



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.

There will be a Remembrance Sunday Service in both Villages on **Remembrance Sunday:**

Congresbury at 10.30am

Banwell at 3.00pm

Unfortunately, we are not able to have the usual parade by members of the community and by the Uniformed Organisations, and the service will need to be limited to a very small number of invited participants. But we will be **Livestreaming** both services through the **New Creation Facebook Page** and also the **Love Banwell and Love Congresbury pages**.

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

Congresbury at 10.30am: -

www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches

www.facebook.com/LoveCongresbury

Banwell at 3pm:-

www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches

www.facebook.com/lovebanwell

or catch up later via Facebook, the New Creation website: <http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk/> or New Creation YouTube Channel : <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXn34qIXBeOAmO1M1KbBw/>

Armistice Day – Wednesday 11th Nov at 11.00am:

Congresbury – we will be livestreaming a short service from outside the War Memorial Hall.

Unfortunately, we cannot invite people to join us as this is subject to 'the rule of six'. We will be gathering at 10.45 and will be livestreaming to both the New Creation and Love Congresbury Facebook Pages.

www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches

www.facebook.com/LoveCongresbury

Banwell – there will be a small service outside the Church in the Churchyard at 10.50am led by the British Legion.

PCC and Joint Leadership Meetings

Following on from the two Church APCM's decisions to move forward at this time with seeking to register as an Inclusive Church, the two PCCs will meet over the next couple of weeks to begin discussing what this may look like as we begin the process.

If you would like to find out more about what being registered as part of the Inclusive Church community is about please see their website: www.inclusive-church.org

SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER ALL SAINTS' DAY

Thought for the Week : "Finding Hope in tough times."

Some weeks in writing this short piece there has been instantly something good to focus on, people who've done amazing things or, as last week, with the call for "Free School Meals" over half-term, something important to say and which clearly resonates with the Gospel.



"Candle of Hope"

This week feels somehow different. The darkness seems to be closing in somewhat. The clocks have gone back so it's darker earlier. The fixation with Halloween by the media, and even by the news programmes is fairly depressing. The risk of a further Lockdown because the pandemic is escalating, and thereby affecting many more people's lives and livelihoods... Social isolation. Pressure on marginalised groups and upon the NHS. The list goes on. The painful loss of life in the Channel, the assassinations in France, the earthquake in Turkey and, of course, in this week to come we have the American election.

With so much going on, it can seem so very hard to try and remain a person of hope sometimes. It seems such a long time ago now, even a different age, but one of the special moments each year for me is when we have the Christingle service on Christmas eve, and as part of the service we gather in a large circle with our Christingle oranges and bit by bit the candles on top of them are lit, passing "the Light" from one person to another till everyone's candle is lit. Then, we turn all the other lights out, apart from the Christmas tree and there, in the darkness you see each person lit by their Christingle light, lit by the love of Christ coming into the world.

And the image never ceases to take my breath away. It's not only sentimental, even magical. It's the fact that, against the backdrop of the darkness, the Light, "the Light that gives light to everyone," St John calls it (John 1:9), was, and is coming into the world. And this Light never goes away no matter how dark things may become.

One of the other key moments in the Church year when we light candles is at the time of All Souls (traditionally the 2nd Nov). On the Sundays around this time, rather than having Halloween and trick or treating, people gather and remember loved ones who have gone before them. Some have sadly have died during this time, others may have died many years ago. Some are old, some are all too young. At the All Souls service each name is read out with dignity and respect and a candle lit for each person, and again, there is that moment, that powerful insight into the fact that even though that person may have gone through "the valley of the shadow of death" as Psalm 23 puts it, the Light of Jesus' love for that person has not been extinguished.

Indeed, they are now part of a great and innumerable congregation each gathered into the presence of the Light, Jesus Himself - the very end of the Bible, the Book of Revelation describes it like this, "The City (the New Jerusalem/heaven) does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb (Jesus) is its lamp." (Rev 21:23). In other words, our destiny is not into darkness but into light, light lit by the one true Light. And all the candles before us physically at all the All Souls' Day services and commemorations the world over, whether inside Churches, or in people's homes, or outside on loved one's graves, they all act as a signpost and a pointer to this greater and deep reality and truth, that Jesus has indeed brought an incredible and meaningful, tangible Hope to this world, not just two thousand years ago, but also for today. Strangely, in the midst of what should be the deepest sense of darkness, the Light burns ever brighter.

All Souls' Day then becomes then, not just a memory of our loved ones in the past but also a defiant marker and statement to the world "that love wins" even in the darkest of times, for those we love who go before us, but all for us here, now, in this life, in these days however dark they can feel.

Matt Thomson

N.B. If there is someone you would like to have remembered at the All Soul's Day service in Congresbury on Sun 1st Nov at 4.00pm – please see the details below under the headline "All Souls Day Service." Wherever your loved one has been buried, and wherever you are yourselves based, we'd love you to get in touch and feel you could be part of it.



*"All Souls' Day"
in South America and the Caribbean*

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. Last week was such a pressurized time because it was all so immediate. We now hope to work more closely with local traders and the local schools to enable a more coherent plan for 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." If you wish to give a small donation to this fund such as £2, £3 or £5 then details of how to do this are given below. Being part of Love Banwell and Love Congresbury and therefore an existing Charity behind it means we can also claim the Gift Aid on donations if you are a taxpayer.

Further details will be posted on the website www.newcreationchurches.org.uk, along with the New Creation, Love Banwell and Love Congresbury Facebook pages.

In the meantime, donations can be made by bank transfer or cheque to the appropriate church which is then designated to Love Banwell or Love Congresbury. Please see last week's pew news or get in touch for further details.



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

Each year we remember those how have gone before us, and particularly this year, it has an added poignancy both for those who have sadly lost loved ones during this time of the pandemic and also for those who have felt the loss of loved ones during this time from years past more acutely because of the Lockdown and isolation.

We held the first of our two services in Banwell last week (Sun 25th Oct) at 4.00pm and will be holding the second service in Congresbury tomorrow: Sunday 1st November also at 4.00pm.

PLEASE ALSO have a candle available to light at home as part of the service.

Anyone is very welcome to join us online, though PLEASE have a small candle with you to light during the service. We do also have space for a small number of people to attend physically, based on the usual Worship Guidelines. If you wish to join us in person, PLEASE let us know in advance that this is you wish. You can do so via email.

If you would like your loved one's name read out as part of the service, please can you let us know again by email. Due to the service being online this year, we can only read out those names we have been given permission to read, so WE NEED YOU to get in touch and let us know – doing so then complies with GDPR rules.

To get in touch re names, and/or wishing to attend in person, please contact Kirsty by emailing kirsty.bowles@newcreationchurches.org.uk or phone 0787 1513151

To join us online:

You can access the Services by watching **LIVE** via the "New Creation Facebook Page" : <https://www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches/> at 4pm on Sunday 1st November or catch up later via Facebook, the New Creation website: <http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk/> or New Creation YouTube Channel : <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXn34qIXBeOAmO1M1KbBw/>

Please pass these details on to anyone you feel being part of such a service may be helpful.

Thank you. Matt Thomson.



Daily Blog – What's happening this week?

These next two weeks 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/UCXn34qIXBeOAmO1M1KbBw/>

