

St Mary the Virgin

NOVEMBER

North Shoebury

2020



SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER— ALL SAINTS DAY

THURSDAY 5TH NOVEMBER— BONFIRE NIGHT

SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER—REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

WEDNESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER—REMEMBRANCE DAY

SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER—FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MONDAY 30TH NOVEMBER—ST ANDREW'S DAY



The Church garden work party this month will be

on

Saturday

14th November

from 2-4pm

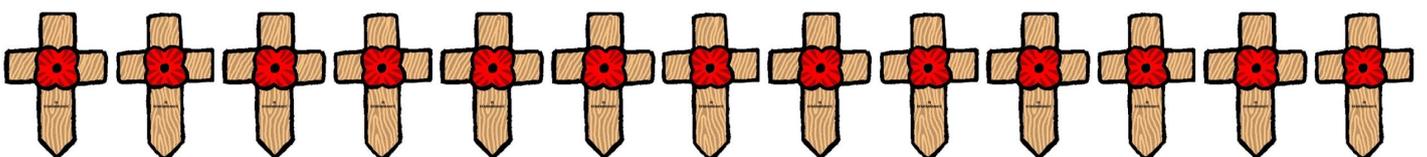


Mid-week services

Monday 9:00am **Morning prayer**

Thursday 9:00am **Morning prayer**

10:00am **Communion**



November Vicar's Letter – November 2020

Then he began to speak, and taught them saying, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven". Matthew 5:2,3

Dear All

I hope you are keeping safe and well.

The words quoted at the beginning of this letter come from the Sermon on the Mount. Those of us who are following the Thursday Evening Pilgrim Course will already have reflected on these words. Notice, it says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit", not "Blessed are the poor". This distinction is important.

As I was coming home from Morning Prayer yesterday, I had to pop into a local garden centre, where I was confronted for the first time this year with "Christmas". Strangely, there was nothing in the display of goods that had anything to do with Christmas as I know it. I am not a "bah-humbug" person, but it really was all rather sad.

The readings in the Morning Prayer for Monday told the story of the Assyrians, who upon capturing a nation, would disperse them throughout the nations they had overcome. In this way, the heart of each captured nation was dispersed, and local traditions became lost. Those who had been transported into Samaria asked for a local priest to teach them the ways of the god of this new land. They started to follow God, but also kept following their own gods.

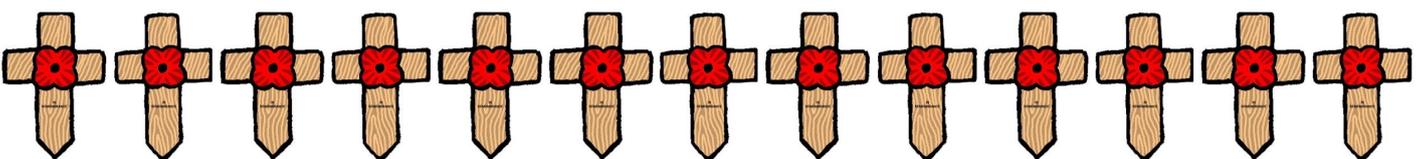
This weakened the commitment to the One True God. All that God asks is that we love God, and love neighbour.

As I watched the array of "Christmas" goodies, I wondered if we could be accused of following other gods.

Having passed through "the valley of the shadow of death" which for me was Covid-19, I have spent some time considering what is valuable. In Morning Prayer each day I say these words:

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever."

Each day is so precious, so special, I do not want to waste any part of it. I feel that each moment is valuable.



Bishop Peter, Bishop of Barking, publishes a reflection in his weekly newsletter "[The View](#)". This week it started like this:

Give thanks in all circumstances
A reflection by Rt Rev Peter Hill

This scripture dropped into my inbox early this morning:

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1Thessalonians 5:16-18

Give thanks in all circumstances! Really? How can we best manage that? I am not always feeling thankful in all circumstances at present.

His reflection does redeem itself later, but this opening quite upset me. Have we become so used to the gifts of God, that we no longer recognise them as God given. Things like life, freedom, health can all too easily be taken for granted.

