

Weekly Message

Today is the 8th of November and tomorrow will be Remembrance Sunday.

Across the country, in personal spaces, in churches, at local war memorials or Cenotaphs, many people will keep silence and remember. You will have your own personal 'remembering' to do over this weekend and on November 11th.

The communion table in my last church carries this quotation from John 15.13: *"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."*

Those are powerful words and we quote them as we try to acknowledge the depth of sacrifice that has been (is being?) demanded of too many. The sheer scale of the events remembered their cost and continuing legacy beggar belief.

It occurs to me that the 'big words' of our faith, words such as 'redemption', 'forgiveness' and 'atonement' mean little if they do not come alongside us in these silent and shared places of our remembering, the very places where words fail.

Similarly, all our concerns about the future of our church, locally and nationally mean little, if that church cannot engage honestly with people's search for meaning in today's circumstances.

We are those who 'were bought at a price'. Times of war and of relative peace have their own demands. Much is asked of people. We have such a debt of gratitude to all who give of themselves so that others may flourish.

*Holy and eternal God,
we fall silent as we remember
times, places, people and their names;
even our prayers seem cheap
but with you there is mercy,
new every morning.
Amen.*

RH 8/11/25