who receive it online. That is because Anita, our Little Paxton PCC Secretary, will be emailing it on Sunday evening along with a You Tube link to the recording of the Remembrance Service which takes place at Little Paxton Church at 3.00pm.

Some of you, however, receive a hard copy through your doors on Saturday afternoon/evening. But whenever you do read KIT, I hope it helps with your engagement with Remembrance themes. We are grateful as always to Mel for writing a short article on Page 3 as she reflects on what this time of year can mean for us.

We are knocking on the door of Advent Sunday which is November 28th. But before that, we have a Sunday named 'Christ the King Sunday'. Interestingly, the Feast of Christ the King was instituted in the Roman Catholic Church by Pope Pius XI in 1925, in response to a rising tide of atheism and what is called secularism following on from World War One.

It was hoped that despite the horrors of war, the hope and healing which Christ can bring would touch people's lives and bring them back to faith or to discover faith for the first time. Many denominations now focus, on the Sunday before Advent begins, on Christ the King - but as we shall read next week, Jesus was a servant king, not one who had come to seek power and wealth.

Hoping you are all keeping well and safe as we are still having to be careful, particularly in our part of the UK, with Covid case numbers.

This comes with love and prayers, Annette

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Today's Reading: Micah 4 v 3-5

He will judge between many peoples
and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide.
They will beat their swords into ploughshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.
Everyone will sit under their own vine
and under their own fig tree,
and no one will make them afraid,
for the Lord Almighty has spoken.

All the nations may walk
in the name of their gods,
but we will walk in the name of the Lord
our God for ever and ever.

The prophet Micah lived in the 8th Century BC and was from the southern kingdom of Judah. He was convinced that as his people had turned away from God, some sort of disaster would strike.

But his words contain a lot of hope, and he paints a picture of universal peace in God's loving kingdom. A world where weapons are turned into ploughs and other useful tools for growing crops and war would be no more. His ancient words contain a very modern message of hope.

In Flanders Fields by John McCrae.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
in Flanders Fields

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch: be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields

Remembrance 2021- thoughts from Mel.

It is, I've discovered, the 100th anniversary of the Royal British Legion, which was originally founded in 1921 to help the millions who had come back from World War I disabled, and the millions more widows and orphans.

The Legion's traditional red poppy is well-known and is worn to remember the service and sacrifices of all caught up in wars or terrorism. Others want to emphasise peace and remembering victims of war, so they wear white poppies, something that goes back 80 years. Purple poppies were introduced in 2006 to remember animals that have been pulled into our human wars and worked alongside us. Finally, about 10 years ago, black poppies were introduced to remember the often-overlooked war efforts of black, Caribbean, and African communities.

There are sometimes arguments about all these different poppies. Is it disrespectful to wear a white one? Do red ones glorify war? But, regardless of the colour of our poppy, or even if we decide not to wear one, we can all agree that war comes with a terrible cost. A cost not only to our brave servicemen and women and their families, but also to those who wait and work at home or alongside them. War can harm the innocent, including the creatures we share this planet with, whether we draft them into our efforts or not.

And war is not part of the purposes of God, who came to this earth as the Prince of Peace. Despite the ways in which religion can be and is twisted and abused to justify violence, God's aim is for a world in which there's no pain, suffering or crying. A world in which swords are beaten into ploughshares, and in which nations learn war no more.

While war is sometimes inevitable in this imperfect world, and I honour and appreciate the sacrifices of those who fight for us, that vision of a world at peace is one that I think we can all get behind, whatever our beliefs and regardless of what we do about poppies.

Take Care, Mel.

A Prayer for Remembrance Sunday.

God of peace,
whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom and restored the
broken to wholeness of life.
Look with compassion on the anguish of the world and by your healing
power make whole both people and nations.
Through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.