So, this Christmas, when we give thanks to people who have been part of our lives and show our love and gratitude, do the cheap and gaudy "gifts" really celebrate Christmas? Does the gift of God's son in these difficult times deserve a better response?

I wonder, have we too sometimes lost sight of God? Have we, like those who were transported into Samaria, started to worship different Gods?

I wonder how we might best reflect our commitment to our faith as an inspiration to others.

God bless

David

If you would like to sponsor a magazine, for a birthday, anniversary, in memory or for thanksgiving, please contact Francine.

£25 b&w, £35 colour gift aided or not, would cover the professional printing of a monthly magazine.

Francine Johnson 01702 589244
francinejohnson@gmail.com

St Mary's Church Hall – Regular Hirers/Activities

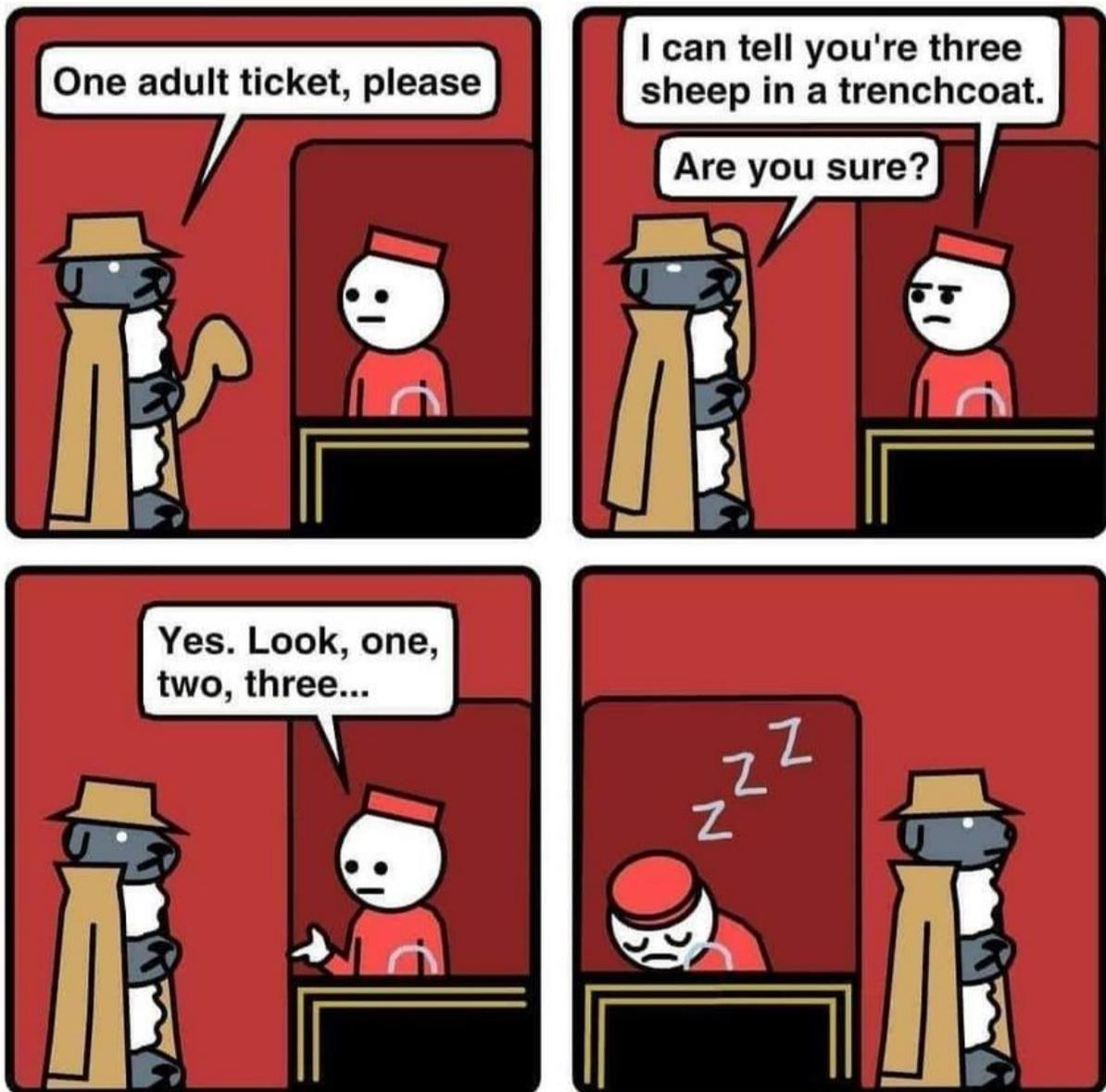
Monday	<p>Strollercise Strolling to 50's music 6-7,000 steps (3 miles) Fun, friendly, all ages, no gym kit required £4 per hour - No need to book 10 -11 am 11.15am -12.15pm Contact: Karen/Tracy 07745 154065</p>	<p>Barling & Lt. Waking Women's Institute 1st Monday of month, 2 pm Contact Phyl Wickenden 01702 582185</p>	
Tuesday	<p>Rachel's Story, Rhymes and Activity Time Toddler Group at 10am except 2nd Tuesday Contact: Rachel 07780 374991</p> <p>U3A – Local History 2nd Tuesday of month 10.15 am to 12.15 pm Contact: Mick 01702 622356</p>	<p>U3A – Crafting 2nd Tuesday of month 1.30pm to 3.30pm Contact Janet 07810 879673</p>	<p>Private booking 5.30 – 7.30 pm</p> <p>Southend Wado Kai Tengudojo Karate 7.30 – 9pm Contact: Tony 07874 854494</p>
Wednesday	<p>U3A Ukelele Improvers 2nd Wednesday of month 10 am to 12 noon Contact: Roni 07584 660096</p>	<p>U3A Knit & Natter 2nd Wednesday of month 2 – 4pm Contact Pat 07476 078570</p>	
Thursday	<p>St Mary's Community Coffee Morning 10.30 am to 12 noon All welcome</p>	<p>U3A Floristry 1st Thursday of month 1pm – 3.30pm Contact Jane 07743507511</p> <p>Sweaty Mama Female Bootcamp 7.30 – 8.30pm Contact: Kellie 07847 249618</p>	<p>Private booking 5.45 – 6.45 pm</p>
Friday	<p>Diddi Dance 9.15 – 10.15 am Funky pre-school dance class for boys and girls. Contact Jennifer Ripton 07756 407162</p>	<p>Marriott's Tai Chi 11am – 12.00 pm Contact Tracey Cain 01702 290461</p>	

