Remember, Remember!

November is a month full of memories.

We start on the fifth of November with fireworks night, when we remember the defeat of a plot to bomb parliament and kill the King.

We move on the the eighth of November, Remembrance Day, when we remember particularly those from our villages who fell during the First and Second World War.

Only a couple of days later, the eleventh of November is Armistice Day, when we remember the formal end of the First World War and all it’s horrors.

Moving on the end of November, Sunday 29th is the first Sunday in Advent. When the church starts to remember the events leading up to the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas.

But, apart from looking back to the birth of Jesus, some two thousand years ago, Advent gives us the opportunity to look forward.

We look forward to this Christmas, and, lockdown allowing, to spending some time with family and friends.

We also look forward with hope to a time when the Covid pandemic is behind us, when lockdown is over and we can freely enjoy being with those we love.

Finally, Advent allows us to look forward to a day when God’s Kingdom will be fully established among men and women, and we can celebrate a world of peace, justice and fairness to all.

God bless you

Karl
Reflections on Traveling in the Far East

I visited the "Far East" so many times (fifty plus) and I’ve had many adventures, all I’m happy to say ‘good’.

In the early years of going out East I had to stick to visiting Malaysia, Thailand, and Singapore. Vietnam was out of bounds due to the Vietnam war: I’ve been since, and would thoroughly recommend a visit. I wouldn’t hesitate to go again. Cambodia was risky at the time, with the Khmer Rouge led by Pol Pot which resulted in the notorious "killing fields." Burma, now Myanmar, was also "dicey," being ruled by the military junta, and still is. Laos was similarly the same. To enter these countries, one needed a visa (and still do) so I considered it more trouble than it was worth.

In more recent times, I have visited all of these countries, but would recommend flying directly to whichever country as one can encounter unnecessary hassle when crossing between borders. Even Thai immigration can be awkward at times. The easiest and by far the quickest way to cross between borders is to pay a "bribe" a small amount of money to the immigration officials this puts you to the front of the queue. Not the way we do things in Europe, but unfortunately a way of life in the Far East.

In spite of having been to all of these countries, except Laos, as I travel mostly alone, I have never felt afraid, or been in any sort of danger. Indeed travelling overland, the way the locals do, those that can speak some English are interested to learn about where I come from especially if I say Liverpool. They all know about Liverpool Football Club, whereas if I’m in America they only know about the Beatles.

The only danger I have experienced is from wild life, and yes I’ve had a few scary moments. From time to time I have encountered snakes, both big and small, but if you remember the golden rule “don't go near them and they wont go near you" you should be safe.

My scariest moment was being attacked by a pack of wild dogs, when staying on a remote island in Thailand near to Cambodia. Walking back late one night in the inky blackness (no electricity on the island) along a narrow jungle path, I was suddenly attacked by a pack of wild dogs. They only come out at night, like a lot of other animals, to hunt for food. Fortunately, I never ended up being their “meal," otherwise I wouldn’t be writing this article!!

To even things up my other scary moment was in Malaysia, again staying on a remote island, this time close to the Thai border. I was staying on Langkawi, the largest of a group of ninety-nine islands, most with beautiful sandy beaches. One day I decided to swim across to a nearby island which looked enticing. After a short swim I was lazily sunbathing on the beach listening to the waves gently lapping on the beach. Not sure how long I had been there, as I must have dozed off, but my paradise was shattered by a crackling sound in the bushes behind me. As I turned round, still half asleep, to see what was making the noise, there to my horror was a huge
"monitor lizard" similar to a crocodile, but taller, as it has longer legs and a long pointed tongue shaped like an arrow head crawling towards me. Well I shot up faster than if I’d been on one of those American space rockets, which must have startled the lizard, as it went in one direction while I went in the opposite direction!

Unfortunately for me, the tide was going out so the water level was low, so I had to part scramble part swim over the coral on my way back to the main island. Coral is sharp so I badly cut my arms and legs, which later required hospital treatment as it can also be poisonous.

