



# TOGETHER

*only physically apart*

[NewarkandSouthwellMethodist.org.uk](http://NewarkandSouthwellMethodist.org.uk)

## Always remember, never forget

Revd Nathan Falla

In the weeks running up to Remembrance Sunday and Remembrance Day we see poppies appearing in different guises: on buildings, on car bumpers, in windows and on people's clothing. The poppy became a natural choice as a symbol of remembrance following the First World War due to the number of poppies that appeared in the battle torn fields. In the spring of 1915 John McCrae wrote his poem *In Flanders Fields*, depicting the scene of poppies growing between the crosses row on row but this was three and a half years before the armistice was signed! The Royal British Legion adopted the poppy as a symbol of remembrance from the first Poppy Appeal in 1921, and now the poppy, whether it be red or white is a symbol of remembrance.

It is important for us to remember: we remember birthdays, loved ones, those whom we love but see no longer. It is important to remember the past, where we have come from, those events and people who have impacted our lives for better or for worse. However, it is important as we remember that we are not captives to the past, but that we learn from it.

In September 2015 I had the opportunity to go on pilgrimage to Flanders in Belgium; to begin to gain an understanding of the events and culture of the First World War and to reflect on war, peace and reconciliation. I was struck by the difference between the commonwealth cemeteries and the German cemeteries-both places of remembrance but with a stark difference, and wrote the following:

*In the country and in the towns  
by railways tracks, maize fields and homes  
they stand, white,  
marking life cut short.*

*Some known by name,  
some known only to God,  
but each remembered  
and not necessarily for fame.*

*Each one a story  
each one loved  
each one remembered  
each one a telegram home.*

*A cross tall stands  
reaching to the sky  
an altar, a resting place  
a space for peace and calm.*

*In the obscure and the unknown  
in numbers 20 strong  
simple square tablets  
mark the final resting place.*

*So little information  
name, date and rank,  
in a woodland fortress  
nearly hidden from sight.*

*Each name a story,  
each name loved,  
each name remembered.*

*A century has now passed  
and war and conflict have not ceased  
even though 'the solders graves  
are the greatest preachers of peace.'*

At this time what are we being called to remember? What helps us to remember? As we enter a second lockdown may we always remember that God loves us and may we never forget that God is with us. God never forgets us. We are always known to God, we are always held in God's love and care.

Keep safe, take care & God bless

Nathan



## 1. Online Service

Join us from 10:30am on Sunday 8th November for our service hosted by Sutton on Trent Methodist Church and All-Saints Anglican Church, Sutton on Trent. It will be pre-recorded at All Saints and led by members from across the local Christian community.

Find it on the 'Newark and Southwell Methodist Circuit' YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/NewarkSouthwellMethodistCircuit>) why not invite a friend to watch it with you and share the link with them on your social media or by email!

## 2. Circuit 'Zoom' Coffee Time

Join folk from across the circuit from 11:30am each Sunday morning - you provide the coffee - we'll provide the fellowship! pop in for 5 minutes or half an hour - we'd love to see you!

If you'd like help to 'Zoom', please get in touch!

### Please join us afterwards

Come with a drink and a biscuit to share in conversation after the service.

[www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)  
Meeting ID: 885 3100 7185  
Password: Tog3ther

Phone: 0131 460 1196  
Meeting ID: 885 3100 7185  
Password: 48647472



## 3. Radio Services

**BBC Radio 4** (Also [online](#).)  
08:10am – 8<sup>th</sup> November

### Seek higher things

A service for Remembrance from the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell in its centenary year. RAF personnel speak of their experience of the place of God in their life of service, as a nurse looking after COVID patients, as the newest officer in the Royal Air Force, and as a junior officer whose fast jet pilot father lost his life on active service.

## 4. Radio Nottingham

Listen every Sunday, at 8am, to a live church service on BBC Radio Nottingham. (Online or on 95.1-103.8 MHz FM for free.)

If any of this baffles you – call your minister

# Remember love, remember... love

Our Sunday Sermon | Micah 4:1-8 & John 15:9-17 | Revd Peter Hibberts

Memory is a peculiar thing. I'm no zoologist but it's occurred to me that our ability to remember is one of the things that sets us apart from the rest of the animal kingdom, that makes us human. I'm not talking about to retain information and apply it like wild and domestic animals do (in the sense where a dog can be trained) or even to remember the commitments we have in the future like when our haircut is booked or what we need to buy when we get to the shops. I'm talking about the ability to store up our experiences and reminisce. "Memories make us who we are. They create our worldview in ways we hardly realize. Like a character made of Lego, we're built of blocks of memory that all fit together to form our consciousness." (*Psychology Today*, Aug 8th 2017). But they're about more than just the past, they also help us to engage with the present and shape our future.

