

Vicar's Letter for October 2017

Dear Friends

October is definitely autumn and 'the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' as John Keats wrote. It's also our month for Remembering.

We start our remembering with gratitude as we celebrate our Harvest Festival on 8th October once again, grateful in anticipation for your generous gifts of tinned and packaged goods which will go to the Asylum Seekers and Refugee Project in Old Trafford and to the Booth Centre for the Homeless in Manchester. These gifts are always so appreciated, and as we move nearer to winter we become more aware of what we have and what many do not have. We remember and give thanks for the blessings we have of food, shelter, the abundance of God's creation around us, our senses to appreciate them and our hearts, minds and wills to turn to God and give thanks, grateful thanks for God's gracious, steadfast provision and love for each one of us.

We continue our month of remembering on Remembrance Sunday as we remember those whose lives were given in the Two World Wars and in subsequent wars since, those who fought so that we might have peace and prosperity. We remember them with gratitude and we remember them as a means to ensure that we must at all costs endeavour to turn away from violence and hatred, prejudice and greed so that our world may be a safe place for all. Seeing suffering still around us is a spur to us to pray and work even harder for God's kingdom to be on earth as it is in heaven. A Kingdom of peace, justice, love and truth.

We end the month still remembering as we have our Service of Thankful Remembrance on Sunday 29th October, when we remember our own loved ones departed. We grieve and we weep, but we also rejoice that their love was shared with us and that we are who we are because of them and the influence they had on our lives.

Let us then this month remember God's many blessings to us and be thankful. For, as the Harvest hymn 'We plough the fields and scatter' reminds us:

'All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love'.

With every blessing
Kate