

# St. Mary's Church Cubbington



Remembrance Sunday  
8<sup>th</sup> November

## Sunday Message 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Hello and greetings from the vicarage on this Remembrance Sunday.

We are now back to living in lockdown.

Did this come as a surprise to you or were you like me and were half expecting it to happen?

I watch the news most nights and seeing the figures on the government's graphs continuing to move up means sadly more cases and more deaths. I think the prime Minister had little choice in calling a second lockdown.

The church has come off slightly better this time in as much as we can remain open for private prayer and continue to hold funeral services. St. Mary's remains open between 10am and 2pm for private prayer. But sadly no Sunday or Wednesday services for the time being.



This morning there will be an Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in the churchyard where I shall read out the names of those who gave their lives during wars from this village and our own relations. I have decided to cancel the Parade as it might be difficult to maintain safe social distancing.

Our bible readings for today are from Paul's letter to the **Romans chapter 8 verses 31 to the end** and **John gospel chapter 15 verses 9 to 17**.

I know that for many of us, today will be especially poignant as we think about members of our own families who died fighting for our freedom. I have a great uncle who died just outside the town of Albert in France at the age of 23 on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1916.

He is buried in the Pozieres British Military Cemetery close to where he fell. This is a place that I have visited on many occasions.



On the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of his death I visited with some members of my family.

*Roland's headstone taken on 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death*



*Pozières British Cemetery Ovillers-La-Boiselle, Somme.*



*Inside Pozières British Cemetery.*

A couple of years ago after researching deeper into the movements of his regiment, the Royal Warwickshire, I was able to follow his movements through France and locate the field where the fatal battle took place. Today the field is full of crops but just over 100 years ago 68 men from the Royal Warwickshire Regiment lost their lives.



*The field today in which the battle for La Boisselle took place and where men of the Royal Warwickshire lost their lives.*

Most families were affected and will have similar accounts of their loved ones who went off to war and either came back injured and suffering from what they had experienced or for many, suffered the great pain of hearing that their loved one had died somewhere overseas. Today we not only remember them, but we give thanks for their great sacrifice for us. Jesus said “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friend”.

Following the Prime Ministers announcement all clergy received a letter from the two Archbishops and the Bishop of London backed by our own Bishops encouraging us to continue to pray and call everyone to prayer.

This reminded me of a short film that I watched about Dunkirk during the Second World War.

It was titled God's Miracles at Dunkirk.

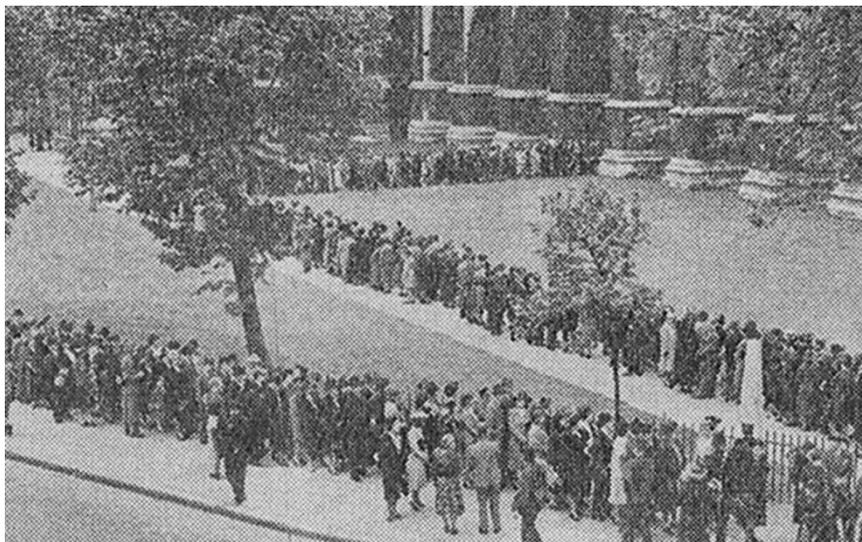
As this is Remembrance Sunday and we are remembering the great sacrifice made by so many during the wars, it seems appropriate to tell you about it.

We all know roughly what happened at Dunkirk but through time some bits have been lost.

In May 1940, the German army had surrounded the British army and pushed them back to the coast near to Dunkirk.

It was estimated that if an operation were launched to bring the soldiers home only a very few would be rescued with the rest being killed.

King George VI did something that had hardly ever been done before; he called for a **National Day of Prayer** and appealed to the Nation to pray.



People turned out in droves and it was estimated that over a million people queued to pray in churches with millions of others praying in their own homes.



**The first Miracle:** For whatever reason and despite being advised to continue with the assault Hitler pulled the majority of his troops away from the British and sent them south.

**The second Miracle:** the weather, a freak storm grounded the majority of the German Air Force around Flanders and yet less than 100 km away it was reported that the sea was like glass-perfect for launching an armada of civilian boats from England. In addition fog covered most of Dunkirk and the surrounding area making it difficult for the few planes that had taken off to find their targets.

**The third Miracle:** Immunity, there are accounts from a group of 400 soldiers on the beach that were under constant attack from the German planes. When the planes left, the soldiers got up out of the sand to find that none of them had been hit, none were injured. A chaplain who was a part of the group reported that when he heard the planes coming, he dived onto the sand face down and began to pray. When the noise stopped he stood up to see where he had been hit, there was not a scratch on him but when he looked down there in the sand was his silhouette made from the bullets that had landed all around him.

The small boats of every shape and size came and rescued not just the expected 30,000 soldiers that was first predicted but 338,226 soldiers. This was due to the courage of all who were in and around Dunkirk at that time. But most of all it shows that when the Nation humbled itself and called upon the Lord Most High He listened and He answered the prayers.

God is alive today and He listens to our prayers and He answers our prayers. So during this time of lockdown especially lets all follow the thoughts of our Bishops and Archbishops and turn to God in prayer and call out to Him and ask Him to help us and all of His people in getting through this terrible pandemic.

**Amen.**



The Menin Gate is a memorial in Ypres where the names of 54,395 soldiers who died in the Salient who were not identified are remembered.



## A Prayer for Remembrance Sunday

Almighty God, our heavenly Father  
We remember with thanksgiving those who made the supreme  
sacrifice for us in time of war.  
We pray that the offering of their lives may not  
have been in vain.

By your grace enable us this day to dedicate ourselves anew to  
the cause of justice, freedom and peace;  
and give us the wisdom and strength to build a better world,  
for the honour and glory of your name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



# Reverend Graham



## Something to think about

- What does Remembrance Sunday mean to you?
- Who do you particularly think about today?
- What are your thoughts of the Miracle at Dunkirk?
- Do you believe in miracles?
- What are your thoughts on a National Call to Prayer?
- How can you help to encourage others to join the Call to Prayer?

# SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## Remembrance Sunday

### Altar Flowers

Flower Guild



### SERVICE TODAY



Remembrance Sunday  
act of remembrance at 11.00am  
by the War Memorial in the  
Churchyard



**This coming Week**  
**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November**  
11.00am: Funeral for the late  
Eleasha **BRADLEY**



**2021**  
**Cubbington**  
**Calendar's**  
**Looking back in**  
**time**  
*in aid of the*  
*Cliff Cleaver*  
*Community*  
*Pavilion*



**B&W £5.00**

For any of your family, friends  
and neighbours  
who have access to the internet,  
you might like to suggest  
that they look at the church's website  
where they will be able to see this  
message and other useful information.  
Also, anyone you know with  
Primary Age school children will find  
stories from 'Open The Book'.

Tell them to Google  
St. Mary's Church Cubbington.