In spite of these minor mishaps, I never tire of visiting the Far East, to me a fascinating part of the world, aided by a warm climate, apart from North Vietnam: Hanoi, I found chilly compared to South Vietnam.

Brian Newton

BRUERA PCC

Are there any people in the parish of Bruera who would be prepared to join the PCC? This is a small group of interested folk who care about the running of the church generally. We meet four times per year; at the current time this is virtually so some IT skills are required.

In particular we are in need of a Treasurer following the sad death of Ann Fearnall. This involves assembling a monthly list of cash flow and giving it to our wonderful volunteer accountant at Brunning & Price in Saighton village. There is no longer any need to be conversant with Double entry book-keeping! When we get back to “normal” the Treasurer collects the offertory and, along with any other cheques, deposits it in the bank. With the closure of so many branches Ann found the Farndon Post Office to be useful but any suitable system will do. He or she would also send monies to the Chester Diocesan Board of Finance for our Parish Share and fees. Most of the regular payments could be covered with Direct Debits.

I do hope someone will give some thought to this need. Please contact me if you need further information.

Mary Pleavin

"Given the state of our heating system, you'd think the vicar would be all for it!"
Can you find solve the word square? Look very carefully to see if you can find the word listed below. Good luck!

come
feet
cloak
Jairus
power
something
mourning
daughter
girl
knelt
twelve
leader
faith
waited
believe
laughed
woman
stood
afraid
house
healed
Jesus
touched
parents
The tale of the Tower Builder

Jesus often told stories with hidden meanings.

On one occasion Jesus explained how it wouldn't always be easy to follow Him.

Jesus began, if one of you plans to build a tower....

You'll first need to work how much it will cost.

If you don't do the sums....

You might make a start....

Then start to lay the bricks....

Work very hard on the foundations....

...But suddenly run out of money!!

Bill

Then people will laugh at you!

Tower is cancelled, built here.

We need to realise that although following Jesus is the right thing to do, it's also a great challenge.
Bible Bite

It can be read in the Bible in
Lk 8:40-56, Mt 9:18-26, Mk 5:21-43

Jairus, a town leader, had a 12 year old
daughter who was ill and about to die.
He came to Jesus and knelt at his feet...

A short story from the Bible

Please come! If you touch her she will be healed.
Jesus went with him.

In the crowd was a woman who had been ill for 12 years.
If I touch his cloak I will be healed.

Jesus felt power go out of him.
Who touched me?

Jesus waited...

and the woman knew she had to tell him.
She knelt at Jesus' feet and told him everything.

Go, daughter. Your faith has healed you.

Then Jairus was told his daughter had just died.
But Jesus said

Don't be afraid, just believe and she will be healed.

When they got to Jairus' house, it was filled with people mourning.

She is not dead, but asleep.

They laughed at Jesus. He sent them out of the house.

Little girl, get up!

At once she stood up!

Her parents were amazed.
Give her something to eat, and don't tell anyone what has happened.
REMEMBERING

How do you remember things?
In bible times God’s people would remember what God had done for them by building monuments made of stones and by holding festivals and celebrations to give thanks to God.

READ Joshua 4:1-9 and Exodus 12:1-14

Today we too build monuments to remember and hold services of thanksgiving like Harvest and Remembrance Sunday.

Is there anything you would like to thank God for?

RECALL
CELEBRATE
OFFERING
MVSPILEOII
RMIAROCKBNUDC
MEECCADAYSOMEH
OJMTIBUTUEUPBR
NOOOISDEBRREII
UIRRFESTIVALAS
MCAYIPENTECOST
EETLCNHARVESTM
NREMEMBRANCEEA
THANKSGIVNRS

REMEMBRANCE • SACRIFICE • VICTORY • TRIUMPH • MONUMENT
ROCK • PILE • OBSERVE • TRIBUTE • COMMEMORATE • RECALL • OFFERING
HONOUR • CELEBRATE • PRAISE • REJOICE • THANKSGIVING • DAYS
FESTIVAL • EASTER • PENTECOST • HARVEST • CHRISTMAS

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