



REMEMBRANCE
SUNDAY

Remembrance Sunday (8th Nov) and Armistice (Wed 11th Nov) in Congresbury and Banwell:

As you will appreciate, things are going to need to be a little different this year. Since the notification of the Second Lockdown (5th Nov – 2nd Dec) this has meant that we are sadly not able to hold even the amended Remembrance Services that we had been working on for this Sunday.

Instead, there is going to be a **Joint Remembrance Day Service** that will be both Livestreamed, and also available to watch afterwards, for both villages beginning at 10.30am tomorrow morning.

As part of the service there will be the **Act of Remembrance**, the **Last Post and the two minute silence**, and the reading out of all the names on this occasion from both villages. There will also be the laying of poppies on the graves of all three of the war graves in Congresbury Churchyard.

If you are able to join us, and/or if there is somebody you know who may wish to join us for the service then please pass on the details:

You can access the Service by watching **LIVE** via the Facebook pages

www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches

www.facebook.com/LoveCongresbury

www.facebook.com/lovebanwell

or catch up later via Facebook, the New Creation website: [http://](http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk/)

www.newcreationchurches.org.uk/ or New Creation YouTube Channel : <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXn34qIXIXBeOAmO1M1KbBw/>



Armistice – Wednesday 11th Nov at 11.00am:

Banwell – the technology team will be in Banwell with Meg Slingso the Chaplain to the British Legion in Banwell where there will be a **Live-streamed** service in the Churchyard beginning at 10.45am. Join us live on the New Creation or Love Banwell Facebook pages or catch up later as above.

Congresbury – there will also be a small gathering outside the Memorial Hall in Congresbury as usual. Gathering at 10.45 – with social distancing and masks please. The short service will be also be Livestreamed and the Yr6 children from the local school will also be joining in with us online. Join us live on the Love Congresbury Facebook page or catch up later as above.

However, you choose to share in **Remembrance** or **Armistice** this year please find a moment to pause, to reflect, and remember this year.

Matt Thomson

Daily Blog – What's happening this week?

This week we are going to continue our “Themes in John’s Gospel” by looking at the theme of **Beauty**, how we can see beauty through God’s eyes in such experiences as the Washing of the disciples feet and how “Beauty” as God sees it is “Not of this world” to quote the words of Jesus when talking to Pilate (John 18:36).

If you would like to follow the Daily Blog as part of your journey of faith, you can access via the “New Creation Facebook Page” : <https://www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches/>, via the New Creation website: <http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk/> or New Creation YouTube Channel : <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXn34qIXIXBeOAmO1M1KbBw/>

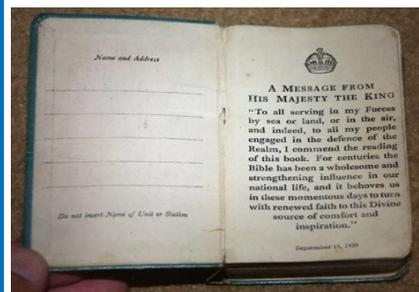
SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

*Thought for the Week : We, most definitely,
“will remember them.”*



Of course, this year’s **Remembrance Sunday** services are going to be very different. Sadly, there aren’t going to be Parade Services, not only in Banwell and Congresbury, but up and down the land, that are so important to many and which are part of our community life and allow a moment when collectively people stop, ponder, and respect how valuable each and every human life was, and is, especially when it is offered in self-sacrifice. So many lives, so many stories, each person having a family, each person of value and significance to God from all sides.

This year is the **80th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain**, and back in September there were various commemorations and incredible fly-pasts of historic planes from that era, the Spitfire and the Hurricane being the most famous. As it happens, someone I know who was serving in the RAF in those days



recently showed me a copy of the New Testament and Prayer Book that they were given when they joined up (the picture below is a copy of a similar such Service Personnel Bible from 1939). In the Introduction from the King it states, “To all serving in my Forces by sea or land, or in the air, and indeed to all my people engaged in the defence of the Realm, I commend the reading of this book. For centuries the Bible has been a wholesome and strengthening influence in our national life, and it behoves us in these momentous days to turn with renewed faith to this Divine source of comfort and inspiration.” (September 15, 1939)

Of course, we live in very different times today, and many would say that such words and advice are very much cultural and time specific. I’m not so sure. Listening to the stories and life of that serviceman from seventy, eighty years ago reminded me and taught me of values and wisdom that stand the test of time. He told me of how he used to carry his Bible in his pocket pretty much wherever he went almost as if it was a ‘lucky charm’ and an outward symbol of God being with him. He told me of how, although he may have been based at many different bases, even in different parts of the world, some hot, some cold, some wet and dreary for days on end, when there were no TVs and only a radio, he would get out his Bible and simply read bits of it. He didn’t always fully understand it but it brought him comfort. And he would nearly always at least grasp or clutch his Bible in his hand before he would go off to fly on a new and dangerous sortie. As he said to me, “Matt, there are very few people out there who don’t hope there is someone looking after them when they wondered if they may not make it home.” His Bible was really important to him in all these ways, and it was special, it was personal to him and it was familiar.

