



**St Giles Church**  
**Together in body and spirit on**  
**Sunday November 1st 2020**

**Remembering our loved ones on Sunday November 1st**  
**St Giles is open for private prayer and reflection between 4pm to 6pm**

While we can't join together as a whole church family this year for our usual service of bereavement we will be reading out the names of loved ones throughout that time so please do visit the church to fill in a remembrance card or light a candle.

We are not asking you to book a time slot in advance but we do ask you to bear in mind our current restrictions, which limit us to 20 people in the building at any one time. Seating areas in pews are clearly marked to help you keep your distance, hand sanitiser is available at the door and you will need to wear a mask (unless exempt).

Please try to limit your visit to 15–20 minutes to allow as many people as possible a time for private prayer. If you arrive and the church is looking full, please wait until a space becomes available. We know this isn't ideal but we do feel it's important to offer a time of prayer and reflection within the church for this important event.

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## Remembrance Sunday – November 8<sup>th</sup> 2020

Special arrangements are in place for Remembrance Sunday this year because Covid 19 restrictions won't allow us to gather with our local community at the War Memorial as we normally would. We have however managed to find an alternative way to mark this very special day to commemorate those people from Exhall and Ash Green who gave their lives in war.

Our 10.30am service on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, will be inside the church and will focus on remembrance by incorporating all the elements we would usually observe, including the two-minute silence at 11am and presenting wreaths for blessing. We will also livestream the service via Facebook.

From Sunday November 1<sup>st</sup> two wreaths will be available for anyone wishing to add their own poppies – one will be on the bench by the church door and the other will be by the lychgate – which will be placed alongside other wreaths at the War Memorial after the service on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

In summary, there will be NO gathering at the War Memorial, NO procession and roads will not be closed. For the safety of the community as a whole we hope you will co-operate by resisting the temptation to congregate on the day itself.

Thank you in advance for helping to safely mark this occasion with the honour and dignity it deserves, albeit in a very different way to previous years.

**Don't forget you will need to book your place at the service – booking opens on Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. [Click here](#) to email Penny or [here](#) to email Rev Gail or call the office on 024 7636 8008.**

# Positive Pumpkins UK

Light in the Darkness



This year **Jen Watson** is rallying the St Giles church family to join in a national campaign for positive pumpkins so we can have our own little patch of pumpkin positivity outside the church.

Don't have a pumpkin and need one? Just call Penny in the parish office on 7637 8008 where we have a supply available for creative carvers of *any* age!

#### Here's more about the campaign ...

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it – what does darkness mean to you? something scary? Not being able to see where you are going? This October half term we want to celebrate that the Light of the world can not be overcome by darkness so to do this we are encouraging people to display Positive Pumpkins for people to see.

What is a Positive Pumpkin? A Positive Pumpkin is a happy cheerful pumpkin – maybe it has a happy face, maybe a love heart, maybe a scene of beauty such as a flower? Please display your pumpkin between 24th October 21st and November 1st.





Happy November Birthdays to everyone celebrating this month, including **Margaret Bennett, Sian Coleman, Richard Cross, Muriel Ganley, Rob Grayson, Sam Jones, Betty Laidler, Amanda Murray, John Owen, Josephine Poole, John Wakelin and Linda White.**

Gospel reading for this week



**Matthew 5: 1 –12**

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

**The Beatitudes**

He said:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.  
Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.  
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.



**Prayers for our church, our parish and our world**

Sunday 1st November is All Saints Day. Give thanks and pray for all who have helped us on our Christian Journey. Pray for churches all over the world that are helping their congregations

adjust to a “new normal” in the wake of Covid 19.

Pray for all leaders, especially our own, as they struggle to balance the needs of the economy and those of the poor and vulnerable. Give thanks for all who highlight the needs of those struggling financially at this time.

Pray for our friends and neighbours and their children that half term will have been a time of rest and peace. Pray for all who are housebound, whether through illness or the fear of going out. Pray that those in need may seek help rather than suffer in silence.

Pray for the sick at this time and also that those who are well will show responsibility to keep the vulnerable safe. Continue to pray for the bereaved as the days shorten and the nights get longer.

*Lord Jesus, thank you that your voice*

*stills the wind and the waves.*

*Help us to fix our eyes on you in the midst of the storm.*

*Amen*

**Please keep in touch!**

Please contact Penny at the parish office with your news, queries or to book places at Sunday services.

Office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9.30am to 1.30pm

[office@stgileschurchexhall.info](mailto:office@stgileschurchexhall.info)

024 7636 8008

Our website is updated regularly so please check in when you can

[www.stgileschurchexhall.info](http://www.stgileschurchexhall.info)