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celebration of Dorothy's
80th birthday.



St James the Least of All
The Rectory

On the ferocity of the church's Bridge drive



My dear Nephew Darren

Your suggestion that we should hold a sponsored hymn-singing bicycle ride through the village as a way of raising money was well-meant, but I am not wholly convinced it would suit our clientele here at St James the Least of All.

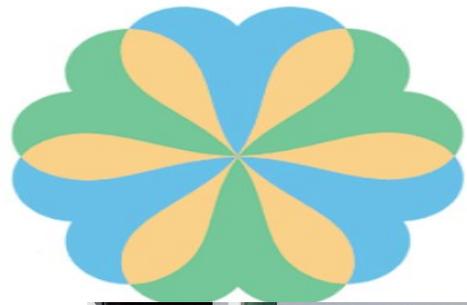
You may have musical bike rides, but we have Bridge drives, although socially distanced at the moment, of course. But even at two metres apart, our Bridge games are generally as amiable and peaceful as bear baiting. Half of those attending will see the afternoon as an opportunity to catch up on local gossip and to exchange knitting patterns, the game of cards being a minor hindrance to these other activities. The other half arrive primed for a battle to the death, reluctantly conceding that eye-gouging is not allowed. They will demand total silence – which is wholly ignored by those at the tables discovering what Mrs Trumpington confided to Lady Driver halfway through ‘Onward Christian Soldiers’ at last Sunday’s Mattins. The congregation is eternally grateful to Mrs Mitchell, who as a former mill worker is able to lip read.

