



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



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REMEMBERING



As I write this I am remembering a certain day 4 years ago when I first set foot in these parishes to meet with the interview panel and have a good look around. The rest, as they say, is history.

November is always a month full of remembering and history, with All Saints Day and All Souls Day and Bonfire Night and Remembrance Day and many a saint's day as well. For this month only we have altered the times of some of the services so **PLEASE REMEMBER** to check your diary with the service diary in this month's PAX.

This year, as in other years, in November we are asked to remember that we all need to write a Will. Will Aid is a way of encouraging us if we haven't already, to write a Will and leave a legacy to the church as well as raising funds for nine highly respected charities. Participating solicitors are offering their will-making services for free and in return are inviting makers to give a donation to the Will Aid charities. In this way parishioners get the benefit of a professionally drawn up Will at reasonable cost, the church may benefit from a legacy, and the charities raise much needed funds to help people in need in the UK and around the world. Everyone's a winner with Will Aid. If you would like to know more there are posters about this in each of our churches.



At the end of this month we will celebrate Advent Sunday

(28th November) a day that begins the time of, yes, remembering – to open up the doors each day of our Advent calendar, and maybe light our Advent candle each day if we have one, and say a prayer each day.

But also it's a day that begins a time of looking forward to Christmas and beyond. And the second coming of Jesus, however you interpret that theological idea.

As I see the leaves fall away from my vine, and the other trees in my garden and around our villages, I am reminded of some of the words of Jesus: 'I am the Vine you are the branches'. All of us will be dressed with different leaves as we worship in our different places of worship, what connects us is the Christian 'sap' of our lives, when we find ourselves rooted and grounded in our Christian faith.



It's a faith that has caused many a saint and a soul to remember the first coming of Jesus, God incarnate in this world. And it's a faith that causes us to look forward as we grow more branches, and learn to worship God in new ways, and welcome others as they experience the coming of Jesus for the first time in their lives.

In four years time I wonder if you or I will remember what has been written here. The beauty of the Christian faith is that God never forgets us, He always remembers.

Have a good month of remembering.