My earliest memory is of my sister's birthday party (I think I must have been around 3 years old) and someone at the party being stung by a bumble bee or a wasp. Possibly my happiest memory is of the paternity visiting time ring-fenced by the hospital when my first child was born; the moments of skin-to-skin that I cherished when no other visitors were allowed in and the overwhelming love felt for that tiny, new bundle of beauty - she turned 14 this week! (In the interest of balance it is worth pointing out that those feelings were matched in each of our subsequent births!) But we don't just remember good things. I vividly remember being sat at the piano when my mum came in to tell me the news that my godmother had passed away. It was, I think, my earliest first hand experience of bereavement. She was a beautiful lady and I still remember the warmth of her love and care despite being very young when she died.

We won't be able to gather to remember this weekend, as is our custom (though those places where we would normally gather will still have acts of remembrance performed by folk who represent all of us). But we will still remember; it's important to. Over the holiday, as a family, we watched the Disney Pixar film, 'Coco'. It is inspired by the Mexican holiday 'Day of the Dead' and follows Miguel who is accidentally transported to the 'Land of the Dead'. Remembrance is a key theme in Coco as the souls who inhabit the land of the dead only exist there as long as someone living remembers them. I won't spoil the film but for one character human remembrance keeps them 'alive'. You may have seen the recent remembrance video in which a First World War soldier walks around a modern high street unnoticed by passers-by. In one sense he fails to exist - in a lack of remembrance he is forgotten. When I speak with bereaved families about their loved ones in preparation for funerals, I always encourage them to talk often about their loved one. The one's we've lost must not be a taboo subject in some bizarre Victorian act of avoidance - we must talk often, remember and reminisce - whether it be pleasurable (it's okay to smile and laugh as we reminisce) or painful. This remembrance is what our loved ones deserve, it's good for our mental health and the grieving process which never really ends (we don't 'get over' bereavement, instead it changes us and as we move on, when we're

ready, we go forward richer, deeper and more human). What I will say though, is that for those of us who have faith we know that we have not truly lost, we've just been temporarily left behind. Our corporate acts of remembrance are also what our fallen heroes deserve.

This week's bible passages, however, call us to go deeper with remembrance than all that. They call us to do two things that I want us to focus on. Firstly, and most importantly, they call us to remember the love showed for us by Christ on the cross and secondly, to allow that remembrance to change us, that love to transform us.

We are commanded by Jesus in, John chapter fifteen verse twelve, to love as Christ has loved us but we must firstly recognise that Jesus loved us enough to give himself for us as this is the foundation of all love - it is a deeply transformational love that is exactly what this world needs. What we mustn't do as a church is focus solely on loving others. This would be like focussing on the speedometer of the car whilst neglecting the fuel gauge - somewhere along the line we'll run out of gas. Instead we begin with Jesus' love, kneeling at the foot of the cross we give ourselves fully to God in submission to his love, open armed to received from the God who wants to give us everything. If you've never done that, or if it's been a while, take time out now to thank God for his love in Christ Jesus and give your life to him. Ask him to refuel you with his love using the simple prayer, 'Come Holy Spirit.'

The next challenge is possibly much harder. Micah is a wonderful prophecy of a time when 'we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.' (Micah 4:5 - NIV). That walking is given shape too, '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 any more.' (Micah 4:3)

We owe it to the memory of our fallen heroes to work for peace. That is part of how our remembrance should shape who we are and our future path. We owe it to the remembrance of the love poured out by our saviour, Jesus Christ, to love one another.

Remember, even as our church doors are, once more, temporarily closed that God loves you and remember that now, more than ever, your love is needed by your community. Remember love, remember... love.

*Photo: Remembrance Poppies  
David & Norma Hall*



## Prayer Space

*An Act of remembrance for home*

Ever-living God,  
We remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning  
We will remember them.  
We will remember them.

God grant to the living grace,  
to the departed rest,  
to the Church,  
and all people,  
unity, peace and concord,  
and to us and all God's servants,  
life everlasting. Amen.

### EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN

*If you would like to join the prayer chain and receive prayer requests or have a prayer request (with permission of the recipient) please get in touch with Colin...  
Colin Beckett [colin1244@gmail.com](mailto:colin1244@gmail.com).  
It is for those in any church or none!*

## Dial-a-sermon

Can't get onto the YouTube Service? Want to hear the Sunday sermon? Dial up at any time of the day or night at the cost of a local call.

Press option 3 for the Sunday Sermon  
(Sermons go live each Sunday.)

### Dial a Sermon

**01636 552255**

Listen to the circuit sermon each week.

Newark and Southwell  
Methodist Circuit  
helping you stay connected  
whilst we're apart.