Refreshments have been hit hard by Covid-19 of course, and the fact that everyone has to bring their own sandwich and drink has rather spoilt the fun. Usually half our players regard lunchtime as an opportunity to put jam on the cards, spill tea on the score cards and make sure that the other tables get the egg and cress sandwiches while they corner the boiled ham; the others usually see it as an unwelcome interruption to the serious business of slaughtering their opponents. It is so sad that Covid-19 has halted this merry camaraderie.

As for drawing the raffle, it is the adult equivalent of ringing the school bell at going-home time. Half the players will immediately dash off to relay newly mined seams of gossip throughout the village, leaving the others holding reproachful post-mortems with their partners over their bidding mistakes.

Reproaches are never too violent, however, since the chances are that they will all be meeting again the following afternoon round a socially distanced card table at another location, for yet another re-enactment of the slaughter at Agincourt. The only difference will be that the French and English were not entertained with tea and sandwiches at half time.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



North Shoebury residents may like to know that a green space near to them is being developed to help the local community. Wellbeing@Garonpark is a charity which is promoting the use of its land at the cricket ground (the space facing the entrance to the Swimming and Diving pool) as an area intended for community use.

Wellbeing@GaronPark has over the last few months welcomed visits from community organisations, individuals and local church groups.

And last week St Mary the Virgin churchwarden Craig Hunter (pictured left) and Rev David Pierce met Wellbeing's Community Relationship Coordinator Frazer Clark and were shown the Garon facilities and the plan for the future.

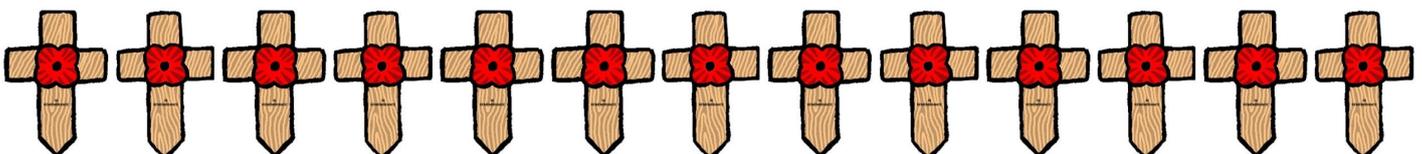


The site is currently used by Special Needs groups (including RE House and Project 49), plus Family Action groups, walking football and netball teams, and a host of other.

There are big plans to build sensory gardens, a wildlife pond, woodland walk, orchard, outdoor gym, children's play area and community garden.

The first thing on the agenda is planting 600 small trees over the weekend of November 14 and 15, so if you want to join the Eco Team

email frazer.clark@garonparkcic.com or go to the Wellbeing@GaronPark website.



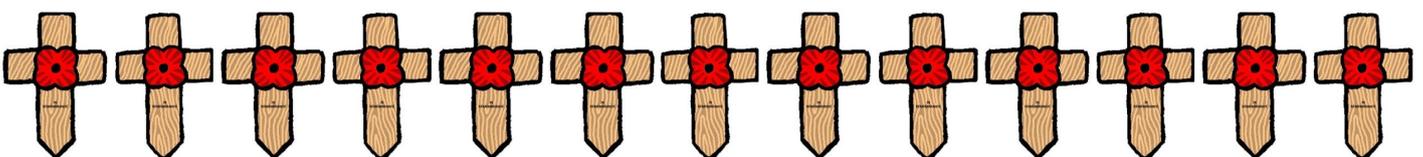


Observe Remembrance Day

People stop work to observe a moment of silence at 11am on November 11, which is the time and date when hostilities formally ended after more than four years of battle during World War I. Poppies are worn as a symbol of respect and tribute on Remembrance Sunday and/or November 11.

The day is also marked by events such as memorial services, church services and parades. A national commemoration takes place at Whitehall, a road in the City of Westminster in central London.

