



Our Mission Statement

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind...and your neighbour as yourself.

Matthew 22:37-38

Sunday Podcasts

of each Morning Prayer are available after the service on YouTube. The address is at the bottom of the page.

A time to speak

Parish Podcast on the YouTube channel - see bottom of main page.

Quick Quotes

Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.

Mother Teresa

Faith does not eliminate questions. But faith knows where to take them.

Elisabeth Elliot

Kids!

Inspirational speaker Dr. Wayne Dyer still remembers the card his kids gave him for his 64th birthday. The front said, "Inside is a message from God." Pleased that they finally appreciated his work, he opened it to read, "See you soon!"

PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED THIS SUNDAY .

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Here is the collect or prayer for this Sunday, Remembrance Sunday:

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

As we can see it is a very appropriate one for Remembrance Sunday. While it does not mention the First or Second World War it does acknowledge the cause of all wars. Sin. And the cure of all wars. A Saviour. Sin divides and tears us apart. But the just and gentle rule of God's beloved Son - the King of all - is the One who will bring the families of the nations back together again.

Humanity has tried all other kinds of cures. Politics, different forms of government, and even war itself. Wasn't the last war the "war to end all wars"? None of these have worked or will work. Politics has become all about popularism - the need to stay in power at all costs. Different forms of government have been tried - the most successful being democracy. But as Churchill once noted - although it was probably not original to him: "Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others".

In other words whatever form of government is used, its success or failure depends ultimately on people. And as the Bible reminds us, we are all fatally flawed. We are sinners who ourselves need saving.

The only hope for humanity is therefore, for it to become "subject to (Christ's) just and gentle rule". Only through Him will the Father be able to restore all things. Then, and only then, will the longing of God and His prophets come to pass:

"...and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore" (Isaiah 2:4).

May that always be our prayer this and every Remembrance Sunday.

Keep safe and God bless.

Mark

Remembrance Sunday Readings:

Amos 5: 18 - 24; Psalm 70; 1 Thessalonians 4: 13 - end; Matthew 25: 1 - 13

Thank you to all those who donated to the Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal this year. £400 was raised enabling 20 shoeboxes to be 'filled' online. Operation Christmas Child have sent this message in response:

"Thank you on behalf of the children who will receive shoebox gifts this year. You'll bring a big smile to a child's face, and let them know that they are loved and not forgotten".

THIS NEWSLETTER IS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE PARISH WEBSITE:

www.stjameswanssea.org.uk

St. James Sunday Services on YouTube are available here:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoNVea6r8mEr_KnOkSv6qQA/

The Vicar's New blog can be found here: sonofzebedee.blogspot.com

Ecclesiastical Joke

Going over our church finances I found a receipt from a local paint store signed by someone named Christian. I wasn't aware of anyone buying paint, so I called the store to point out its mistake. "I'm sorry," I told the manager, "but there are no Christians here at St. Phillip's Church."

Congregational Zoom Meeting November 12th at 7pm

At our next meeting why not choose your favourite hymn and then tell us why. It might be an interesting topic of conversation along with other news and chat.

S W A N S E A
LITTLE THEATRE
Presents

11th Nov
7.30pm

The Ashes of your Sacrifice

A Virtual Online Live Production, based on the letters of Wilfred Owen to his mother and compiled by Eleanor McLeod. With thanks to the Wilfred Owen Literary Estate

Swansa Little Theatre is presenting this memorable online production especially for Remembrance Day. It is a free event but you will need to log on to Eventbrite using the link below:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-ashes-of-your-sacrifice-tickets-125954081047?aff=ebdssbnonlinesearch>

This play draws on Wilfred Owen's own words and feelings, celebrating his unique poetry and exploring the most important relationships and events in his all too brief lifetime. With grateful thanks to Eleanor McLeod and to the Wilfred Owen Literary Estate.

Dreena Morgan Harvey

Quotes about war

War must be, while we defend our lives against a destroyer who would devour all; but I do not love the bright sword for its sharpness, nor the arrow for its swiftness, nor the warrior for his glory. I love only that which they defend.

J.R.R. Tolkien

What! At peace with the Father, and at war with His Children? It cannot be.

John Flavel

War is a poor chisel to carve out tomorrow.

Martin Luther King Jr

Modern war is the most highly developed of all sciences. We have perfected our weapons but failed to perfect the men who use them.

Billy Graham

Acts of the Apostles

Every Tuesday for an hour we are looking at the Book of Acts via Zoom.

Interested? Email the Vicar at the address below.

Please let him know if you want to join anytime and he will send you an invite.

Important dates

Tuesday 10th November
7pm Zoom Bible Study
The Book of Acts

Thursday 12th November
7pm Zoom congregational meeting

Atheist:

"Do you honestly believe that Jonah spent three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish?"

Preacher:

"I don't know, sir, but when I get to heaven, I'll ask him."

Atheist:

"But suppose he isn't in heaven?"

Preacher:

"Then you ask him."

Five Questions

This week we welcome another contributor to Five Questions:

1. What is your name? - Richard Jones
2. Where were you born? - Aberdare
3. What is your earliest memory of Church? - Being taken to Sunday School and being taught the bible stories by a wonderful older lady in the congregation who gave me my first ever bible which I still have and treasure to this day
4. When did the Christian faith become important to you? - When I went to University I was exposed to ideas and worldviews I had never considered before and I had to spend a lot of time thinking through how Christian faith helped address the bigger questions of life.
5. What is your favourite Bible verse and why? - Romans 8:38 (The Message): "I'm absolutely convinced that nothing – nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable – absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us" Because to me this at the core is what faith is all about.



Contact information

For all contributions to the newsletter please email the Vicar, Mark, at: stjamesuplands1@googlemail.com

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The Parish Website can be found at: www.stjamesswansea.org.uk