## Hymns for Remembrance Sunday

Songs chosen for inclusion in the YouTube service...

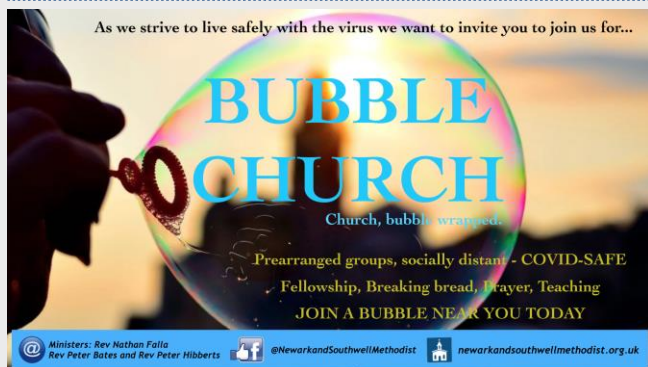
*O God our help in ages past* – StF 132 / H&P 358 [LINK](#)

*O Valiant Hearts* [LINK](#)

*Abide with me* – StF 141 / H&P 665 [LINK](#)

Click 'LINK's to access YouTube clips of each song.

## Bubble Church Resources



**Would you like to be part of Covid-Safe face-to-face church?  
Join a bubble today by getting in touch with your minister.**

*The following questions are designed to get you thinking and, if you're involved in Bubble Church talking about the topic!*

1. What is your earliest memory?
2. Who have you loved and lost? What memories do you have of them?
3. What Bible passages can you call to mind where we are commanded to remember (Old and New Testament)? Why do you think the Bible calls us to remember?
4. What is the value of reminiscing and remembering?
5. How do your memories shape who you are?
6. How can we best remember God's love for us?
7. How, this week, will you demonstrate God's love for you in your love for others?

For more information checkout the Bubble Church guide with risk assessment on the Circuit Website:  
<https://www.newarkandsouthwellmethodist.org.uk/newsroom/bubble-church.html>

## Next week...

NEWARK & SOUTHWELL  
Discipleship – A way of life.

**Learning and caring... a way of life**

1<sup>st</sup> Nov: Ourselves & those around us  
8<sup>th</sup> Nov: Remembrance  
15<sup>th</sup> Nov: Learning more about our faith  
22<sup>nd</sup> Nov: Hospitality & generosity

wayoflife.nsmc@gmail.com  
NewarkandSouthwellMethodist.org

Access for all:  
facebook  
zoom  
YouTube  
Dial a Sermon

...we continue our exploration of *Discipleship as a Way of Life* looking at learning and caring and specifically learning more about our faith.

## Families:

by Katie Hibberts

[families4SMC@gmail.com](mailto:families4SMC@gmail.com)

## FAMILY ACTIVITIES!

As a family, read John 15:12-13 – “Now I tell you to love each other, as I have loved you. The greatest way to show love to friends is to die for them.” With your children, think about what Jesus meant by this – who dies for friends? What happens to soldiers when they go to war? A lot of them die or they are injured; some come back without getting wounded, but they have all seen terrible things. So are soldiers some of the people that Jesus is talking about when he said that the greatest love is to die for a friend? Yes.... Soldiers as well as other people. Every year in November we remember the soldiers who have died in wars – especially the first and second world wars. We also remember soldiers who are fighting today in places like Iraq and Syria.

We wear poppies on Remembrance Sunday because in the First World War, poppies grew in the fields where the fighting took place – and of course poppies are red like the blood of the soldiers who died.

**Watch** this beautiful animation together and think about what the Bible says about the greatest way to show love. Jesus died for us because he loves us so much. Thank God for Jesus and for everyone else who bravely gives up their lives to protect others:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pv\\_ub7Be7oA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pv_ub7Be7oA)

## Craft: Thumb Poppies

Why not have a go at making thumb print poppies. You need to dip your thumbs in the red paint and make two horizontal thumb prints, one on top of the other to be the top and bottom petal of the poppy. Then put your pinkie finger in the black paint and make a smaller thumb print in the middle of the poppy – this is the stamen. Now use green pen to draw in the stems.

Can you make a whole field of poppies?



## Can you contribute to TOGETHER?

We're looking to produce this Newsletter as a Circuit and would like to widen the team as far as possible. Perhaps you could contribute a prayer, a short article, an encouraging piece. Maybe you would be willing to be part of the editorial team? Perhaps you'd like us to advertise something in your church.

If you would like to join the team or make a one-off contribution, please get in touch with Revd Peter Hibberts by email ([Peter.Hibberts@methodist.org.uk](mailto:Peter.Hibberts@methodist.org.uk)) or telephone (01636 812166).

Contributions must be received by Monday of each week for Tuesday editorial and Wednesday distribution.