*“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.”*



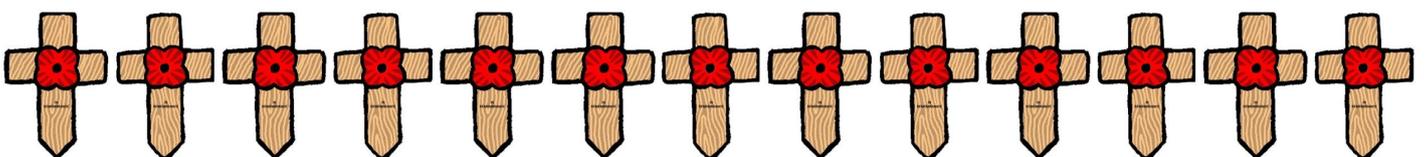


Why should I pray?

The great preacher **C.H. Spurgeon** once said this of prayer: *‘God says to His own son: “Ask of Me and I will give you the nation for your inheritance.” [Psalm 2:7-8] If the royal and divine Son cannot be exempt from the rule of asking, that He may have; you and I cannot expect that rule to be relaxed in our favour. God will bless Elijah and send rain – but Elijah must pray for it.’* And God promises us that if we really seek Him, He will make sure that we find Him.

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve,
I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.
I asked for health, that I might do greater things,
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.
I asked for riches, that I might be happy,
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.
I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men,
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life,
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.
I got nothing that I asked for –
But everything that I had hoped for,
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.
I am among all men most richly blessed.

Soldier in American Civil War



Did you miss the start?

⁹ How long will you lie there, O sluggard?
When will you arise from your sleep?

¹⁰ A little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the hands to rest,

¹¹ and poverty will come upon you like a robber,
and want like an armed man.

-Proverbs 6:9-11

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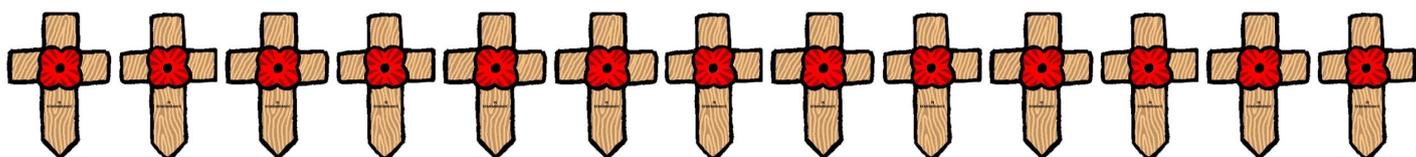
Our Next Step course on The Beatitudes started on Thursday evening (29th October) but we missed and need your contribution to the discussion.

*Please drop in and join us this week
.....or next...or soon.*

This coming Thursday (November 5th) we will be exploring together –what it means to live with obedience to God and with a desire to put things right in the world– as God intends– there may be a few fireworks!

A turning point?

Find out more about the Christian faith



Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone ... The earth takes shape like clay under a seal; its features stand out like those of a garment... Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep?

Job 38:4–7, 14, 16 (NIV)

These verses from the biblical book of Job focus on the Earth, from the top of the highest mountains to the deepest valleys of the sea floor. Job used to have a very comfortable life, but lost everything: health, children, and much of his property. He can see no obvious reason for this terrible turn of events, so he demands an answer from God, asking “What have I done to you...? Why have you made me your target?”

There is no direct reply to Job's question, but instead a long conversation with his friends who assume (wrongly) that he must be being punished for doing something very bad. When God finally speaks, He draws Job's attention to his surroundings. The sun, moon and stars, the immensity of land and sea, the creatures that inhabit them, and the processes that produce weather are a wonderful display of God's creative power. God is the origin and sustainer of all these things, and they are far beyond anything humankind could produce, fully understand or imagine – even today. The things we do know about the processes described in Job can help us appreciate how marvellous they are. Mountains are produced by the movement of the Earth's rocky crust over great periods of time. Erosion by weathering or glaciers then grinds down those rocks to produce the mineral component of soil.

Considering the wider perspective of creation can help restore our sense of who we are, who God is, and where we fit into His purposes. God speaks to Job in the midst of his suffering, lifting his eyes to the power and creativity of his Maker. Only after this theology lesson are Job's practical needs addressed. What will life be like for us over the coming months? A constant check on our own thinking – reminding ourselves of the bigger picture of God's plans and purposes – might be just what we need to help us keep going.