We may live in very different times today, Bibles are likely to be on tablets and phones as much as they are in book form, and if they are in book form they can come with extensive notes and commentaries as part of the text at the bottom of each page in order that they can be studied and analysed.

But maybe, like a great piece of music, God and the Bible are not meant just to be analysed and understood, but to be engaged with, lived with, become an old familiar friend whose friendship has been enriched and developed over many years by the test of time and by living shared experiences. Not so much understood, as valued, and embraced and indeed loved.

No one can deny we too are living in “momentous days,” albeit of a very different nature and for very different reasons, but maybe there is also much to learn from the King’s closing remarks in his introduction, “it behoves us (it calls upon us) in these days to turn with renewed faith to this Divine source of comfort and inspiration.” Holding on to in friendship, spending time with through time simply reading, turning to and trusting in times of anxiety and angst as well as at other times, these are great gifts that lift the spirit and the sense of value and worth of anyone in any generation. Not just in terms of a biblical text but with the One who the biblical text itself points to and reveals.

Maybe, as people look for many ways, and many things to help them through this time of the Second Lockdown and beyond, the tried and tested simple ways of those who have gone before us have much wisdom to commend themselves to us and indeed inspire us. May be our difficulty, even as Christians in today’s world, is that we really never thought it could be that direct, that simple.

There is much that it is good to “remember” as we share with others in this time of “Remembrance.”

Matt Thomson

Giving to the LOCAL Marcus Rashford Initiative AND “Thank you”:

We have been humbled by everyone’s comments and support – so a very BIG “Thank you” to one and all for your support. We have been speaking to local traders and schools and hope to enable a more coherent plan to help families in need over Christmas.



Beth Ashton-Hilton (New Creation Treasurer along with Bob Mitchell) continues to be happy to manage small financial gifts towards supporting this project which we are calling the “Local Marcus Rashford Initiative.”

Keep an eye out on <http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk/> for updates as well as the Love Banwell and Love Congresbury Facebook pages. Financial donations can be given in the following ways and can be Gift Aided if you are a taxpayer. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Love Congresbury

Cheques can be made payable to **Parochial Church Council of Congresbury**
Electronic Bank Transfer: Bank: **NatWest** Sort Code: **60-23-32** Account No: **72280484**

Love Banwell

Cheques can be made payable to **Parochial Church Council of Banwell**
Electronic bank transfers: Bank: **NatWest** Sort Code: **60-23-32** Account No: **41720210**

Help Required—Jonquil is asking for volunteers to help with cleaning in Congresbury. Please contact the office on 01934 833 126 or email SAC-Admin@newcreationchurches.org.uk. Thank you.

Annual All Souls’ Day Services - a Time of Remembering:



Thank you to everyone who helped to make the All Souls Day services so special against all the odds this year. The people who joined in both physically and online, those who helped run the technology side of things, and Lindsay from Gowers and Julian from Brittons (funeral directors) who both gave up their spare time to come and help lead the services. Thank you to one and all. There were even some people who continued the tradition we began in earnest last year of taking a candle out in a jam jar or whatever and placing it on their loved one’s grave as a symbol of light and trust and hope. Long may it continue. Thank you.

Matt Thomson

Second Lockdown:

As everyone will no doubt be aware, the recent announcement of a Second Lockdown for England has an impact on our worship life particularly as a Christian community.



The good news is that the two Church Buildings are able to be open each day for personal prayer, to light a candle to remember a loved one, and to sit and to be, and to pray.

Sunday Services will need to be online only for the time being – Howard and myself, and the technology team, are able to Livestream the service each week from our two Churches so next week we will be in Banwell, where we will continue our journey through the themes of John’s Gospel. So please join us for a simple service that will seek to include those at home and will last approximately fifty minutes.

You can access the Service by watching us **LIVE** via the “New Creation Facebook Page” : <https://www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches/> or catch up later on Facebook, via the New Creation website: <http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk/> or New Creation YouTube Channel : <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXn34qIXIXBeOAmO1M1KbBw/>

And afterwards, join us for our NEW ‘Virtual’ Coffee catch up.

Afterwards, why not join us for the next of our ‘virtual’ Coffee and catch up? Click the URL below, see further details on our New Creation Facebook page or click on the link that will be posted in the live chat during Sunday’s service.

Virtual Coffee Morning Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81722148561>



Details of How to share in an Agape Feast at Home:

Some people have kindly asked if they can share in an Agape Meal at Home either after the Live Stream service on a Sunday morning or at some other point during the week? Kirsty has kindly put a link to the words we have used during the various times we have shared similar meals as part of the Service on a Sunday on the New Creation website: <http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk/>



Matt Thomson