This article drew very directly on the writing of Prof Bob White in [New Daylight](#) (BRF, Sept-Dec 2020), and the input of a Bible study group based in Cambridge.

CONTACT DETAILS

For all enquiries, including weddings, baptisms, blessings etc. please, in the first instance, contact Pat Fitch.

01702 585289

Phone numbers are all area code 01702 unless stated

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“Next Step” Study Group

This will take place using Zoom. This means we do not have to go out on dark cold wet evenings. At one church I visited there was a group called "Thursday Thinkers". I like that, so I plan the the Study Group will take place on

Thursday Evenings at 8:00 and last about one hour. They will start on **Thursday 29th October**, and run for six weeks. We shall be using the Pilgrim Course, Unit 4 - The Beatitudes

David

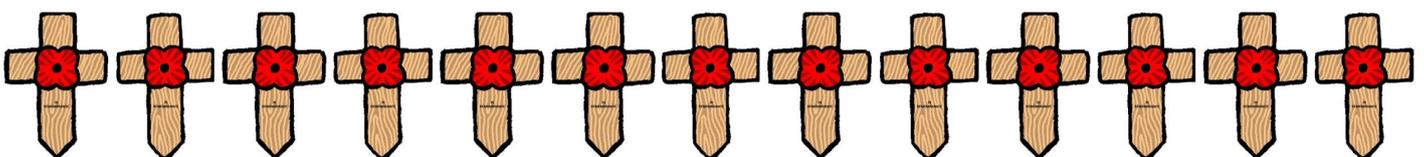
Poppy Appeal 2020

Look out for the Poppy Appeal again this year, but not so much via street collections. Instead, the Royal British Legion will focus on contactless donations, as a safer way forward during the pandemic.

One such method will be ‘point of sale donations’. This means that when you shop at your supermarket and reach the till or online, you may be invited to round up your total to the nearest pound to help the Poppy Appeal.

A spokesman for the Royal British Legion said: “The Poppy Appeal 2020 is very much still going ahead”, but that “the safety and wellbeing of our volunteers, staff and members is paramount. This means that collectors who fall into the vulnerable category have been advised “not to take part in activity on behalf of the Poppy Appeal that would expose them to any additional risks while coronavirus is still present.”

And yet the need is still huge: “Members of the Armed Forces Community are suffering significant hardship as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak and we at the Royal British Legion will do everything we possibly can to support them.”





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Andrew (d. c.60) – patron saint of Scotland

The apostle Andrew is patron saint of Scotland. According to the gospel of Matthew, Andrew and his brother Simon Peter were the very first two disciples whom Jesus called. 'Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.' (Matt 4:18,19)

Without more ado, they obeyed. 'At once they left their nets and followed him.' The story is touching for the simple but total faith that they had in Jesus.

Whenever the gospels mention the disciples, Andrew's name is always in the first four. Rather than a boisterous leader of men (like Peter), he seems to have been an approachable person who wanted to help people.

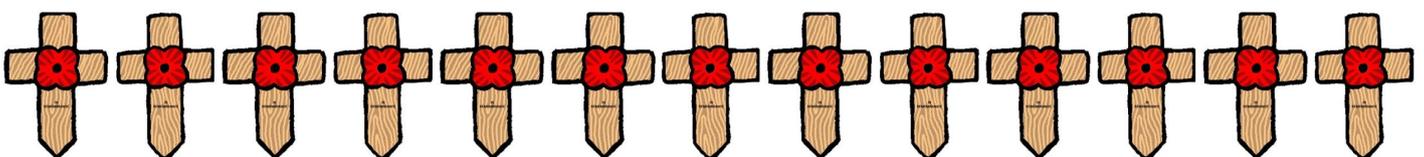
It was Andrew who helped introduce a group of Greeks to Jesus (John 12:20-2) and Andrew who offered Jesus the five small barley loaves and two small fishes when Jesus challenged them to feed the five thousand. (John 6:8) His faith in Jesus over small things was richly rewarded, and this faithful, kindly Galilean fisherman turned disciple went on to become one of the 12 apostles of the Christian Church.

Andrew never settled back in Capernaum by Galilee. Instead, his 'fishing for men' seems to have taken him far. One ancient tradition links him with Greece, where both Scythia and Epirus claimed him as their apostle. Another place in Greece, Patras in Achaia, claimed to be the place where Andrew was eventually martyred.

Like Jesus, he was crucified, but the story goes that during the two days it took him to die, he preached earnestly to the people about Jesus. Andrew was not afraid of death on a cross – he had seen it before, and knew one thing for certain: because of Jesus, there was nothing but eternal life ahead of him.

According to one ancient legend, his relics were taken from Patras to Scotland in the 8th century, and ended up in Fife, where a church dedicated to him was built and became a center for evangelism and later pilgrimage. As Andrew was the only apostle to make it as far as Scotland, he was chosen as patron saint.

In art Andrew is depicted with a normal Latin cross in the most ancient examples. The saltire cross 'X', commonly called St Andrew's Cross, and which represents Scotland on the Union Jack, was associated with him from the 10th century.





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William Temple: Archbishop of Canterbury

During the Second World War, Winston Churchill was Britain's Prime Minister. At the same time, William Temple was Archbishop of Canterbury. While Churchill led the country against Germany, Temple encouraged the British people to trust the Lord for their deliverance and strength. Like Churchill, Temple was a great leader, a gifted orator and a prolific writer. He was also a theologian and social activist.

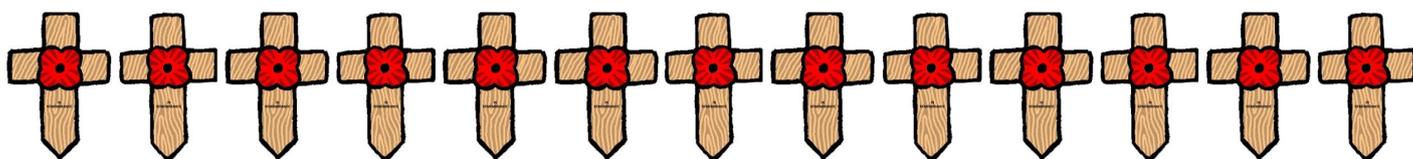
Temple was born on 15th October 1881 in Exeter, Devon. He was educated at Rugby School and Balliol College, Oxford, from 1900 to 1904. He loved the music of Bach; the poetry of Browning and Shelley, and Shakespeare. He was an avid reader and possessed a near-photographic memory.

He became president of the Oxford Union and after graduation, was a lecturer in philosophy at Queen's College, Oxford. He was a member of the debating society and was a skilled and balanced debater. Following his ordination in 1909, and priesting in 1910, Temple was headmaster of Repton School for four years. He married Frances Anson in 1916. They were childless.

From 1921-29 Temple was Bishop of Manchester. During this time he was seen as a pioneer of the Ecumenical Movement and gradually became a national figure. In 1926 he urged the British government to seek a negotiated agreement to the General Strike.

Temple excelled as a moderator; a teacher and a preacher and his appointment as Archbishop of York (1929-40) was a popular one. His influence also led to the formation of the British Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches. During the 2nd World War he jointly founded the Council of Christians and Jews to combat anti-Semitism and other forms of prejudice in Britain.

As Archbishop of Canterbury (1942-44) Temple became an outspoken advocate of social reform and became involved in the campaign against unemployment, poverty and poor housing. He believed in the rights of all people, whether rich or poor, and was a leading force for social justice. He was grounded in the problems of the working man and in his book *Christianity and Social Order* (1942) he shared his vision for all to have access to healthcare, education and decent housing. His radical thinking and activism played a foundational role in the formation of the British Welfare State. Temple died aged 63 at Westgate-on-Sea, Kent on 26th October 1944. He was the first Primate of All England to be cremated and his ashes were buried in the cloister garden of Canterbury Cathedral. He is the last Archbishop of Canterbury to have died while in office.





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